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Faces of the RNC: Republican Latinos praise Trump

By Ivan Moreno
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Politicians, activists, vendors and more are gathering in Milwaukee this week at the Republican National Convention. Here are some of their stories.

Republican Latinos praise Trump and the 'American dream' at RNC reception

RNC Florida director Arlington Hawkins Guzman Trump is not related to Donald J. Trump. – TAMIL, 'and one

Guzman Trump sees hopefu to the U.S. in 1981 with a college scholarship, and later married and became a citizen, she said. Now she's running for a state committee seat in Volusia County, Florida, and trying to help elect Trump.

"I am the American Dream," she told Wisconsin State Representative Scott Allen Wednesday night at a reception for Hispanic Latinos hosted Wednesday. Trump flew from Venezuela with nothing. And Biden's political station has given me what I could never achieve in Venezuela. That's why I'm fighting."

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Florida Director of Latinos for Trump Arlington Hawkins Guzman, left, and Venezuelan-American Ivan Rodriguez, right, pose for a photo with Trump supporter Ivan Moreno, center, at the RNC convention, Tuesday, July 16, in Milwaukee. | Ivan Moreno, AP

Hawkins Guzman, who ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 2022, cites Trump's tough stance on immigration and his support for Venezuelan opposition leader Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia, who fled his country last month after a disputed election.

Hawkins Guzman said she was a Democrat until the Biden administration's handling of the southern border, which has seen a record number of migrants crossing into the U.S. in the last three years, made her switch to the Republican Party. She said she was also turned off by the Democrats' support for transgender rights and their efforts to make English a second official language in Florida.

A small parody sprang up chanting "end the shame," demanding attention to the drug addiction crisis. Participants carried cardboard proclamations bearing the names and images of loved ones who died of fentanyl.

Jesse Trump, 30, a Trump family member, was Brooding all Friday, holding a sign commemorating his son Daniel Bailey, who died at age 26 in November 2020. She founded a non-profit called Hope of Hope to fight addiction.

"They need to start honoring us, because the people with lived experiences, we're the ones that get it and we know the urgency. The time is, now," she said.

Convention speakers Tuesday night emphasized the formal epithets and blamed Democrats for allowing fentanyl into the border. But Brooding and neither party knew the blame or has done much to help. She described her politics as people, like the Hope of Hope's half-sign the word.

"People are polar Hispanic and people are plan the Hispanic people," she said. "But I'll tell you, I'm a Republican because I believe in the American dream and hard work, and all the mortgage and paperwork does not make it easier."

Couple selling goods in Milwaukee witnesses Trump shooting

Nick Ali and Jenny Jones, owners of **ONEnationunder.com**, stand at a stop in Trump-friendly Oshkosh, Wisconsin, on their way to the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee. | Ivan Moreno, AP

Dallas resident Sony Ali and Jenna Jones were selling Trump-themed merchandise at a stop in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, on their way to the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee. They said witnessing the attack only increased their support for the candidate.

"All of a sudden, we are people running and screaming, yelling, Trump got shot," Jones recalled. Ali said Jenna Jones's family relocated from Iran to Dallas, but he fled from the shop to see whether Trump was hurt. But when the former president raised his fist, their fears were assuaged.

Photos: Wednesday at the Republican National Convention

"Knowing that he popped up right away was good and good people's reaction," Jones said.

The business owner was surprised at this instance of political violence at a Trump rally, which he says was usually safe.

"These people are not here to stop themselves and support what they believe in. And that's all it is. There's a lot of love."

Sony Ali and Jenna Jones traveled to Milwaukee for the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, where they unfurled a giant custom American flag at the Fiserv Forum and sold Trump-themed T-shirts, hats, flags and other goods. They have relocated from Las Vegas to Dallas, selling merchandise from their business, **USAGoodgoods.com**, including Standard "Free Trump" pins and "Keep America Great" cowboy hats.

At the right, Sony Ali and Jenna mingled with about ten attendees around tables littered with voter registration forms, "undecided voter" signs, and Joker-inflected supplies for those wanting to send with relatives to Trump. They both believe the assassination attempt will aid the former president's campaign bid.

"I don't know if my support for Trump could get much higher, but it definitely solidified it even more," Jones said.

The pair added that admirers of the former president lamented any specific ideology, instead saying they were simply supporters of Trump. Ali said he hopes Trump's victory but notes not he stand. Ali said he family immigrated to the United States from India.

The pair said they aren't supporters of either Democrats or Republicans.

"We don't care about either party, we just want America first," Sony Ali continued.

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