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Excerpt from article

# Inauguration is 'dream realized for lot of people'

**Locals enjoy D.C. sights, sounds before big day**

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Their digital cameras are filling up.

"We're having a blast," said Gary-Williams, 44. "And we haven't even gotten to the best stuff yet." Friends Latonya Alexander, 42, and Madelyn Jeneene Suttle, 46, are also part of the group.

The latter's husband, Richard Suttle, is in D.C., too, but not as a mere observer. He's an Alabama State Trooper who will provide security along the parade route.

The group of women was lost in the tunnels beneath the capitol complex, looking for the Cannon House Office Building so they could pick up their inauguration tickets from their representative. A congressman from Tennessee stopped to give them directions.

And once inside the Cannon building - and lost again - they stopped in the office of Rep. Christopher Murphy of Connecticut to ask directions. They left his office with soda, sandwiches and shrimp.

"We're seeing the country at its best right now," said Alexander, a former NASA employee who now lives in Virginia. "It just feels good. Everybody is happy."

Long waits

People lined up outside the Senate and House buildings for hours to pick up their tickets. The potential of seeing famous faces helped pass the time in the cold, sometimes snowy day.

U.S. Rep. John Lewis of Georgia walked out of the Cannon Building, and the waiters reacted reverently.

**David Wilson**, a former Auburn University vice president who is now chancellor at the University of Wisconsin, asked the former civil rights leader to shake hands and pose for a picture with his 12-year-old son, Nyere Wilson.