



# *Inaugural Luncheon*

*In honor of  
The President of the United States  
and Mrs. Obama  
and  
The Vice President of the  
United States  
and Dr. Biden*

*Statuary Hall  
The Capitol of the United States of America  
City of Washington  
January twentieth  
Two thousand and nine*

# *Hosts*

## *Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies*

*Dianne Feinstein of California, Chairman*

*Harry Reid of Nevada*

*Robert F. Bennett of Utah*

*Nancy Pelosi of California*

*Steny H. Hoyer of Maryland*

*John A. Boehner of Ohio*



## *National Statuary Hall*

Statuary Hall, which has been the setting for the inaugural luncheon since 1981, served as the chamber for the House of Representatives from 1819 until 1857, when the House moved into its current chamber. In 1976 the room was partially restored to its original appearance as the 1819 House chamber. Since 1870 it has housed a unique collection of bronze and marble statues commemorating distinguished citizens selected by the states.

## *Program*

### *Invocation*

Dr. Barry C. Black  
CHAPLAIN  
UNITED STATES SENATE

### *Presentations and Toasts*

Dianne Feinstein  
CHAIRMAN  
JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON  
INAUGURAL CEREMONIES

Robert F. Bennett  
UNITED STATES SENATE

Nancy Pelosi  
SPEAKER  
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### *Benediction*

Reverend Daniel Coughlin  
CHAPLAIN  
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



### *Smithsonian Chamber Players*

The Smithsonian Chamber Players have provided music for the inaugural luncheon since 1981. Directed by Kenneth Slowik, the group specializes in performing historical masterworks of the seventeenth through early twentieth centuries. The music they perform today is a mixture of American repertoire pieces written for early nineteenth-century presidents, as well as some of the European compositions found in the extensive music library of Thomas Jefferson.



## *Luncheon Menu*

### *Seafood Stew*

### *Brace of American Birds*

### *Sour Cherry Chutney*

### *Molasses Sweet Potatoes*

### *Apple Cinnamon Sponge Cake*

### *Sweet Cream Glacé*

Duckhorn Vineyards, 2007 Sauvignon Blanc  
Napa Valley

Goldeneye, 2005 Pinot Noir  
Anderson Valley

Korbel Natural "Special Inaugural Cuvée"  
California Champagne

*T*he 2009 Inaugural Luncheon menu draws on historic ties to the Presidency of Abraham Lincoln. Growing up in the frontier regions of Kentucky and Indiana, the sixteenth President favored simple foods including root vegetables and wild game. As his tastes matured, he became fond of stewed and scalloped oysters. For dessert or a snack, nothing pleased him more than a fresh apple or an apple cake.

At his first inaugural dinner on March 4, 1861, President Lincoln sat down with about fifteen guests to a simple meal that reportedly included mock turtle soup, corned beef and cabbage, parsley potatoes, and blackberry pie. He interrupted dinner to address a delegation of one thousand New Yorkers and then traveled several blocks to a temporary structure for his inaugural ball. Near midnight, President Lincoln led the dancers to a "supper room" for further refreshments.

Four years later, on March 6, 1865, Mr. Lincoln hosted a decidedly more elaborate inaugural feast at the U.S. Patent Office. More than four thousand celebrants were treated to multiple preparations of beef, poultry, veal, and game; pâtés of duck and foie gras; smoked meats; and chicken and lobster salads. The dessert menu offered three dozen selections, from almond sponge cake and fruit tarts to five varieties of charlotte russe.

Fashions in dining have evolved since the 1860s, but today's luncheon is one that President Lincoln surely would have enjoyed.



*V*iew of the Yosemite Valley, by Thomas Hill, reflects the majestic landscape of the American West and the dawn of a new era.

As the country struggled to emerge from the turmoil of the Civil War, many Americans looked to the West for hope and inspiration. Artists such as Hill painted the vast, open Western landscape with a beauty and grandeur that eloquently evoked America's future: a land of opportunity, optimism, and freedom.

Thomas Hill (1829–1908) appears to have first visited the Yosemite Valley in August 1865. He explored uncharted areas, making numerous oil sketches that he used to create his monumental vistas on canvas. His paintings struck a chord with Americans, and he became one of the most popular landscape artists of the nineteenth century.

Hill's *View of the Yosemite Valley*, displayed above the head table, is on loan from the New-York Historical Society in New York City.

## *A History*

The tradition of the inaugural luncheon hosted by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies began in 1953. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Vice President Richard Nixon, and fifty invited guests dined on creamed chicken, baked ham, and potato puffs in the now-restored Old Senate Chamber. Until that time the newly sworn President, Vice President, and invited guests usually returned to the White House for a luncheon celebration.

We continue this tradition today as we commemorate the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. Even in the darkest days of disunion and civil war, Lincoln participated in the public inaugural ceremonies at the Capitol. He took these occasions to appeal for national unity and a sense of common purpose, holding out the hope of reconciliation. He concluded his second inaugural address, "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds . . . to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations." As we move forward into the twenty-first century, we remain mindful of Lincoln's vision. We honor his determination that those who have sacrificed for our country "shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom."

## *Presentations*

On behalf of the Congress and the American people, the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies presents the President and Vice President of the United States with unique hand-cut crystal bowls created by Lenox. The bowl crafted for the President features an image of the White House and rests on a large crystal base engraved with the name of the President and "January 20, 2009." The Vice President's bowl depicts the U.S. Capitol flanked by cherry trees and also rests on an engraved crystal base. The bowls were designed by Timothy Carder, Vice President of Design for Lenox, and hand cut by master glass cutter Peter O'Rourke.

## *Lincoln Table*

This table, made especially for Abraham Lincoln, was cast from the same molds used to make the balusters and other decorative elements on the Capitol dome. Continuing work on the unfinished dome during the first years of the Civil War symbolized President Lincoln's faith and confidence that the Union would prevail. The completed dome provided the backdrop for Lincoln's second inauguration, where the table was used to hold a pitcher of water. President Ronald Reagan also used the table during his second inauguration. The table is on loan from the Massachusetts Historical Society. The flags on display were flown over the Capitol on Inauguration Day 2009 and will be presented to the President and Vice President of the United States.