



Friday, January 20, 2017

*The 58th Presidential
Inauguration*

PRODUCERS & CORRESPONDENTS
GUIDE TO THE
INAUGURAL CEREMONIES

HISTORICAL INAUGURAL DAY EVENTS

PRODUCED BY:

The Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies



MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE



Photo from Library of Congress

John F. Kennedy shakes hands with Father Richard J. Casey after attending Mass at Holy Trinity Church.

On March 4, 1933, at 10:15 a.m., prior to his swearing-in ceremony, President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt and his wife Eleanor attended a church service at St. John's Episcopal Church, next to the White House. They did the same at Roosevelt's 1937 and 1941 Inaugurations, and arranged for a private service at the White House the morning of his fourth Inauguration on January 20, 1945. Roosevelt's Inauguration Day worship service set a precedent that has been followed by Presidents ever since.

Franklin Roosevelt was not the first President to attend church on Inauguration Day, however. In 1789, George Washington attended a service at St. Paul's Chapel in New York City immediately following his swearing-in ceremony. Although this feature of Washington's Inauguration did not set a precedent, religion still played a role in subsequent swearing-in ceremonies. Almost all Presidents since George Washington have placed their hand on a Bible when taking the oath of office. And all Presidents have included some reference to the Almighty in their Inaugural addresses (except George Washington's second address, which was only 135 words).

The following list provides information on Inauguration Day worship services attended by Presidents and Presidents-elect since 1933.



HISTORY OF INAUGURAL DAY WORSHIP SERVICES

PRESIDENT	INAUGURAL EVENT	SERVICE ATTENDED
Barack H. Obama	January 21, 2013	Attended private service at St. John's Episcopal Church
Barack H. Obama	January 20, 2009	Attended private service at St. John's Episcopal Church
George W. Bush	January 20, 2005	Attended private service at St. John's Episcopal Church
George W. Bush	January 20, 2001	Attended private service at St. John's Episcopal Church
William J. Clinton	January 20, 1997	Attended private prayer service at Metropolitan AME Church
William J. Clinton	January 20, 1993	Attended private prayer service at Metropolitan AME Church
George H. W. Bush	January 20, 1989	Attended private service at St. John's Episcopal Church
Ronald W. Reagan	January 21, 1985	Attended private service at St. John's Episcopal Church On Monday, January 21, attended service at National Cathedral
Ronald W. Reagan	January 20, 1981	Attended private service at St. John's Episcopal Church
James E. Carter	January 20, 1977	Interfaith prayer service at the Lincoln Memorial
Richard M. Nixon	January 20, 1973	No apparent church service Inauguration Day morning Attended church the next day
Richard M. Nixon	January 20, 1969	Attended official prayer breakfast in West Auditorium of the State Department
Lyndon B. Johnson	January 20, 1965	Attended private service at National City Christian Church
John F. Kennedy	January 20, 1961	Attended Mass at Holy Trinity Church
Dwight D. Eisenhower	January 20, 1957	Attended services at National Presbyterian Church Took private oath of office that day; public ceremony the next day



Dwight D. Eisenhower	January 20, 1953	Attended service at National Presbyterian Church
Harry S Truman	January 20, 1949	Attended service at St. John's Episcopal Church
Franklin D. Roosevelt	January 20, 1945	Private service held in the East Room of the White House
Franklin D. Roosevelt	January 20, 1941	Attended service at St. John's Episcopal Church
Franklin D. Roosevelt	January 20, 1937	Attended service at St. John's Episcopal Church
Franklin D. Roosevelt	March 4, 1933	Attended service at St. John's Episcopal Church



