



AP Photo by Glenn Russell

Rep.-Elect Bernard Sanders, I-Vt., waves to a supporter in Burlington Wednesday following his first press conference as Vermont's elected representative to Congress.

## A Night to Remember for Sanders

The Associated Press

**BURLINGTON** — Bernard Sanders' wildly jubilant supporters partied into the early hours Wednesday as they savored their champion's smashing victory in the race for Vermont's lone congressional seat.

The diverse crowd of supporters and campaign workers, jammed into the basement of Burlington's Memorial Auditorium, reflected the broad cross-section of support for Sanders, who ran as an independent.

Phillip Parent, a dairy farmer in Franklin County near the Canadian border, said he had to put his herd to bed before coming down to Burlington to celebrate.

"It was a long drive but I wanted to see history in the making," said Parent, who said he supported Sanders because he was fed up with traditional politics and was hoping Sanders, an avowed socialist, would "shake up things in Washington."

Morgan Irons, a Montpelier librarian, said she felt so strongly about the congressional race she took Tuesday off to do some last-minute campaigning for Sanders.

"I've got a bad cold but I just had to be here," she said while standing on a chair, craning her neck to catch the early vote totals being displayed on a large tote

board. "It's gonna be a landslide, just wait and see."

Her prediction quickly proved accurate as Sanders took the lead from the onset. And, as his victory margin increased steadily throughout the evening, so did the size of the crowd and the volume of the cheering at the Memorial Auditorium.

The cheering began promptly at 7:50 p.m., as the first returns came in from Brattleboro showing Sanders in the lead. By 10 p.m., when Republican incumbent Peter P. Smith acknowledged he was beaten, the noise level was deafening.

"I can't believe it," screamed Onnie Palmer, a Sanders supporter from Huntington who was wearing two Bernie buttons as earrings. "Isn't it great!"

The crowd included men with ponytails and women with crewcuts. One of the youngest supporters present was tiny Seth Turiansky of Shelburne, who arrived in his father's arms decked out in a red sweatshirt emblazoned with the slogan: "Babies For Bernie."

When asked his son's age, Wayne Turiansky looked at his watch and said, "Seven weeks and 10 minutes."

Sanders first appeared shortly before 10 p.m. and said while

things looked good he wasn't ready to claim victory because he was still smarting from Smith's come-from-behind victory two years ago.

"What we can say," he told his adoring supporters, "is that in this campaign we put together the strongest grassroots movement this state has ever seen."

But he did acknowledge his victory at 10:10 p.m., after watching Smith's televised concession speech.

"I understand my opponent as conceded," he said. "I know the feeling, having made a concession speech two years ago. However, our job isn't to go back, but to go forward and show the country that the state of Vermont is prepared to lead the nation."

He added, "I'm just so proud that the people of Vermont have had the courage to go outside the traditional two-party system, to stand up to the president, the vice president and the multi-national corporations."

Sanders, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., and University of Chicago political science graduate, came to Vermont in 1968 and worked as a carpenter, youth counselor, freelance writer and filmmaker.