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Local attends inauguration

By BROOKE RUTH, Digital Media News Editor

Imperial Valley resident Frank Salazar said that in witnessing the historic inauguration of President Barack Obama, he felt a sense of peace and responsibility.

He said he felt a responsibility to serve the community and take Obama's words as "marching orders."

Salazar was one of more than a dozen Imperial County residents who made the trip to Washington, D.C., for the inauguration of the nation's 44th president.



"As I witnessed history and heard the president speak, there was an inner peace throughout the audience; you felt unity through the people," Salazar said.

Salazar was a delegate representing the 51st District, of which Imperial Valley is a part, at the Democratic National Convention in August. He has also served as the campaign manager for Rep. Bob Filner, D-Chula Vista, in the past, and under the Clinton administration served as a news analyst for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Salazar said for him it stood out when Obama told the American people to dust themselves off and get back to work.

"Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of remaking America," Obama said in his 20-minute inaugural address.

Salazar also said he took away Obama's message that we need to "get back to work to be the allies that we are for the rest of the world."

"And so, to all other peoples and governments who are watching today ... know that America is a friend of each nation and every man, woman, and child who seeks a future of peace and dignity, and we are ready to lead once more," Obama said.

Salazar said for him the most memorable part of the inauguration was “the millions of tears from hard working people that wanted to be there and be part of the inauguration.”

Salazar said he will return to the Valley with a renewed sense of the need to do more to serve the community.

“I believe there is a renewed energy to build a better community and work harder to create jobs for those who are out of work,” he said.

He said locally he would like to see more investment in our work force and the creation of more renewable energy jobs.

“We put him there but he is not alone, he has got us,” Salazar said.

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