

# Keep Texas, Texas

*...I'll take that as a  
compliment...*

*by Kat Rowoldt*



It's been an amazing few weeks, which is nice to report, for once.

My recent article, "Vote No To Beto," received a lot of great reviews and was shared around a good bit. My brother, in fact, sent it to his oldest stepson, who happens to be Ted Cruz's best friend. And so a little article from West Texas made it to the candidate himself to read. He and his staff loved it, too.

The article was focused on comparing the two directions these men want to take Texas. One direction keeps Texas, Texas, the other destroys our country and will transform us into the newest Venezuela. To my surprise, a few days later I saw my tagline in an official Cruz campaign banner. (See above right.) Keep Texas, Texas. It was a tremendous honor that Senator Ted Cruz decided to use the tagline from that article. I took it as a compliment.

Then I received a call from his campaign scheduler last Tuesday evening, to see if I thought I could pull off a gathering for the Senator in forty-eight hours in San Angelo. I said yes, of course.

That could have been more of a challenge, but we'd planned an event for him the previous week and were all set when Senator Cruz

was suddenly called back to Washington D.C., thankfully for our timing, just moments before we were going to push out the information on it.

Truly, everything we'd planned before at Miss Hattie's was reset in less than thirty minutes, for August 30, at 5:00 PM. Mayor Brenda Gunter was a real trooper to adjust her bookings to accommodate this sudden change in scheduling.

The Cruz Campaign requested a local restaurant that could hold around 200 people. My challenge was to get the word out through my various channels and news media connections to fill up the house. Once their RSVP link was ready and sent to me, I began pushing it out. We met our goal within hours.

Before noon on Wednesday we were over our goal and potential capacity. They decided to let it run a bit more because 5:00 PM can be a difficult time for people to actually show up and there's always a certain percent who just don't show. By mid-afternoon, though, I was getting very concerned as the numbers steadily increased. They knew "Kat" was sweating bullets knowing we were so far over our planned capacity. On top of that, someone was sending out an email saying that if you don't have a ticket, show up anyway, adding to the potential problem. Senator Cruz's team was alerted.

Senator Cruz was delayed getting out of Abilene, meaning he was going to arrive about 5:40. Considering people had begun showing up as early as 3:15 at Miss Hattie's to see him, it was fantastic that no one got restless or upset with the delay. Everyone was excited to see the man who represents us all so well.

Supporters of Representative "Beto" O'Rourke began gathering across the street about 4:30 and



by 5:00 had made their way to Miss Hattie's side of the street. A few Cruz supporters with Cruz signs in their hands and smiles on their faces walked over to them. Ginger Moore, leading the way, began asking the young people what they liked about Venezuela. The protestors were somewhat confused. Why was she asking about Venezuela? She encouraged them to take the time to learn what's happening in Venezuela because of socialism, exactly what Beto wants to bring to America. After posing for a few pictures in the



middle of the protestors, they hurried back to get their spots for Senator Cruz's arrival.

The protestors swarmed his vehicle when it drove up. He greeted them politely, then turned to enter the building. Footage on San Angelo LIVE's report about the

event shows his arrival and entry into the building. They captured that correctly, but Joe Hyde needs to work on his math: he reported 200 attendees +/- 20 people. (That was better than the "60 people" reported by the *San Angelo Standard Times*! I guess since the *Times* reporter was sitting under the table at the front by the stage, he was counting feet he could see from his perspective.) Three hundred fifteen people with tickets actually checked in and found: a chair to sit in, a spot to hold up the wall, a comfortable place on the floor somewhat tucked under tables, or crowded around the back door. We didn't count people without tickets who were sent away.

Mayor Brenda Gunter did an outstanding job introducing the Senator. She gave her own personal thank you's for his congratulatory letter after she was elected mayor, and for his time and interest in our community's needs and concerns when she and

others met with him in Washington D.C., before giving a traditional type of introduction. Enthusiastic applause filled the room, though not many were able to stand up to properly greet him because of the sitting/standing arrangements.

Senator Cruz laid out the things he's been able to accomplish, topic after topic, especially now, working with President Donald Trump. I even heard a few points from my article and how important it is to keep Texas, Texas. He also made a critical point: This election is vitally important. Every Republican must turn out to vote, so we can keep Texas red. If we are complacent, Beto and other Democrats will win. Trump needs a red Texas.

We were able to video his entire presentation and you may view it on our website. It is worth a listen.

When the Q&A time opened up, some Central High School juniors caught the Senator's eye and he called on them for a question; each of them presented their question articulately. Cruz eagerly addressed their concerns and shared a personal experience or point on each.

One young man at the front who was seated tucked under a table, had the opportunity to ask a question, and he jumped to his feet to be respectful. His question had to do with the Constitution. He felt that certain amendments were not equally applied equally nor of equal concern to Senator Cruz. The Senator was delighted with the question and the opportunity to explain to the young man that the Constitution and the Bill Rights belong to American citizens, and them alone. These are not rights that non-Americans are entitled to enjoy. From where I was standing, I believe that young man had a light bulb moment in his thinking.

At one point, Cruz had everyone who'd served our country raise their hands and thanked them for their service. At another time, he asked to see the hands of those under the age of 30. The room was sprinkled throughout with lifted hands, including Councilman Lane Carter and his wife.



A Hispanic veteran posed an interesting question having to do with his peers rejecting his support for Cruz. Cruz, being Hispanic himself, was able to fully address that issue and how best to take a stand for what you truly believe, and that being a Republican aligned best with the Hispanic culture and values. One question he tossed to the audience in answering this man's question was, "Have you ever seen a Hispanic panhandling?" That was something no one had thought about before, but they had to agree they had not.



The evening ran long because it started late, but no one seemed to mind. When the meet-and-greet formed to shake hands with the Senator and have a quick picture taken, the line wrapped lengthwise in the room—twice. Everyone was thanking us for holding the event, his team received many support checks, and others were encouraged to go to [TedCruz.org](http://TedCruz.org) and donate online. It was a fabulous evening for all.

We are hoping to have the Senator back for a larger event in September or October, depending on his schedule. He is headed back to D.C. to work on the confirmation of President Trump's Supreme Court nominee. His next stop through here will probably be short notice as well, but we will be ready. We hope you will be, too.

Until next time...

*Kat Rowoldt*

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