



***NOW IS THE TIME***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 28, 2007**

**Contact: Dale Smith, [dulan@ec.rr.com](mailto:dulan@ec.rr.com) 910-686-5150**

Gospel music and an array of patriotic songs capped by “Let There Be Peace on Earth” set the tone for the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Convention held at the Coastline Convention Center in Wilmington on Saturday, May 19, 2007. Bringing together the nine counties in Southeastern North Carolina represented by Congressman Mike McIntyre, the convention was a forum for area Democrats to promote party unity and to vocalize the issues that define their party. Keynote speaker Congressman Mike McIntyre extolled the Democratic Party for its “Daring”, “Sharing”, and “Caring” attitudes.

“Democrats,” he said, “Are daring for welcoming “all races, faces, and people from different places” as they dare to “stand up and make a difference in our society”. Their sharing comes in the form of commitment to equal opportunity, jobs, health care, energy policy, and economic opportunity – “Sharing the *American Dream* for all.” Democrat’s caring is evidenced by the new Democratic majority in Congress voting to increase the minimum wage, implement the 9/11 Commission’s recommendations, lower prescription costs for senior citizens, and ending subsidies to big oil companies to encourage alternate forms of energy. He abhorred the inadequate medical care afforded to our veterans and returning war heroes and talked about plans to correct this injustice.

An electrifying moment emerged when peace activist Steve Lee, who helped organize the pre-convention picket line for peace, which contained signs singling out McIntyre, stood on a table and addressed the Congressman following his speech. Lee commended the Congressman for acknowledging that the current handling of the war isn’t working and urged McIntyre to more publicly vocalize this stance.

The only other conflict to emerge during the convention was a close vote on a resolution supporting Insurance Commissioner Jim Long and opposing a bill sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Tony Rand. Both Rand and Long are Democrats. The bill, which is supported by the insurance industry, would remove the Insurance Commissioner’s authority to regulate increases sought by insurance companies. A letter from Sen. Rand read by one of his constituents did not convince the majority, who voted to adopt the resolution in support of Commissioner Long. Two other resolutions passed unanimously – “Opposing the Construction Of An Outlying Landing Field In North Carolina” and “Requiring U. S. Congressional Approval Before Taking Any Military Actions Against Iran”.

Clarifying issues that are important to Democrats, individuals spoke on “How the Republicans Have Messed up Health Care”, and why women and seniors should vote Democratic. A lighter moment, but also an inspiration to many, came when Reva McNair, President of Senior Democrats of North Carolina, asked “Who can we (senior citizens) count on?” and three-year-old Brian Christopher DeBouse of Pender County shouted out “Me!”

Lt. Governor hopefuls Hampton Dellinger and Pat Smathers each spoke briefly. Awards for highest overall attendance and highest attendance from those under 36 went to New Hanover County for the second year in a row – even with the handicap that as host county their numbers had to be double the nearest competitor to win.

With over 300 in attendance 7<sup>th</sup> District Chair Melvin Williams is happy to announce that for the FOURTH year in a row, the 7<sup>th</sup> district has had the highest attendance in Democratic District Conventions in North Carolina!

The New Hanover County Democratic Party invites all who share their ideals to their monthly meetings, normally held at 5:30 p.m. the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at the Northeast Library. More information is available by calling 343-7000 or visiting their website at [newhanoverdems.org](http://newhanoverdems.org).

###

Paid for by the New Hanover County Democratic Party – <a href="http://newhanoverdems.org">newhanoverdems.org</a> Not authorized by any candidate or candidate committee
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Submitted by Kim M. Batson, Communications Contact

Comments for revisions

Yes, Jim also mentioned it was actually Iran. I would like to see the original wording and hope Melvin can point me in the right direction.

Jim was (rightly I think) concerned about my expressing the opinion that Rand's letter didn't clarify or justify the bill. Perhaps better phrasing would be "A letter from Sen. Rand read by one of his constituents did not convince the majority, who voted to adopt the resolution."

I will also add some new information received from Melvin -- there were 302 in attendance making it the largest district convention in the state this year, and the fourth year in a row that the 7th District has garnered that distinction.

