

Barack Obama Visits Harry S Truman NHS

Senator Barack Obama made an impromptu visit to Harry S Truman National Historic Site after delivering a speech about patriotism at the Truman Memorial Building in Independence, MO. The Illinois senator walked down Truman Road, shaking hands and visiting with neighbors and local citizens as he progressed toward the home of President Harry S Truman. Regularly scheduled tours were suspended for a time as Senator Obama toured the home with Park Guide Norton Canfield and Chief of Interpretation Eileen Andes. The senator was particularly interested in Truman's hat and coat, which hang in the home's hallway, and the collection of books in the library. The old phonograph in the music room brought back memories of Obama's grandparents' home. He was very excited to see the last car Truman purchased, a 1972 Chrysler Newport, parked in the garage, wondering aloud about its gas mileage. Obama proclaimed the home to be "very cozy." He was also grateful to be able to take a walk in Independence, "as Harry Truman did." Tours resumed after Senator Obama departed, with visitors commenting favorably on the unexpected visit and media event. The site's interpretive staff assisted the senator's advance staff, his Secret Service detail and the Independence Police Department with logistics, resulting in a smoothly run visit.