



AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast
Supporters of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, left, face off with protesters after a rally on the campus of the University of Illinois-Chicago was canceled due to security concerns Friday in Chicago.

Trump calls off rally due to security concerns

CHICAGO (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump canceled one of his signature rallies on Friday, calling off the event in Chicago due to safety concerns after protesters packed the arena where it was to take place.

The announcement the billionaire businessman would postpone the rally until another day led a large portion of the crowd inside the University of Illinois at Chicago Pavilion to break out into raucous cheers. Many rushed onto the floor, jumping up and down with their arms up in the air.

“Trump represents everything America is not and everything Chicago is not,” said Kamran Siddiqui, 20, a student at the school who was among those celebrating. “We came in here and we wanted to shut this down. Because this is a great city and we don’t want to let that person in here.”

Some supporters of the Republican front-runner started chanting “We want Trump! We want Trump!” in response to the celebrations, and there were some isolated physical confrontations between members of the crowd. Chicago police said there were no immediate arrests.

“It’s a shame,” said Trump supporter Bill Tail, 43, of the Chicago suburb of Oaklawn. “They scream about tolerance, but are being intolerant themselves, that doesn’t make sense.”

As Trump attempts to unify a fractured Republican Party ahead of next week’s slate of winner-take-all primary elections, the confrontations between his legion of loyal supporters and protesters who accuse him of stoking racial hatred have intensified.

A North Carolina man was arrested after video footage showed him punching an African-American protester being led out of a rally in that state on Wednesday. At that event, the billionaire real estate mogul recalled a past protester as “a real bad dude.”

“He was a rough guy, and he was punching. And we had some people — some rough guys like we have right in here — and they started punching back,” Trump said. “It was a beautiful thing.”

At Trump’s rally earlier Friday in St. Louis, he was repeatedly interrupted by protesters. Police there charged nearly three

dozen people with general peace disturbance.

In a telephone interview after postponing his event in Chicago, Trump said he didn’t “want to see people hurt or worse” at the rally, telling MSNBC that, “I think we did the right thing.”

Trump said the anger on display in Chicago wasn’t directed at him or his campaign, but rather was a manifestation of the public’s deep frustration with economic conditions in the country.

“Our businesses are being taken away from us, our businesses are being moved out of the country,” Trump said on Fox News. “This is a demonstration against economic conditions on both sides.”

But many of the protesters in Chicago said they were there to specifically to stop Trump from speaking.

“Our country is not going to make it being divided by the views of Donald Trump,” said Jermaine Hodge, a 37-year-old lifelong Chicago resident who owns a trucking company. “Our country is divided enough. Donald Trump, he’s preaching hate. He’s preaching division.”

Indeed, Trump taunted the protesters in St. Louis, panning them as weak “troublemakers,” and ordered them to “go home to mommy” or “go home and get a job” because “they contribute nothing.”

“These are not good people, just so you understand,” Trump said. “These are not the people who made our country great. These are the people that are destroying our country.”

Dozens of University of Illinois at Chicago faculty and staff had petitioned university administrators earlier in the week to cancel the rally, citing concerns it would create a “hostile and physically dangerous environment” for students.

One Trump supporter at the Chicago rally said Trump had created the environment that led to Friday night’s melee by holding the event at the school — a civil and immigrant rights organizing hub with large minority student populations.

“I think he was kind of provoking things, to be honest with you,” said Dan Kozak, 23, from south suburban Tinley Park. “He could have picked the suburbs and nothing would have happened.”

Friends, family say final farewells to Nancy Reagan

SIMI VALLEY, Calif. (AP) — Nancy Reagan is once again beside her beloved Ronnie.

The former first lady’s life was celebrated Friday by 1,000 invited guests who gathered at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library to pay final tribute to her and to the enduring love she and her husband shared during a storied 52-year marriage.

The funeral also marked one of the final chapters of a fading political era that stirs nostalgia among American conservative. Without Mrs. Reagan, her son said, the Republican renaissance of the 1980s might not have happened.

“There would be no Ronald Reagan Presidential Library without a President Ronald Reagan, and there likely wouldn’t have been a President Ronald Reagan without a Nancy Reagan,” said Ron Reagan, delivering the last of several eulogies during the 90-minute service.

Mourners from the top ranks of Washington and Hollywood heard how while President Reagan was generally affable and trusting, Mrs. Regan was made of different cloth.

She could be gracious and quick with a laugh, but also fiercely protective of her husband and sometimes quick to anger at any perceived slight directed at him.

“I think we can admit that she was not always the easiest person to deal with,” her son said, drawing laughter from an audience filled with politicians, heads of state, actors, musicians, a former president and several first ladies.

“She could be difficult. She could be demanding. She could a bit excessive. Truly she could be a royal pain in the ass when she wanted to be,” he continued. “But usually only so my father didn’t have to be.”