BIBLES USED IN PREVIOUS INAUGURAL CEREMONIES

DATE	EVENT	PRESIDENT	BIBLE AND SCRIPTURE PASSAGE
January 21, 2013	Fifty-Seventh Inaugural Ceremonies	Barack H. Obama	The Lincoln Bible and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Bible. The Lincoln Bible was the Bible used by president Abraham Lincoln at his presidential Inauguration. The Bible is part of the collection of the Library of Congress. The Bible itself is an Oxford University Press edition published in 1853, has 1280 pages, and measures approximately 15 cm (6 in) in length, 10 cm (4 in) in width, and 4.5 cm in thickness. It is bound in burgundy red velvet with gilt edges.
January 20, 2009	Fifty-Sixth Inaugural Ceremonies	Barack H. Obama	The Lincoln Bible
January 20, 2005	Fifty-Fifth Inaugural Ceremonies	George W. Bush	Family Bible, open to Isaiah 40:31
January 20, 2001	Fifty-Fourth Inaugural Ceremonies	George W. Bush	Family Bible, closed
January 20, 1997	Fifty-Third Inaugural Ceremonies	William J. Clinton	King James Bible, given to him by grandmother, open to Isaiah 58:12 (same Bible used at his 1993 Inauguration)
January 20, 1993	Fifty-Second Inaugural Ceremonies	William J. Clinton	King James Bible, given to him by grandmother, open to Galatians 6:8
January 20, 1989	Fifty-First Inaugural Ceremonies	George H. W. Bush	Family Bible, open to Matthew 5, and the Bible used by George Washington (belonging to St. John's Masonic Lodge No. 1), opened at random
January 21, 1985	Fiftieth Inaugural Ceremonies	Ronald W. Reagan	Family Bible, given to him by his mother, open to II Chronicles 7:14 (same Bible used at his 1981 Inauguration)
January 20, 1981	Forty-Ninth Inaugural Ceremonies	Ronald W. Reagan	Family Bible given to him by his mother, open to II Chronicles 7:14
January 20, 1977	Forty-Eighth Inaugural Ceremonies	James E. Carter	Family Bible, open to Micah 6:8, and the Bible used by George Washington (belonging to St. John's Mason Lodge No. 1)
August 9, 1974	Swearing-In of Vice President Gerald R. Ford after the resignation of President Richard M. Nixon	Gerald R. Ford	Bible held by his wife, open to Proverbs 3:5-6
January 20, 1973	Forty-Seventh Inaugural Ceremonies	Richard M. Nixon	Two brown leather family Bibles, open to Isaiah 2:2-4 (same Bibles used at his 1969 Inauguration)



January 20, 1969	Forty-Sixth Inaugural Ceremonies	Richard M. Nixon	Two brown leather family Bibles, both open to Isaiah 2:4
January 20, 1965	Forty-Fifth Inaugural Ceremonies	Lyndon B. Johnson	Johnson took the oath on the same family Bible he used at his Vice Presidential Inauguration in 1961. It was closed.
November 22, 1963	Swearing-In of Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy	Lyndon B. Johnson	Unknown
January 20, 1961	Forty-Fourth Inaugural Ceremonies	John F. Kennedy	Fitzgerald family Bible (his mother's family), closed
January 20, 1957	Forty-Third Inaugural Ceremonies	Dwight D. Eisenhower	Eisenhower used his personal "West Point Bible," open to Psalm 33:12
January 20, 1953	Forty-Second Inaugural Ceremonies	Dwight D. Eisenhower	Eisenhower used two Bibles: the Bible used by George Washington in 1789 (belonging to St. John's Masonic Lodge No. 1), opened to II Chronicles 7:14; and his own personal "West Point Bible," opened to Psalm 33:12.
January 20, 1949	Forty-First Inaugural Ceremonies	Harry S. Truman	Truman used two Bibles: the first was the same Bible he used in 1945 when he was sworn in upon the death of Franklin Roosevelt, open to Matthew 5 (Beatitudes). The second was a Gutenberg facsimile given to him by the Independence, Missouri Chamber of Commerce, opened to Exodus 20 (the Ten Commandments).
April 12, 1945	Swearing-In of Vice President Harry S. Truman after the death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt	Harry S. Truman	According to Truman, "There was much scurrying around to find this book on which to take the oath." It was closed while he repeated the oath, and he kissed the book when he finished.
January 20, 1945	Fortieth Inaugural Ceremonies	Franklin D. Roosevelt	Same family Bible used for his 1933, 1937, and 1941 Inaugurations, open to I Corinthians 13
January 20, 1941	Thirty-Ninth Inaugural Ceremonies	Franklin D. Roosevelt	Same family Bible used for his 1933 and 1937 Inaugurations, open to I Corinthians 13
January 20, 1937	Thirty-Eighth Inaugural Ceremonies		Same family Bible used for his 1933 Inauguration, open to I Corinthians 13
March 4, 1933	Thirty-Seventh Inaugural Ceremonies	Franklin D. Roosevelt	Roosevelt family Bible, the same one used when Roosevelt was sworn in as Governor of New York in 1928 and 1930, open to I Corinthians 13
March 4, 1929	Thirty-Sixth Inaugural Ceremonies	Herbert C. Hoover	Family Bible, open to Proverbs 29:18