Jim is probably right that Steve Lee stood on a chair, not a table and I will also make that change. After I hear from Melvin on a few factual items (namely the exact wording of the resolutions), I will send this out again for approval. If I have it on time I can bring copies to our meeting tomorrow night as well as a slideshow of the pictures.

Thanks for y'all's input. Kim

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Date: 5/20/2007 3:27:57 PM Eastern Standard Time  
From: [dulan@ec.rr.com](mailto:dulan@ec.rr.com)  
To: [Revererights4all@aol.com](mailto:Revererights4all@aol.com), [BattleMorgan@aol.com](mailto:BattleMorgan@aol.com)  
Sent from the Internet ([Details](#))

Kim, I agree we should tell the whole story including disagreements. I'm pretty sure there was no resolution on Iraq, but one not allowing the President to attack (my word) Iran without Congressional approval.

Forwarded Message:

Subj: **Re: Convention Report**  
Date: 5/19/2007 9:40:54 PM Eastern Standard Time  
From: [BattleMorgan](mailto:BattleMorgan)  
To: [Revererights4all](mailto:Revererights4all)

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I cannot find an on-line copy of the resolutions. I believe Long's resolution was submitted on line and that at one point I had it. I can't find it on my computer now, so I don't know if I saved it. To the best of my recollection, I did not receive an on-line copy of the other resolutions. I was busy doing some other things during some of the resolutions, but I thought the resolution concerning war was the Resolution Requiring US Congressional Approval Concerning Future use of Forces against *Iran* (rather than *Iraq*)? With regard to the debate about the insurance resolution, I agree that the constituent of Rand did little to clarify things, but I would prefer to leave out our opinions on that issue.

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Maybe Melvin has the missing data, such as the names of the people elected. I was running around doing other things and did not catch all that.

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Looks good, Kim. I'm impressed that you got this out so quickly.

----- Original Message -----

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**To:** [BattleMorgan@aol.com](mailto:BattleMorgan@aol.com)

**Cc:** [dulan@ec.rr.com](mailto:dulan@ec.rr.com)

**Sent:** Saturday, May 19, 2007 8:35 PM

**Subject:** Convention Report

Jim,

I would like to send this to Melvin Williams but want to be absolutely sure the address I have for him is right and does not belong to someone else. I have [melvin535@intrstar.net](mailto:melvin535@intrstar.net) Is that right?

Also, I would like you and Dale's comments as even if Melvin likes it if you don't then it won't get distributed anywhere or go on the website. Kim

Kim's notes:

I would like to put a complete report on the web page, including links to as many of the following as possible: Need (in electronic version – word attachments or PDF files): copy of the resolutions, copy of the program, copy of names of newly elected officers and retiring officers, copies of all speeches, including McIntyre.

Below are two versions of my observations on the convention, designed to hopefully bring to life the essence of what happened today. My mention of two less-than-harmonious moments is deliberate – I want this to be a real, live record not just a sterile report. I especially would like to release the shorter version to the media in hopes of garnering us some publicity. Again, I feel that Steve Lee and the war protests as well as the discussion on the Insurance Commissioner bill display a freshness and honesty that people are hungry for. I will understand if you want to keep these as internal issues and display only a unified front to the public. (Of course, since no one was sworn to secrecy it could come out anyway).

Tomorrow I will post pictures I took to AOL and give you the site to view them to get permission to make them public. I have a great picture of the little boy mentioned sitting on Judge Faison's daughter's lap. I will do as requested with the below material and await your word. Kim Batson

**7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District County Convention  
Saturday, May 19, 2007**

## Coast Line Convention Center, Wilmington, NC

For what does the Democratic Party stand? Step by step, those ideals became crystal clear to all who attended North Carolina's 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Convention on Saturday, May 19, 2007 at the Coast Line Convention Center in Wilmington, North Carolina. Bringing together the nine counties in Southeastern North Carolina represented by Congressman Mike McIntyre, the convention was a forum for area Democrats to promote party unity and to vocalize the issues that define our party.

