

Locals Join Rally At National Capital



STEVE SCHOLZ PHOTO

Agriculturalists joined the rally at the nation's capitol. Pictured in front of the Capitol on Jan. 6 are, left to right, Nathan Kramer, Dan Phelps, Rusty Kemp, Kyle Gifford, Casey Macken, Steve Scholz, Rob Ita, and Arlan Paxton.

By Carrie Stadheim
 for Tri-State Livestock News

Jan. 6, 2021, Congress convened to certify the vote that elected Joe Biden president of the United States. That day, President Trump stood before an audience of thousands and incited his supporters to violence and insurrection.

That's the official account, according to mainstream media and many in Congress, who voted to impeach Trump days later, based on his words and the actions taken that day.

Eyewitness accounts and the transcript of Trump's speech tell a somewhat different story. According to photos, video and eyewitness accounts, an unknown number of rally participants broke a window in the Capitol and entered the building, posing for photographs at the desk of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and allegedly stealing her laptop.

The rally ended with several arrests, at least one rally-goer dead, and some police officers injured, according to ABC news.

In an article published Jan. 6, and updated Jan. 8, *The New York Times* wrote, "And when that day came, the president rallied thousands of his supporters with an incendiary speech. Then a large mob of those supporters, many waving Trump flags and wearing Trump regalia, violently stormed the Capitol to take over the halls of government and send elected officials into hiding, fearing for their safety."

BEING HEARD

Western Nebraska cattle feeder Steve Scholz said he attended the rally because, "I believe this is a turning point in America where we have to be there and make our voices heard to save this republic."

Scholz said he doesn't know who the bad actors were, and he was far enough back he couldn't see them very well, but all of the people he encountered were peaceful, as were the leaders and speakers. "You throw a cross section of a million people, you are going to get a few whack jobs," he said.

"There were enough people there that if we wanted to storm the Capitol, there was nothing they could have done about it."

Another rally attendee,

Dennis Miller, a 70-year-old eastern North Dakota farmer, said he believes most who attended the rally were protesting the election results.

"The reason they were there was because this election was stolen — nobody's talking about that," he said.

Scholz estimates that over a million people — of every race, color, gender and age — gathered to support President Trump and protest the certification of former Vice President Joe Biden as the 46th president of the United States.

"There were Chinese families with little kids holding flags, there were 80-year-old ladies with walkers, clinging to their American flags. People were singing patriotic songs, people were quoting scripture, people were quoting the constitution, there were people dressed in Revolutionary War type costumes." Scholz said there were even a few protesters on horseback. "I've never seen a crowd like that. There were even people from other countries. Their eyes are on America. They know if America falls, they all fall. They expressed that."

Miller said that he attended an event the evening before the rally where he and the crowd heard at least 15 speakers including Gen. Michael Flynn, a retired United States Army lieutenant general who was briefly the national security adviser to President Trump, and Roger Stone, Trump's political adviser, the president's pastor and many developers of alternative media.

"I did not hear one speaker urge aggression or violence," said Miller. "Speakers encouraged prayer. If I could shrink what I heard into one sentence the rally speakers urged us to go home, register voters, convince our neighbors that conservative values will be the only way to guarantee the future of our country."

TRUMP'S SPEECH

Trump's speech included calling his supporters to action, and outlining what he said is proof of voter fraud, for 70 minutes. The final words of his speech were:

"So we're going to, we're going to walk down Pennsylvania Avenue, I love Pennsylvania Avenue, and we're going to the Capitol and we're going to try and give ... The Democrats are hopeless. They're never voting for anything, not even one vote. But we're

going to try and give our Republicans, the weak ones, because the strong ones don't need any of our help, we're going to try and give them the kind of pride and boldness that they need to take back our country.

"So let's walk down Pennsylvania Avenue. I want to thank you all. God bless you and God bless America. Thank you all for being here, this is incredible. Thank you very much. Thank you."

