

Cammack recounts Capitol ordeal
By Sarah Cavacini on Friday, January 8, 2021

Republican U.S. Rep. Kat Cammack said Thursday she was still “shell-shocked” following Capitol chaos but suffered no physical injuries.

Cammack, who was sworn in Sunday to represent Florida’s 3rd Congressional District, was in the Capitol when President Donald Trump supporters breached the building. She said she was on the House floor objecting to the 2020 presidential election results when representatives received the riot news.

“When Capitol Police instructed us to put on the evacuation hood, it was probably the moment where it felt the most surreal,” Cammack said.

She remembered seeing her colleagues piling furniture against chamber doors and being terrified while running to evacuate. Cammack said she will be working with law enforcement officials on a full investigation into the people who infiltrated the Capitol.

“It was really, really just a sad and still is a sad day for our country as we really understand the breaching and the extent of the breach and the damage that has been done,” she said.

Cammack said she and her team escaped safely, and her office suffered no damage, unlike other ransacked Capitol offices. She thanked law enforcement officers who handled protesters.

Although Cammack is a strong advocate for the Second Amendment, she was not armed Wednesday.

“Earlier in this week, I had signed on to a letter asking for clarification in the regulations that have been imposed on members carrying conceal-carry on Capitol grounds,” Cammack said. “It’s a fundamental right of every American citizen to bear arms, and I think especially in light of what we witnessed last night, it has never been more important to uphold our constitutional right.”

Senate and House members worked through the night Wednesday and certified Electoral College votes around 3 a.m. Thursday morning. President-elect Joe Biden will be sworn in Jan. 20.

The Putnam County Democratic Party said Wednesday’s events were “nothing short of disturbing” and claimed local residents traveled to the Capitol to rally.

“We call on our local law enforcement to monitor these fringe groups/individuals and take any and all legal action necessary,” Chairwoman Rebekah Cordova and Vice Chairman Joshua Mast said in a statement.

The party went on to say elected officials should send a clear message that violence is not tolerated and unacceptable.

“We must work to find a way forward that is free of violence and hate, and one that is based off of fierce and passionate engagement on the issues we care about,” Cordova and Mast said.

Cammack, too, said violence from any protester must be condemned.

“Violence has no place in our politics, in our policymaking, and I am just terribly saddened for our country right now as we see the dust settling,” she said.

On the subject of Biden, the Republican representative said her reason for disputing election results was “certainly bigger than one person.”

“Our constitution is stronger than a singular act and we need people to remember that and pray that calmer heads prevail,” Cammack said. “... Our nation is stronger than this, and we will come out on the other side

better for it.”

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