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Sergeant Aquilino Gonell
Retired United States Capitol Police Officer
Democratic National Convention
Wednesday, August 21, 2024
Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

My name is Aquilino Gonell. I immigrated to the U.S. from the Dominican Republic when I was 12. I became an American citizen. I was a Sergeant in the U.S. Army and a Capitol Police officer.

I had seen violence while serving in Iraq. But nothing—nothing—prepared me for January 6th. We officers risked everything to protect innocent people. We were beaten and blinded. I was assaulted with a pole attached to the American flag. President Trump summoned our attackers and sided with them. Betraying us.

When I joined the army and Capitol Police, I took an oath to defend the Constitution. I did so with duty in my soul. I still feel it.

To Donald Trump, I ask: why don't you?

On January 6, I nearly died protecting the Capitol. And I would do it again for our democracy. The way to preserve it is to elect Kamala Harris.

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