Miller and Scholz both spoke of waiting in long lines, moving through security checkpoints into an open area near Washington Monument to hear President Trump speak, and then toward the Capitol building.

Scholz said most people easily walked through security but he did see three individuals with flak vests under their coats who were turned back several times, each time removing pepper spray, mace, or other items from their clothing and leaving it on the ground. Eventually Secret Service confiscated the items and allowed the individuals through.

"We're going to walk down to the Capitol, and we're going to cheer on our brave senators, and congressmen and women," said the presi-

dent in his speech.

"My friend (another farmer) and I accompanied each other to the capitol and began making our way to the Capitol steps," said Miller. "No barricades were present and we started up the steps on the right (downwind) side. We were maybe halfway up the steps in shoulder to shoulder people and tear gas quite near us caused us to back down to fresh air. We walked up the steps, peacefully, as well as thousands of others." According to a timeline published by *The New York Times*, this was likely after supporters had already breached the security barricades surrounding the Capitol building. Miller and his associates did not enter the Capitol.

"I was thinking I was going to stand up and redress our grievances, that's our first amendment right," said Miller.

A few individuals wearing bulletproof vests and other gear that resembled police broke a window and entered the Capitol, he said. Others followed into the Capitol. No news reports indicate damage to the interior of the Capitol.

Much of the crowd was

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Red Cross Bloodmobile Coming To Thedford



Urgent need for blood donors to help prevent shortage

For a limited time, the American Red Cross is testing all blood, platelet and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies, providing donors insight into whether they have been exposed to this coronavirus. At the same time, there continues to be an urgent need for blood donations as hospitals resume surgeries and treatments that require blood products.

Antibody testing will indicate if the donor's immune system has produced antibodies to this coronavirus, regardless of whether they developed symptoms. Donations will be tested using samples pulled at the time of donation and sent to a testing laboratory where they will also undergo routine infectious disease testing. A positive antibody test result does not confirm infection or immunity.

COVID-19 antibody test results will be available within 7-10 days in the Red Cross Blood Donor App or donor portal at [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org). The test has been authorized for emergency use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The next Thedford High School blood drive will be Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2021, at the school from 1:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Appointments are encouraged to be able to provide responsible social distancing. Appointments can be made by calling the school at 645-2250 or visiting [redcrossblood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org)

"As an organization dedicated to helping others,

the Red Cross is pleased to provide more information about COVID-19 to our valued donors," said Dr. Erin Goodhue, executive medical director of direct patient care with the Red Cross Biomedical Services. "If you are feeling healthy and well, please schedule an appointment to not only help save lives but also learn about your potential exposure to COVID-19."

The Red Cross is not testing donors to diagnose illness, referred to as a diagnostic test.

Donation appointments can be made by calling the school at 645-2250, downloading the free Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org), calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

Blood drive safety precautions

To protect the health and safety of Red Cross staff and donors, individuals who do not feel well or who believe they may be ill with COVID-19 should postpone their donation.

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions — including temperature checks, social distancing and face coverings for donors and staff — have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to

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"Let Leon's Legacy Live"



THEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS PHOTO

Students at Thedford Public Schools have been taught well. If they see someone in need they address it. Longtime teacher and now retired, Rose Gift, instilled in her students volunteerism and extending a helping hand. What they have been taught has come full circle. They have started a "Let Leon's Legacy Live" memorial fund. Knowing Mrs. Gift wants to keep ranching after the loss of her husband, students implemented a memorial fund at Security First Bank to help ease her burden in doing just that.

She is filling buckets and dumping cake in their old Hastings caker. An overhead feed bin is one item students hope they can raise funds for. They feel Mrs. Gift could utilize a UTV with calving coming up. Mrs. Gift is pictured above with students at her retirement. If you would like to contribute, you may send donations to Security First Bank, P.O. Box 288, Thedford, NE 69166, along with a note "Memorial For Leon," and the staff will know where to put it. Thank you in advance for helping.