Entertainment provided during the registration and social period set the tone for what was to follow. Professional Saxophonist Martin Herring from Duplin County soothed and inspired with his gospel offerings. Following the invocation by Pearlie James of Duplin County and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Barbara Stanley of Brunswick County, Pamela Campbell-Dereef of Congressman Mike McIntyre's Wilmington office led the singing, accompanied on keyboard by Anthony Jinwright of New Hanover County. Rousing choruses of *God Bless America*, *America the Beautiful*, *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*, *My Country, 'Tis of Thee*, and *Let There be Peace on Earth* illustrated how very proud we are to be people of faith, Democrats, and AMERICANS.

Once again 7<sup>th</sup> District Chair Melvin Williams oversaw an informative, superbly organized, briskly run, and unifying event. Sponsors who made the cash prizes for attendance possible were saluted, then Steve Fowler of Columbus County introduced keynote speaker Congressman Mike McIntyre. Steve commended Congressman McIntyre as being a man of integrity and especially praised him for his loyal attendance at our district convention every year as well as *always buying us lunch* (catered this year by Angie's of Chris's Restaurant, Wilmington). It is hard to believe, but not every Congressman attends his own party's district convention!

Congressman McIntyre extolled the Democratic Party for our "Daring", "Sharing", and "Caring" attitudes. We are **Daring** for welcoming all: "all races, faces, and people from different places" as we dare to "stand up and make a difference in our society". Our **Sharing** comes in the form of commitment to equal opportunity, jobs, health care, energy policy, and economic opportunity – "Sharing the *American Dream* for all." And our **Caring** is evidenced by the new Democratic majority in Congress voting to increase the minimum wage, implement the 9/11 Commission's recommendations, lower prescription costs for senior citizens, and ending subsidies to big oil companies to encourage alternate forms of energy. He abhorred the inadequate medical care afforded to our veterans and returning war heroes and talked about plans to correct this injustice.

Congressman McIntyre concluding remarks were about the war in Iraq – an obviously hot topic as evidenced by the anti-war stickers and signs that abounded in the convention hall and had greeted all attendees as they entered the center grounds. He mentioned two White House meetings he personally attended in which Democratic leaders urged President Bush to change course in Iraq. He pledged to continue to fully fund and support the troops in Iraq while working toward a solution that will bring the war to resolution. In an unscripted (and potentially tense) moment, New Hanover County Peace Activist Steve Lee stood on a table and thanked the Congressman for voicing support in this venue for ending the war and urged him to do so publicly and vigorously. **Kim's note: I would like some guidance here on what McIntyre actually said.**

After Congressman McIntyre's rousing oracle, Lt. Governor candidate Hampton Dellinger recalled past election watershed years and advocated for the importance of every election and each election year – not just the “big” ones. Dellinger was dynamic and engaging with a touch of class – he introduced fellow Lt. Governor opponent Pat Smathers, Mayor of Canton, and pledged his support to whoever wins the Democratic nomination for Lt. Governor.

Building on Congressman McIntyre's vision of a better America with Democrats in charge were a series of essays on issues close to our hearts. “How the Republicans Have Messed Up Medical Care, What the Democrats Need To Do To Fix It!” was presented by Dr. Mott Blair, a Family Practice Physician in Wallace, NC. Following reports from the District Secretary (Larry Townsend, Robeson County) and District Treasurer (Wayne Roach, Brunswick County), Barbara Faison of Sampson County detailed “Why Women Should Vote Democratic”. Barbara is also State President of the Democratic Women of North Carolina.

A highlight for those sitting nearby came during Reva McNair's (Cumberland County) speech on “Why Senior Citizens Should Vote Democratic”. She is State President of Senior Democrats of North Carolina. When Reva asked of those present, “Who can we count on?” three-year-old Brian Christopher DeBouse of Pender County shouted out “Me!” With enthusiasm like that from our young Democrats, how can we go wrong?

A salute to retiring Democratic officers was followed by the report of the Nominating Committee presented by Committee Chair (and recently retired NHC Party Chair) Helen Worthy. New Officers were elected unanimously with no nominations from the floor.

