



*Inauguration Ceremonies
Program*

*January twentieth
Nineteen hundred ninety-seven*

*Inauguration
of the
President and Vice President
of the
United States of America*

The Capitol of the United States of America

City of Washington

January twentieth

Nineteen hundred ninety-seven

On April 27, 1789, Congress agreed that the inauguration of President George Washington should take place on the outdoor balcony of Federal Hall in New York City so that the largest possible audience could observe this most important national ceremony. Today, we continue that tradition. As the President takes the oath of office and delivers his inaugural address, he sees thousands of Americans gathered to witness the ceremony, and beyond them, symbolizing the breadth of America before him, the majestic Mall with its monuments to Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln.

Through modern communications, the whole free world will join Americans on this historic day.

As we have done every four years since 1789, Americans join together today to witness our President take a simple oath of office consisting of thirty-five words. The inaugural ceremonies following an election have never been suspended, regardless of war, depression, or national crisis. The continuity of the Presidential Inauguration celebrates the triumph of representative democracy through the peaceful transfer of political power, as designated by the vote of the people.

The inaugural platform on the West Front of the Capitol is framed against a backdrop of red, white, and blue bunting and features five flags. The official flag of the United States is displayed in the center. On either side are earlier flags; the flag popularly known as "the Betsy Ross flag" with stars arranged in a circle, appeared in the early 1790's; the flag with twenty-five stars flew for a year from July 4, 1836 to July 4, 1837, in recognition of the entrance of Arkansas into the Union.

The Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies cordially welcomes you to the fifty-third Presidential Inauguration. This historic event provides an occasion for all Americans to rededicate themselves to the principles that are the foundation of our representative democracy.

Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies

JOHN WARNER, Chairman, U.S. Senate, Virginia.

TRENT LOTT, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, Mississippi.

WENDELL H. FORD, Assistant Democratic Leader, U.S. Senate, Kentucky.

NEWT GINGRICH, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Georgia.

RICHARD K. ARMEY, Majority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives, Texas.

RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, Democratic Leader, U.S. House of Representatives, Missouri.

PROGRAM

PRELUDE

THE UNITED STATES MARINE BAND
LIEUTENANT COLONEL TIMOTHY FOLEY,
Director

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOMING REMARKS

THE HONORABLE JOHN WARNER
United States Senator, Virginia

INVOCATION

THE REVEREND BILLY GRAHAM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MUSICAL SELECTION

CHILDREN OF THE GOSPEL:
THE NEXT GENERATION
RICKEY PAYTON, Sr., *Conductor*

THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL OATH OF OFFICE
WILL BE ADMINISTERED TO ALBERT GORE, JR.
BY ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT
OF THE UNITED STATES,
THE HONORABLE RUTH BADER GINSBURG.

MUSICAL SELECTION

JESSYE NORMAN

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESIDENT

THE HONORABLE WENDELL H. FORD
United States Senator, Kentucky

THE PRESIDENTIAL OATH OF OFFICE
WILL BE ADMINISTERED TO WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES,
THE HONORABLE WILLIAM H. REHNQUIST.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

MUSICAL SELECTION

IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH SANCTUARY
CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA
THE REVEREND LYNN MADDEN,
Musical Director

SELECTION

MILLER WILLIAMS, *Poet*

BENEDICTION

THE REVEREND GARDNER C. TAYLOR

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

SANTITA JACKSON AND
THE RESURRECTION CHOIR



JOHN ADAMS
1735-1826



THOMAS JEFFERSON
1743-1826

The 1997 Inauguration recognizes the contributions of two of America's Founding Fathers, as it marks the bicentennial of John Adams' and Thomas Jefferson's 1797 Inauguration as President and Vice President of the United States of America.

THE PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO ON MARCH 4, 1797, with the inauguration of President John Adams and Vice President Thomas Jefferson, George Washington entered Philadelphia's Congress Hall as President and departed a private citizen, finally able to return to his beloved Mount Vernon, in Virginia. As Americans witnessed the first inauguration involving a president and vice president of different political parties, the ceremony brought together, in a harmonious moment, three of the Nation's most illustrious statesmen.

John Adams, a Federalist, and Thomas Jefferson, a Democratic-Republican, had first met in June 1775 as delegates to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. A year later, they served together on that body's committee charged with drafting the Declaration of Independence. Adams edited and revised Jefferson's draft, and Jefferson described him as the "ablest advocate and defender against the multifarious assaults it encountered" while being debated on the floor of Congress. In 1784, Jefferson joined Adams and Benjamin Franklin in Paris on a commission to negotiate American commercial treaties with European powers. Within a year, both men took assignments as American ministers—Adams to Great Britain and Jefferson to France. With the ratification of the Constitution and the establishment of the new government in 1789 under President George Washington, Adams became the Nation's first Vice President and Jefferson its first Secretary of State.

