

Dan Quayle Featured At Christian Farmers Fellowship

**TONI GUAGENTI
AND
JOANNE MORVAY**
Carroll County Times
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Cheryl Craig got a little closer to former Vice President Dan Quayle than most during Quayle's spirited trip to Carroll County Saturday.

In a split second, Craig of Taneytown stood on her tiptoes and laid a kiss on Quayle's right cheek.

"Anybody can shake the man's hand," Craig smiled in triumph.

And many did Saturday at the Fellowship of Christian Farmers International's annual luncheon at Wilhelm Ltd. outside Westminster.

More than 700 people came to meet the man who, with former President George Bush, won every precinct in Carroll County during the 1992 presidential election.

Donning their Sunday best a day early, about 80 people posed for photographs with the former

vice president at a special reception before the luncheon. The chance to brush greatness cost \$100, proceeds of which went to the Christian farmers organization.

Quayle came into the county riding shotgun next to Sen. Larry Haines, R-Carroll. Haines wouldn't divulge many details about their car-ride conversation but said the two talked about the chance of Maryland getting a Republican governor this year.

"Where'd you get all this snow?" Quayle asked as he squinted his eyes slightly at the bright white mounds outside Wilhelm Ltd.

Inside he was greeted with more brightness, this time from flashing cameras as the man of the hour started pressing the flesh with his fans.

A special closed-off area adjacent to the luncheon room was transformed into a makeshift studio — complete with flag props — as photographer Roger Brackney snapped mementos for the excited

crowd.

"This isn't a practice one, this counts," quipped Quayle as the first photo was taken with Heidi K.L. Haines. Her father, Wilson Lippy, organized the event and is one of the fellowship's founders. Heidi Haines, who worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture during the Bush-Quayle administration, urged everyone to form a line so the reception would run smoothly.

While a lot of people asked for Quayle's John Hancock on luncheon programs or pieces of paper, Don and Robin Frazier of Manchester got Quayle's signature with an indelible marker on something more unusual — a plate.

It wasn't just any old piece of china, this was a souvenir from the 1989 bicentennial inauguration in Washington, D.C.

Both Fraziers told the former vice president they were proud of him.

"I'm proud of Dan Quayle being up front in the public about his beliefs," Don Frazier

explained after the photo.

The plate will have a special place in the couple's china cupboard along with a Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower inaugural plate and a 250th anniversary plate of the B & O Railroad.

Sandy and Joe Gover of Finksburg got Quayle's signature for their two young daughters, Melissa and Jennifer.

"I got a little nervous," Sandy Gover said as she folded up the piece of paper containing the keepsake. But, she said, "he's real kind."

Quayle showed his soft spot for children throughout the day.

When he first arrived he met 7-year-old Gavin Jennings who survived a terrible farm accident last fall.

Later, despite the throng of well-wishers, Quayle remembered exactly who Jennings was.

"There he is," Quayle said to Gavin, who was decked out in good black pants and a sporty tie. "C'mon up here son."

"He's the miracle baby," someone from the crowd interjected.

Gavin was quiet when asked whether he was excited about meeting the former vice president;

like most farmers, he only speaks when he has something to say.

The line moved quickly and the friendly and smiling Quayle personally greeted each and every one.

But before it had all sunk in, the walls to the reception area came down and what was a private meeting area became just another corner of the banquet room.

No doubt, the memories will last much longer.

Quayle may be persona non grata in some circles, but at the annual luncheon of the Fellowship of Christian Farmers International he felt "right at home," he said.

And that's good because so many people felt comfortable with Quayle, they stopped by throughout the meal at Wilhelm Ltd. outside Westminster — greeting him as if he too was just another farmer who hadn't had much time for socializing this winter.

The crowd laughed with Quayle and applauded him repeatedly during a speech that touched on his upcoming book, losing the last election, the current administration, Murphy Brown, family values and the power of prayer.

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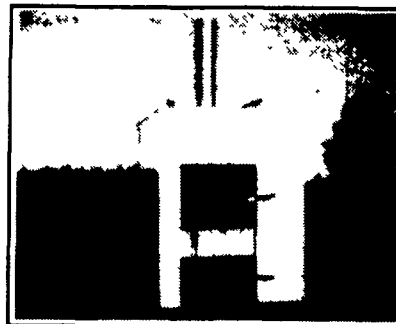
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