March 4, 1925	Thirty-Fifth Inaugural Ceremonies	Calvin Coolidge	Family Bible given to him by his mother, open to John 1
August 3, 1923	Swearing-In of Vice President Calvin Coolidge after the death of President Warren G. Harding	Calvin Coolidge	Family Bible
March 4, 1921	Thirty-Fourth Inaugural Ceremonies	Warren G. Harding	Same Bible used by George Washington (belonging to St. John's Masonic Lodge No. 1), open to Micah 6:8
March 5, 1917	Thirty-Third Inaugural Ceremonies	Woodrow Wilson	Same Bible used when he was sworn in as Governor of New Jersey and as President in 1913, open to Psalm 46
March 4, 1913	Thirty-Second Inaugural Ceremonies	Woodrow Wilson	Same Bible used when he was sworn in as Governor of New Jersey, open to Psalm 119:43-46
March 4, 1909	Thirty-First Inaugural Ceremonies	William H. Taft	Century-old Bible belonging to the Supreme Court, open to I Kings 3:9-11
March 4, 1905	Thirtieth Inaugural Ceremonies	Theodore Roosevelt	Same Bible used when Roosevelt was sworn in as Governor of New York in 1898, open to James 1:22-23
September 14, 1901	Swearing-In of Vice President Theodore Roosevelt after the assassination of President William McKinley	Theodore Roosevelt	No Bible used
March 4, 1901	Twenty-Ninth Inaugural Ceremonies	William McKinley	Bible provided to him by the Clerk of the Supreme Court, open to Proverbs 16:20-21
March 4, 1897	Twenty-Eighth Inaugural Ceremonies	William McKinley	Bible presented to him by the Bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Church; II Chronicles 1:10 is marked
March 4, 1893	Twenty-Seventh Inaugural Ceremonies	Grover Cleveland	Bible given to him by his mother in 1852 when he was 15 years old, open to Psalm 91:12-16. (Same Bible he used at his 1885 Inauguration.)
March 4, 1889	Twenty-Sixth Inaugural Ceremonies	Benjamin Harrison	Bible provided by Clerk of the Supreme Court James H. McKenney, opened to Psalm 121:1-6.
March 4, 1885	Twenty-Fifth Inaugural Ceremonies	Grover Cleveland	Bible given to him at age 15 by his mother. This Bible was opened by Chief Justice Waite and by chance it fell to Psalm 112:4-10.



September 20, 1881	Swearing-In of Vice President Chester Arthur after the assassination of President James Garfield	Chester A. Arthur	Bible unknown for September 20 oath-taking; Bible provided by Clerk of the Supreme Court James H. McKenney for September 22 oath, open to Psalm 31:1-2
March 4, 1881	Twenty-Fourth Inaugural Ceremonies	James A. Garfield	Bible provided by James H. McKenney, Clerk of the Supreme Court, open to Proverbs 21:1
March 5, 1877	Twenty-Third Inaugural Ceremonies	Rutherford B. Hayes	Bible provided by D. W. Middleton, Clerk of the Supreme Court, open to Psalm 118:11-13
March 4, 1873	Twenty-Second Inaugural Ceremonies	Ulysses S. Grant	Bible provided by D. W. Middleton, Clerk of the Supreme Court, opened to Isaiah 11:1-3
March 4, 1869	Twenty-First Inaugural Ceremonies	Ulysses S. Grant	Unknown
April 15, 1865	Swearing-In of Vice President Andrew Johnson after the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln	Andrew Johnson	Origin of the Bible unknown, but said to have been opened to Proverbs 20 and 21
March 4, 1865	Twentieth Inaugural Ceremonies	Abraham Lincoln	The origin of Lincoln's second Inaugural Bible is unknown, but it was open to Matthew 7:1; 18:7; and Revelations 16:7
March 4, 1861	Nineteenth Inaugural Ceremonies	Abraham Lincoln	Bible purchased by William Thomas Carroll, Clerk of the Supreme Court, opened at random. It is almost identical to James Buchanan's 1857 Bible.
March 4, 1857	Eighteenth Inaugural Ceremonies	James Buchanan	Unknown
March 4, 1853	Seventeenth Inaugural Ceremonies	Franklin Pierce	Unknown
July 10, 1850	Swearing-In of Vice President Millard Fillmore after the death of President Zachary Taylor	Millard Fillmore	Unknown
March 5, 1849	Sixteenth Inaugural Ceremonies	Zachary Taylor	Unknown



