

Gholar

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Attending the convention "sealed the deal for me in terms of deciding whether or not to pursue a career in politics. Now I know I definitely will."

Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson Gates, who received the Fannie Lou Hammer award from the Democratic National Committee Black Caucus at the convention was very impressed with the energy exuded by Gholar. Atkinson Gates described Gholar as "enthusiastic and bright and eager to get involved. A rising star in politics."

Atkinson Gates chairs the Democratic National Committee Black Caucus and has worked to influence others and inspire people across the country to pursue political careers.

"Politics is a passion for me. Whenever I can motivate someone young or seasoned with life experience to carry the torch, I'm ready to share what I've learned through my more than 20 years in elected office," Atkinson Gates said.

Gholar understands the issues and believes in the Democratic Party's platform, especially as it relates to health care and stem cell research. She also believes that John Kerry and John Edwards are the right team.

They are the best "to make us stronger at home and respected in the world," Gholar said.

"From jobs to rebuilding America, we need leadership that will focus on bringing us (Americans) back together. I truly believe that Senators Kerry and Edwards are the ones who will do it. Senator Kerry is an optimist who I've heard say many times that 'You have to know that tomorrow can be better than today.'"

The 1999 honors graduate of Durango High School supports our troops in Iraq, but feels that the current administration did in fact mislead the American people and the world on issues concerning Iraq.

"I support our troops in Iraq," Gholar said. "I hope we can bring the war in Iraq to a peaceful end. At the time, with the information we were given post 9/11 regarding weapons of mass destruction (WOMD) in Iraq, I supported the war. Now given the new information about the WOMD in Iraq and the 9/11 Commission Report released July 21, I am convinced there were more things we should have done before we actually

engaged in this war."

History was made 28 years ago when Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, the first African-American woman to represent Texas, gave the keynote address at the Democratic Convention. Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs-Jones, representative of the 11th district in Ohio, made history as the first African-American woman to serve on the Ways and Means Committee of the United States Congress. Gholar's desire is to make history, too. But for now, she will focus her energies on helping make health care affordable to all Americans and assisting in making stem cell research advancements possible in the hopes of curing many of the diseases in the world.

Gholar was unable to hear all of the speeches made at last week's convention. She did, however, have an opportunity to see the Rev. Al Sharpton and Illinois State Senator Barack Obama deliver their words to the world.

Gholar agrees with Sharpton, who said:

"I am convinced that at a time, when there is a vicious spirit in the body politic of this country, that attempts to undermine America's freedom — our civil rights and civil liberties — we must leave this city and go forth and organize this nation toward victory for John Kerry and John Edwards in November. This is not just about winning an election, it's about preserving the principles upon which this nation was founded."

Gholar plans to do her part to get Kerry elected in November by talking to everyone she meets and knows about the Kerry/Edwards message. In addition to verbally communicating the Kerry/Edwards message, Gholar said, "I will canvas neighborhoods, work phone banks and, of course, continue to register people to vote. A lot of the people I've talked to and registered to vote realize that our country needs to be moved in a different direction."

Although Sharpton has been criticized by some in the media for turning a 7-minute speech into a 26-minute address, Gholar felt Sharpton's speech was perfect.

"I only heard cheers and applause after Rev. Sharpton spoke," she said. "I didn't hear one negative remark. President Bush asked some questions during a speech he gave at the Urban League's

National Convention a couple of weeks ago. I think Rev. Sharpton did a great job of answering some of the President's questions."

Like many others who heard the speech delivered last Tuesday by Obama, Gholar was in awe.

"Everything Obama said about Senator Kerry is true," she said. After hearing Obama speak, Gholar is assured he will make a magnificent U.S. Senator. "His speech made me want to move to Illinois to help get him elected," she said.

Given the questionable circumstances surrounding the last presidential election and the few votes that separated the two candidates, Gholar is optimistic that Americans will not only register in larger numbers than in previous years, but also will go to the polls and cast their votes in larger numbers.

"The people I've talked to are quite aware of what happened four years ago and what has happened during this administration," she said.

"They clearly see what happens when you become disenfranchised and they understand that in a close election like this one their vote does count. People are not stopping at registering to vote. They are going all the way to the polls to cast their vote."

Gholar believes, "We have a strong candidate who is committed to building a stronger America at home and a respected America abroad."

For those voters who may still be unsure who they will cast their vote for in November, Gholar recommends that they visit her favorite presidential Web site, www.johnkerry.com, and read his outline for a better America and cast your vote for Kerry and Edwards in November.

For those who see Edwards as too young, too inexperienced or as one who has moved up the ranks too fast, Gholar sees Edwards differently.

"I see Senator Edwards as someone who is simply very good at what he does," she said. "I believe we have a strong candidate in Senator Kerry. The voters are going to decide who they want the next President of the United States to be. And I am convinced they are going to take the last four years into account before they cast their votes in November."

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