In September 1796, when President Washington formally announced that he would not seek a third term, members of the Federalist party turned to Vice President Adams as a logical successor, while the opposition Democratic-Republicans considered Jefferson their strongest candidate. Neither man took an active part in the ensuing campaign—the Nation's first contested presidential election (Washington had been unopposed). The Constitution at the time provided that the candidate receiving an Electoral College majority would be President and the candidate with the second largest number of votes would be Vice President. (The Twelfth Amendment, ratified in 1804, required separate balloting for each office.) Jefferson, who had retired from public life, expected the 1796 vote to be close. "There is nothing I so anxiously hope," he wrote James Madison, "as that my name may come out either second or third." In either event, he expected to spend most of the year at his cherished Monticello. If, by chance, an Electoral College tie forced a decision on the House of Representatives, Jefferson authorized Madison to work on Adams' behalf.

"He has always been my senior, from the commencement of my public life, and the expression of the public will being equal, this circumstance ought to give him the preference." When the ballots were counted, Adams won by a three-vote margin over a relieved Jefferson.

The rise of political parties during Washington's first administration had placed Adams and Jefferson in opposing camps. But divisions within Adams' own party during the 1796 election caused him to look for harmony in his relations with Jefferson and his party. Although Jefferson had not originally planned to make the difficult winter journey to the capital at Philadelphia, he eventually changed his mind out of concern that he might offend Adams and demean the office of the vice-presidency. The Vice President-elect arrived in time for the March 4, 1797, swearing-in ceremonies.

The Nation's second Vice President took his oath at mid-morning in the Senate's second-floor chamber. Jefferson then delivered a brief address, promising as presiding officer of the United States Senate to apply the Senate's rules "with the most rigorous and inflexible impartiality." Jefferson's 1801 *Manual of Parliamentary Practice* remains useful today. He concluded his inaugural address with warm praise for Adams, "whose talents and integrity have been known and revered by me through a long course of years, have been the foundation of a cordial and uninterrupted friendship between us."

The inaugural party then moved downstairs to the larger chamber of the House of Representatives. Before taking his oath, the first to be given by the Chief Justice of the United States, Adams presented an extended address in support of the Constitution and in praise of his predecessor. This conciliatory and dignified speech is most remembered for containing a single sentence that ran for nearly one-third of its entire text. No member of the family of either Adams or Jefferson was present at the ceremony.

Soon after the inauguration, despite his cordial words for Jefferson, Adams moved off into the political orbit of George Washington's cabinet, whose members he reappointed as his own. Relations between Adams and Jefferson cooled and as Jefferson noted, he was never afterwards consulted "as to any measures of the government." Adams hoped for a second administration, but when the electoral ballots were counted on February 11, 1801, he came in a dismal third, behind Jefferson and New York Federalist Aaron Burr. The two front-runners had received an equal number of votes, throwing the decision into the House of Representatives, where Jefferson was selected six days later, after thirty-six separate ballots. In the pre-dawn hours of March 4, 1801, as the new capital city of Washington, DC, awaited Jefferson's presidential inauguration, Adams

quietly left the White House and set out on the long journey back to Massachusetts. The friendship seemed ended forever.

A dozen years later, however, the two ex-presidents set aside their differences and eagerly resumed their friendship. From 1812 until 1826, although they never met again in person, Adams and Jefferson conducted "one of the most remarkable literary exchanges in American history." Men of broad interests and rich experience, they discussed politics, philosophy, science, religion, and geography. This brimming correspondence extended to the end of their lives. In an ironic coincidence of great historical symbolism, both men died within hours of one another on July 4, 1826—the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Proceedings associated with Presidential elections and inaugurations, almost routine after two centuries, were entirely new and untried following the Constitutional Convention of 1787. The Constitution provides that the President be elected through an electoral college, equal to the number of Senators and Representatives from each State. It authorizes Congress to determine when elections are to be held, when the electoral college is to meet, and when the new President takes the oath of office. The Constitution also requires that the President must be a natural-born citizen of the United States, have lived in this country for at least fourteen years, and have attained the age of thirty-five. It even specifies the oath of office that the new President should swear or affirm. Beyond that, the Constitution remains silent.

The first inauguration of George Washington was held on April 30, 1789, in front of New York's Federal Hall. Our Nation's first President was escorted onto a balcony overlooking Wall Street, where he took the oath of office. With the ceremony complete, the crowd below let out three big cheers. President Washington returned to the Senate Chamber, where he read his brief inaugural address. Washington called upon "That Almighty Being who rules over the universe" to assist the American people in finding "liberties and happiness" under "a government instituted by themselves."

Four years later, on March 4, 1793, Washington's second inauguration shifted to Philadelphia, where the Government had taken up temporary residence while our Nation's capital was being built. The President took his oath in the small Senate Chamber on the second floor of Congress Hall, a Georgian-style structure just west of Independence Hall. In contrast to his elaborate first inauguration, this ceremony was a simple affair. Amidst a room crammed with dignitaries, Washington gave the shortest inaugural address on record—just one hundred and thirty-five words—and repeated the oath of office, administered by Supreme Court Justice William Cushing.