Retiring Officers: **need names**

7<sup>th</sup> District Officers 2007 – 2009: **need names**

**Note: I should have paid more attention to the resolutions and would like a copy to correct this section, as I can't find mine.** Chair Chris McLamb of Cumberland presented Resolution Committee's report. Controversy erupted over a resolution backing Insurance Commissioner Jim Long in opposing a bill introduced by Senate Majority Leader Tony Rand (both Democrats). The bill would remove the Insurance Commissioner's authority to regulate increases sought by insurance companies. In simple terms, it appears that Sen. Rand's bill is heavily endorsed by insurance companies who feel that our Insurance Commissioner has too much power to set rates, keeping our citizen's premiums at unacceptably low levels (in their opinion). A letter from Sen. Rand read by one of his constituents did not convince the majority, who voted to adopt the resolution. A resolution opposing the Navy's planned landing fields in \_\_\_\_\_ and another resolution in support of speedy termination of the war in Iraq passed unanimously.

After the awarding of door prizes donated by each of the nine counties (cash, gift cards, and other great items), the cash attendance prizes were announced by Rubye Braye of Wilmington. In order to win, the host county (New Hanover) needed attendance numbers double that of their nearest competitor. In the “Under 36” category, winners were (1) New Hanover, (2) Dupin, (3) Brunswick, (4) Sampson. Highest attendance overall winners were (1) New Hanover, (2) Brunswick, (3) Duplin, (4) Sampson. Congratulations to everyone who took time on a Saturday to attend democracy in action, especially those who had to travel to get here.

Lt. Governor candidate and Mayor of Canton, NC Pat Smathers (who also attended last year's District Convention) passionately articulated his motto "Local leadership, statewide," contending that statewide problems are best solved at the local level.

With 247 participants, North Carolina's 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Convention was truly a convention for the people.

It left no doubt: For what does the Democratic Party stand? It stands for the people!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kim Batson  
New Hanover County Communications Contact

### **Shorter Version, hopefully for media**

Gospel music and an array of patriotic songs capped by "Let There Be Peace on Earth" set the tone for the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Convention held at the Coastline Convention Center in Wilmington on Saturday, May 19, 2007. Bringing together the nine counties in Southeastern North Carolina represented by Congressman Mike McIntyre, the convention was a forum for area Democrats to promote party unity and to vocalize the issues that define their party. Keynote speaker Congressman Mike McIntyre extolled the Democratic Party for its "Daring", "Sharing", and "Caring" attitudes.

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The only other conflict to emerge during the convention was a close vote on a resolution supporting Insurance Commissioner Jim Long and opposing a bill sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Tony Rand. With Rand's bill touted as being heavily pro-insurance companies and anti-consumer (raising the specter of higher insurance rates if it passes), the resolution in opposition to Rand's bill was adopted. Two other resolutions passed unanimously – one opposing the Navy's current site for an outlying landing field in North Carolina, and the other urging a speedy resolution to the war in Iraq. (It could even urge immediate withdrawal from Iraq – I need a copy of all resolutions to get the working right.)

Clarifying issues that are important to Democrats, individuals spoke on “How the Republicans Have Messed up Health Care”, and why women and seniors should vote Democratic. A lighter moment, but also an inspiration to many, came when Reva McNair, President of Senior Democrats of North Carolina, asked “Who can we (senior citizens) count on?” and three-year-old Brian Christopher DeBouse of Pender County shouted out “Me!”

Lt. Governor hopefuls Hampton Dellinger and Pat Smathers each spoke briefly. Awards for highest overall attendance and highest attendance from those under 36 went to New Hanover County for the second year in a row – even with the handicap that as host county their numbers had to be double the nearest competitor to win.

Buoyed by attendance numbers so strong (240 plus) that they ran out of lunch to feed participants, 7<sup>th</sup> District Chair **Melvin Williams** declared **need a quote here for a strong conclusion**

The New Hanover County Democratic Party normally meets at 5:30 p.m. the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at the Northeast Library. More information is available by calling 343-7000 or visiting their website at [newhanoverdems.org](http://newhanoverdems.org).

Submitted by:

Kim Batson

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See what's free at [AOL.com](http://AOL.com).

