



Campaign dedication earns Orange woman special place at inauguration

Penny LeLeux, The Record Newspapers
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Dorothy Brandon received an extra surprise this week about her trip to the inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama. She was presented with a certificate by Marc Carter, Orange County Democratic Party Chairman that entitles her to two tickets that will get her closer to the historical ceremony signifying the beginning of the 44th President's term in office.

Brandon was selected by committee to receive the tickets provided by U. S. Congressmen Kevin Brady.

Mary Terry of the Orange County Democratic Party said that Brandon joined a bus load of volunteers headed to Florida to help the Obama campaign without knowing where she was going.

She went to, "... do some canvassing for his campaign," said Brandon. She wanted to help turn the state blue.

On the bus trip back from Florida, "I met this lady... Gale Stanford, from Houston," she said. They had decided on the way home after Obama won the election to try and go to the inauguration.

They arranged the trip with a travel agency and filled a bus that left for Carlisle, Penn. Sunday. While at the capitol, they will visit the Washington and Jefferson Memorials, the Pentagon, Arlington Cemetery, White House and Union Station. They will also attend the Let Freedom Ring concert at Georgetown University and have dinner at the Pentagon Mall.

The day of the inauguration they will have to leave the hotel at 4 a.m. to get to the National Mall.

Because of Brandon's dedication, she and her husband Charles will be closer to the action Tuesday. "I had no idea, it was a surprise to me," said Brandon.

"I'm just excited about going," she said. "... and trying to stay warm." Brandon made sure she packed boots, hats and gloves.

This is Brandon's first inauguration, but not her first trip to Washington D.C. "I've been about three times. I know it's a lot of walking. It's not like around here."

What are her thoughts on the new president? "It's a long time coming. I think he will make a difference... bring us together. He's been blessed. I feel privileged to be a part of it."