March 4, 1845	Fifteenth Inaugural Ceremonies	James K. Polk	The origin of Polk's Bible is unknown, although a letter in the front of the volume indicates that after the Inauguration, it was presented to Mrs. Polk by the Marshal of the District of Columbia. There is no indication that it was open during the oath-taking, and has no marked passages.
April 6, 1841	Swearing-In of Vice President John Tyler after the death of President William H. Harrison	John Tyler	Unknown
March 4, 1841	Fourteenth Inaugural Ceremonies	William H. Harrison	Unknown
March 4, 1837	Thirteenth Inaugural Ceremonies	Martin Van Buren	Unknown
March 4, 1833	Twelfth Inaugural Ceremonies	Andrew Jackson	Unknown
March 4, 1829	Eleventh Inaugural Ceremonies	Andrew Jackson	Unknown
March 4, 1825	Tenth Inaugural Ceremonies	John Quincy Adams	According to his own version of his Inauguration, Adams took the oath upon a volume of law.
March 4, 1821	Ninth Inaugural Ceremonies	James Monroe	Unknown
March 4, 1817	Eighth Inaugural Ceremonies	James Monroe	Unknown
March 4, 1813	Seventh Inaugural Ceremonies	James Madison	Unknown
March 4, 1809	Sixth Inaugural Ceremonies	James Madison	Unknown
March 4, 1805	Fifth Inaugural Ceremonies	Thomas Jefferson	Unknown
March 4, 1801	Fourth Inaugural Ceremonies	Thomas Jefferson	Unknown
March 4, 1797	Third Inaugural Ceremonies	John Adams	Unknown
March 4, 1793	Second Inaugural Ceremonies	George Washington	Unknown
April 30, 1789	First Inaugural Ceremonies	George Washington	The Holy Bible from St. John's Masonic Lodge, No. 1, opened at random due to haste to Genesis 49:13



PROCESSION TO THE U.S. CAPITOL



Photo from Library of Congress
Taft and Roosevelt driving to the Capitol, 1909

On Inauguration Day, after a morning worship service, the President-elect, Vice President-elect, and their spouses will be escorted to the White House by members of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies (JCCIC).

After a brief meeting, the President-elect and the outgoing President will then proceed together to the Capitol for the swearing-in ceremonies. This tradition has endured, with few exceptions, since 1837, when Martin Van Buren and Andrew Jackson rode together in a carriage made from wood taken from

the USS Constitution. The Vice President and Vice President-elect will follow, as will family members, cabinet members, and members of the JCCIC.

Since the first Inauguration of George Washington in 1789, the procession to the Inaugural Ceremonies has provided an occasion for much celebration. In fact, the Inaugural Parade that now follows the swearing-in ceremony first began as the procession, when military companies, bands, the President's cabinet, elected officials, and friends escorted the President-elect to the Inauguration. Procedures changed in 1873, when President Ulysses S. Grant reviewed the troops from a stand in front of the White House after the swearing-in ceremony. In 1881, a single military division escorted President-elect Garfield to the Capitol, and the full parade occurred after the Inauguration.

Although most presidents rode to their inaugurations in a carriage (or later, an automobile), Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson both walked to their swearing-in ceremonies. In 1825, outgoing President James Monroe took part in the procession to the Capitol in his own carriage, following President-elect John Quincy Adams' carriage. In 1841, William Henry Harrison rode to the Capitol for his swearing-in ceremony on the back of a "white charger," surrounded by his close political allies. In 1845, outgoing President John Tyler joined President-elect Polk for the carriage-ride to the Capitol, firmly establishing the tradition first carried out by Van Buren and Jackson in 1837.

By the time of Zachary Taylor's inauguration in 1849, a routine for the procession had been established, although it would change in small ways over time. A military and civilian escort



would parade to the President-elect's lodgings, where they were joined by the outgoing President. The outgoing President would take his seat in the carriage to the right of the President-elect, and the whole entourage would then proceed to the Capitol for the swearing-in ceremony.

At the 1857 Inauguration of James Buchanan, members of the Senate Committee on Arrangements for the Inauguration formed an escort, and joined the President and President-elect in the carriage, starting a long-running tradition.