“If you happen to run into the ghost of Don Regan sometime, you can just ask him,” he added, drawing laughter with the reference to the former White House chief of staff Mrs. Reagan pushed her husband to fire after the two feuded over policy issues.

“Occasionally I’ve thought that even God might not have the guts to argue with Nancy Reagan,” the couple’s daughter, Patti Davis, quipped.

Each speaker also noted



AP Photo/Chris Carlson
Family and close friends gather for a graveside service for Nancy Reagan at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, Friday in Simi Valley, Calif.



AP Photo, File
This 1989 file photo shows former first lady Nancy Reagan speaking at the Library of Congress Symposium on “Memoirs of White House,” in Washington.

the couple’s enduring love.

“When they were together, he hid love notes around the house for her to find,” said another Reagan former chief of staff, James Baker. “She reciprocated by secreting little notes in jellybeans in his suitcase.”

“Ronald and Nancy Reagan were defined by their love for each other,” Baker continued. “They were as close to being one person as it is possible for any two people to be.”

President Reagan spoke in public so warmly, and so often, about his wife, former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney recalled, that he once told Reagan he was making every other world leader look bad in front of their wives.

“Well, Brian,” he said the president told him with a smile, “That’s your problem.”

The guest list for the funeral told the story of the couple’s life together, which stretched from Hollywood’s Golden Age to the California statehouse during Reagan’s time as governor to the White House.

The gathering also brought together Democrat

and Republican, an unusual tableau at a time of deep division in Washington and on the 2016 campaign trail.

Mourners included former Reagan administration official Ed Meese, former House Speakers Newt Gingrich (Republican) and Nancy Pelosi (Democrat), Mike Love of the Beach Boys and singer Johnny Mathis.

Among those in the front row were first lady Michelle Obama, who was seated next to former President George W. Bush. Former first lady and current presidential candidate Hillary Clinton sat between Bush’s wife, Laura, and former first lady Rosalynn Carter. Gov. Jerry Brown escorted Mrs. Obama to the funeral, while former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger arrived with his ex-wife, Maria Shriver.

The actor Mr. T, who became friendly with Mrs. Reagan during her “Just Say No” to drugs campaign, arrived wearing an American flag bandanna.

Heavy rain had been forecast for the ceremony, and guests were ushered into a cavernous waterproof tent behind the library. But a drenching downpour held off until the event concluded.

Mrs. Reagan, who died Sunday at 94, was to be buried next to her husband on the library grounds.

The sprawling, Spanish mission-style library is located between the Reagans’ post-White House home in the upscale Bel Air section of Los Angeles and Rancho del Cielo, the “ranch in the sky” where the Reagans spent their time.

More than 5,500 mourners filed slowly past the former first lady’s closed casket on Wednesday and Thursday.

Wounded Warrior charity fires CEO

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Steve Nardizzi’s entrepreneurial approach to charity work transformed the Wounded Warrior Project, which began as a shoestring effort to provide underwear and CD players to hospitalized soldiers, into an \$800 million fundraising enterprise.

It also led to his downfall.

A lawyer by training who never served in the military, Nardizzi traded a career in the courts for one helping wounded veterans. He arrived at the Wounded Warrior Project in 2006 after nearly a decade at the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association and persuaded the board that they needed a new, more aggressive leadership style.

By 2010, Nardizzi replaced founder John Melia as CEO and catapulted the nonprofit into the top ranks of U.S. charities. His success led to lavish spending — the group’s annual staff meeting in 2014 cost \$970,000 — prompting complaints from employees, veterans and charity watchdogs about profiteering off veterans that emerged in reports by *The New York Times* and CBS News in January.

On Thursday, Nardizzi and chief operating officer Al Giordano were fired, the board said, as the organization cracks down on employee expenses and strengthens controls that have not kept pace with the rapid growth.

Melia, a former Marine,

launched the group in 2003 after he was injured in a helicopter crash off Somalia and saw how wounded veterans were treated. His exit left him bitter; he said Nardizzi erased his contributions from the group’s website. But he told The Associated Press on Friday that he has requested an “immediate” meeting with the board of directors and is open to leading the group again.

Board chairman Anthony Odierno, overseeing the charity on an interim basis, did not respond Friday to a request for comment. Neither did the fired executives, Nardizzi and Giordano. In the Thursday statement, Odierno said “it is now time to put the organization’s focus directly back on the men and women who have so bravely fought for our country and who need our support.”

The Wounded Warrior Project’s directors fired the two executives after hiring outside legal counsel and forensic accounting consultants to conduct an independent review of the Jacksonville-based organization’s records and interview current and former employees.

The reports by CBS News and *The Times* described extravagant parties and last-minute, business-class air travel; one former employee compared it to “what the military calls fraud, waste and abuse.”

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