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Forwarded Message:

Subj:	<b>FROM MELVIN</b>
Date:	5/20/2007 6:23:27 PM Eastern Standard Time
From:	<a href="mailto:melvin535@intrstar.net">melvin535@intrstar.net</a>
To:	<a href="mailto:Revererights4all@aol.com">Revererights4all@aol.com</a>
Sent from the Internet ( <a href="#">Details</a> )	

**Dear Kim,**

**I arose at 7:00 AM today and drove to Kingstree, SC on a business trip. I have just returned and read you outstanding account of our 7th District Convention. Excellent!**

**The retiring officers were:**

**7th District Second Vice Chair 2001-2007- Mrs. Eva Mitchell  
New Hanover County**

**Pender County Chair 2001-2007 - Mr. James Faison, Jr.**

**New Hanover County Chair 2003-2007- Mrs. Helen Worthy**

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**Democrats Elected To Be 7th Congressional District  
Officers**

**2007 - 2009**

**Chair Melvin Williams - Duplin County**

**First Vice Chair Theresa Formyduval - Columbus County**

**Second Vice Chair Jozelle Smith - New Hanover County**

**Third Vice Chair Chris McLamb - Cumberland County**

**Secretary Larry Townsend - Robeson County**

**Treasurer Wayne Roach - Brunswick County**

**Chair of Minority Affairs Nick Rhodes - New Hanover County**

**Again, congratulations on an excellent account of the  
Convention!**

**Melvin**

Forwarded Message:

Subj: <b>RESOLUTIONS</b>
Date: 5/20/2007 6:36:20 PM Eastern Standard Time
From: <a href="mailto:melvin535@intrstar.net">melvin535@intrstar.net</a>
To: <a href="mailto:Revererights4all@aol.com">Revererights4all@aol.com</a>
Sent from the Internet ( <a href="#">Details</a> )

**RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE DISTRICT CONVENTION**

**A Resolution Opposing the Construction Of An Outlying  
Landing Field In North Carolina**

**A Resolution Requiring U. S. Congressional Approval Before Taking Any Military Actions Against IRAN (not Iraq)**

**A Resolution In Support Of Insurance Commissioner Jim Long And In Opposition To Senate Bill 90I & House Bill 1430**

**These bills would allow insurance companies to set their own rates as high as they want - and take away from Insurance Commission Jim Long the authority to authorize or reject rate increases.**

**Actually, none of the resolutions mentioned Iraq.**

**I will be glad to assist with any other questions that you may have about our Convention.**

**Kim, you certainly write well!**

**Melvin**

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Forwarded Message:

Subj: **Re: Convention Report**  
Date: 5/20/2007 8:53:19 PM Eastern Standard Time  
From: [BattleMorgan](#)  
To: [Revererights4all](#)

Kim, I believe the resolution on Iran came from us (New Hanover) and was in our county convention booklet. I don't know if any wording was changed once it reached the district level. I don't know if Steve Lee drafted that one or not, but his e-mail address is [bosuncookie@knotmaster.com](mailto:bosuncookie@knotmaster.com). Same for the resolution opposing outlying landing fields. I believe Stan Bozarth was the force behind that one and may have it on line. His e-mail address is [Sborzarth@ec.rr.com](mailto:Sborzarth@ec.rr.com) Phone 681-1546. Also Margaret Herring was on the resolution committee and may be able to tell you if any wording in the resolutions were change at the district level ([sandpiper4@bellsouth.net](mailto:sandpiper4@bellsouth.net)).

If you do find time to write it up, either in the full or a shortened version, it *would* nice to have it at the meeting. I plan to include a report of the District Convention on the agenda.

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See what's free at [AOL.com](http://AOL.com).

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Date: 5/20/2007 4:15:56 PM Eastern Standard Time  
From: [Revererights4all](#)  
To: [dulan@ec.rr.com](mailto:dulan@ec.rr.com), [BattleMorgan](#)  
CC: [melvin535@intrstar.net](mailto:melvin535@intrstar.net), [Revererights4all](#)

Yes, Jim also mentioned it was actually Iran. I would like to see the original wording and hope Melvin can point me in the right direction.

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fund and support the troops in Iraq while working toward a solution that will bring the war to resolution. In an unscripted (and potentially tense) moment, New Hanover County Peace Activist Steve Lee stood on a table and thanked the Congressman for voicing support in this venue for ending the war and urged him to do so publicly and vigorously. **Kim's note: I would like some guidance here on what McIntyre actually said.**

After Congressman McIntyre's rousing oracle, Lt. Governor candidate Hampton Dellinger recalled past election watershed years and advocated for the importance of every election and each election year – not just the “big” ones. Dellinger was dynamic and engaging with a touch of class – he introduced fellow Lt. Governor opponent Pat Smathers, Mayor of Canton, and pledged his support to whoever wins the Democratic nomination for Lt. Governor.

Building on Congressman McIntyre's vision of a better America with Democrats in charge were a series of essays on issues close to our hearts. “How the Republicans Have Messed Up Medical Care, What the Democrats Need To Do To Fix It!” was presented by Dr. Mott Blair, a Family Practice Physician in Wallace, NC. Following reports from the District Secretary (Larry Townsend, Robeson County) and District Treasurer (Wayne Roach, Brunswick County), Barbara Faison of Sampson County detailed “Why Women Should Vote Democratic”. Barbara is also State President of the Democratic Women of North Carolina.

My personal convention highlight came during Reva McNair's (Cumberland County) speech on “Why Senior Citizens Should Vote Democratic”. She is State President of Senior Democrats of North Carolina. When Reva asked of those present, “Who can we count on?” three-year-old Brian Christopher DeBouse of Pender County shouted out “Me!” With enthusiasm like that from our young Democrats, how can we go wrong?

A salute to retiring Democratic officers was followed by the report of the Nominating Committee presented by Committee Chair (and recently retired NHC Party Chair) Helen Worthy. New Officers were elected unanimously with no nominations from the floor.

Retiring Officers: **need names**

7<sup>th</sup> District Officers 2007 – 2009: **need names**

**Note: I should have paid more attention to the resolutions and would like a copy to correct this section, as I can't find mine.** Chair Chris McLamb of Cumberland presented Resolution Committee's report. Controversy erupted over a resolution backing Insurance Commissioner Jim Long in opposing a bill introduced by Senate Majority Leader Tony Rand (both Democrats). The bill would remove the Insurance Commissioner's authority to regulate increases sought by insurance companies. A constituent of Sen. Rand's read a letter from him which (in my opinion) did little to clarify the issue or justify the bill. In simple terms, it appears that Sen. Rand's bill is heavily endorsed by insurance companies who feel that our Insurance Commissioner has too much power to set rates, keeping our citizen's premiums at unacceptably low levels (in their opinion). The resolution supporting Commissioner Long and opposing the House and Senate versions of the bill passed in a close voice vote. A resolution opposing the Navy's planned landing fields in \_\_\_\_\_ and another resolution in support of speedy termination of the war in Iraq passed unanimously.

After the awarding of door prizes donated by each of the nine counties (cash, gift cards, and other great items), the cash attendance prizes were announced by Rubye Braye of Wilmington. In order to win, the host county (New Hanover) needed attendance numbers double that of their nearest competitor. In the “Under 36” category, winners were (1) New Hanover, (2) Dupin, (3) Brunswick, (4) Sampson. Highest attendance overall winners were (1) New Hanover, (2) Brunswick, (3) Duplin, (4) Sampson. Congratulations to everyone who took time on a Saturday to attend democracy in action, especially those who had to travel to get here.

Lt. Governor candidate and Mayor of Canton, NC Pat Smathers (who also attended last year’s District Convention) passionately articulated his motto “Local leadership, statewide,” contending that statewide problems are best solved at the local level.

With 247 participants, North Carolina’s 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Convention was truly a convention for the people.

It left no doubt: For what does the Democratic Party stand? It stands for the people!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kim Batson  
New Hanover County Communications Contact

### **Shorter Version, hopefully for media**

Gospel music and an array of patriotic songs capped by “Let There Be Peace on Earth” set the tone for the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Convention held at the Coastline Convention Center in Wilmington on Saturday, May 19, 2007. Bringing together the nine counties in Southeastern North Carolina represented by Congressman Mike McIntyre, the convention was a forum for area Democrats to promote party unity and to vocalize the issues that define their party. Keynote speaker Congressman Mike McIntyre extolled the Democratic Party for its “Daring”, “Sharing”, and “Caring” attitudes.

“Democrats,” he said, “Are daring for welcoming “all races, faces, and people from different places” as they dare to “stand up and make a difference in our society”. Their sharing comes in the form of commitment to equal opportunity, jobs, health care, energy policy, and economic opportunity – “Sharing the *American Dream* for all.” Democrat’s caring is evidenced by the new Democratic majority in Congress voting to increase the minimum wage, implement the 9/11 Commission’s recommendations, lower prescription costs for senior citizens, and ending subsidies to big oil companies to encourage alternate forms of energy. He abhorred the inadequate medical care afforded to our veterans and returning war heroes and talked about plans to correct this injustice.

An electrifying moment emerged when peace activist Steve Lee, who helped organize the pre-convention picket line for peace which contained signs singling out McIntyre, stood on a table and addressed the Congressman following his speech. Lee commended the Congressman for acknowledging that the current handling of the war isn’t working and urged McIntyre to more publicly vocalize this stance.

The only other conflict to emerge during the convention was a close vote on a resolution supporting Insurance Commissioner Jim Long and opposing a bill sponsored

by Senate Majority Leader Tony Rand. With Rand's bill touted as being heavily pro-insurance companies and anti-consumer (raising the specter of higher insurance rates if it passes), the resolution in opposition to Rand's bill was adopted. Two other resolutions passed unanimously – one opposing the Navy's current site for an outlying landing field in North Carolina, and the other urging a speedy resolution to the war in Iraq. (It could even urge immediate withdrawal from Iraq – I need a copy of all resolutions to get the working right.)

Clarifying issues that are important to Democrats, individuals spoke on “How the Republicans Have Messed up Health Care”, and why women and seniors should vote Democratic. A lighter moment, but also an inspiration to many, came when Reva McNair, President of Senior Democrats of North Carolina, asked “Who can we (senior citizens) count on?” and three-year-old Brian Christopher DeBouse of Pender County shouted out “Me!”

Lt. Governor hopefuls Hampton Dellinger and Pat Smathers each spoke briefly. Awards for highest overall attendance and highest attendance from those under 36 went to New Hanover County for the second year in a row – even with the handicap that as host county their numbers had to be double the nearest competitor to win.

Buoyed by attendance numbers so strong (240 plus) that they ran out of lunch to feed participants, 7<sup>th</sup> District Chair **Melvin Williams** declared **need a quote here for a strong conclusion**

The New Hanover County Democratic Party normally meets at 5:30 p.m. the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at the Northeast Library. More information is available by calling 343-7000 or visiting their website at [newhanoverdems.org](http://newhanoverdems.org).

Submitted by:

Kim Batson

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See what's free at [AOL.com](http://AOL.com).

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See what's free at [AOL.com](http://AOL.com).

Hi Kim,

I was on a chair. It happened to be Earl Sheridan's chair; he had moved to the back of the hall to help distribute drinks and BBQ.

Did you notice the people from Wilmington Peace Meetup holding signs out front as you entered the parking lot prior to the start of the convention? The signs said things like:

*Dems can end the war.*

*Congressman McIntyre: Defund the war in Iraq.*

*Bold Dems can defund the war.*

*Out of Iraq Now!*

In addition, the entire convention was singing "Let There Be Peace On Earth," holding signs (saying *End the war*, *Out of Iraq*, *End the occupation*) as Congressman McIntyre walked in. By my count, about 50 signs! It was impressive.

Hope this helps,

Steve Lee  
New Hanover High School  
Wilmington, NC 28401

910-251-6100 ext 357

[slee@nhcs.k12.nc.us](mailto:slee@nhcs.k12.nc.us)

Kim,

I commended the congressman for his strongest words to date on ending the Iraq war, and for taking the first baby steps (based on the legislation he voted for) in working legislatively to end the war.

I also challenged him to take his new, stronger stance out of the convention and put it out there publicly--with the media, his fellow blue Dog Democrats, and in the halls of Congress.

Personally don't believe he is any more antiwar now than he's ever been, but that's just my take. Most antiwar proponents see his votes as being the most conservative possible while still being oppositional to the President. McIntyre has a long way to go to be a real help in ending the illegal and immoral American misadventure in Iraq.

Hope this helps. What is your report for?

Take care,

Steve Lee

Wilmington Peace Meetup: <http://peace.meetup.com/96>

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