Lincoln did not join the procession to the Capitol for his second Inauguration in 1865. He had already gone to the Capitol early that morning to sign last-minute bills into law. The parade proceeded without him, and even made history as African-Americans marched for the first time. In 1869, Andrew Johnson became the third President who did not join the President-elect in the procession to the Capitol, nor did he attend the swearing-in ceremony. He remained at the White House, signing last-minute legislation until his term expired at noon.

The 1877 Inauguration of Rutherford B. Hayes started the tradition of the President-elect going first to the White House to meet the outgoing President before proceeding to the Capitol. The Vice President and Vice President-elect followed in a separate carriage, and after them, members of the Senate Committee on Arrangements. Future Inaugurations would follow this precedent.

Edith Galt Wilson became the first First Lady to accompany her husband in the carriage to the Capitol in 1917. In 1921, Warren G. Harding became the first President to ride to his Inauguration in an automobile. Lyndon B. Johnson's procession to the Capitol in 1965 was marked by stringent security measures, including a bullet-proof limousine.

Today, the Presidential procession to the Capitol for the swearing-in ceremony follows a firmly established protocol, based on the evolving traditions of past Inaugurations.



VICE PRESIDENT'S SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

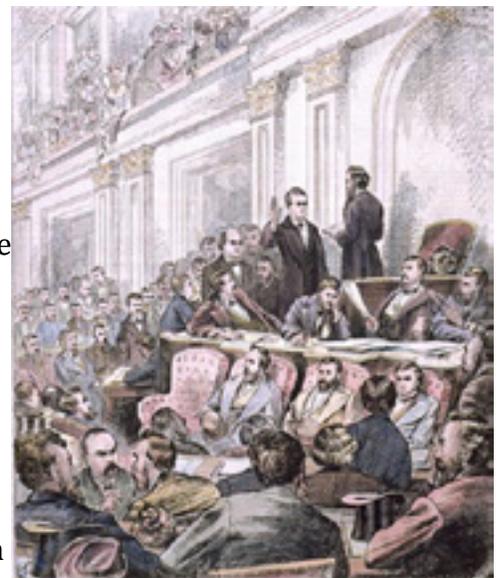
Just before the President-elect takes the oath of office on Inauguration Day, the Vice President-elect will step forward on the Inaugural Platform and repeat the oath of office. Although the United States Constitution specifically sets forth the oath required by the President, it only says that the Vice President and other government officers should take an oath upholding the Constitution. It does not specify the form of that oath.

The First Congress passed an oath act on June 1, 1789, authorizing only senators to administer the oath to the Vice President (who serves as the president of the Senate). Later that year, legislation passed that allowed courts to administer all oaths and affirmations. Since 1789, the oath has been changed several times by Congress. The present oath repeated by the Vice President of the United States, Senators, Representatives, and other government officers has been in use since 1884. The oath reads:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God."

While tradition dictates that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court administers the oath of office to the President-elect, a variety of officials have administered the oath to Vice Presidents. The president pro tempore of the Senate administered the oath to the first three Vice Presidents—John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Aaron Burr—and to many Vice Presidents from the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth century. Some Vice Presidents took the oath from the Chief Justice. On some occasions, the outgoing Vice President administered the oath to the Vice President-elect. Since World War II, Vice Presidents have chosen friends and associates to administer the oath of office.

The location of the Vice President's oath-taking ceremony has also changed since John Adams became Vice President in 1789. Today, the Vice President recites the oath on the west front terrace of the U.S. Capitol. Until 1937, most Vice Presidents took the oath of office in the Senate chamber,



U.S. Senate Collection
**Vice President Wheeler Taking the
Oath of Office in the Senate Chamber**



prior to the President's swearing-in ceremony. This made the Vice President's swearing-in ceremony distinct and separate from the President's.

For most of the nation's history, Inauguration Day was March 4, which was also the final day of the congressional session. During the morning, the galleries of the Senate chamber would begin to fill with family members and friends of Senators, Representatives, and the incoming and outgoing Presidents and Vice Presidents. Members of the House, the diplomatic corps, cabinet members, and members of the Supreme Court would enter next. Finally, the Vice President-elect, the President, and the President-elect would enter the crowded chamber, which would then grow quiet to hear the Vice President deliver his farewell address before gaveling the session closed.

At noon (the doorkeeper often had to push the clock hands back to fulfill the noon adjournment requirement), the Vice President-elect would take the oath of office, and then deliver his Inaugural Address. Following that, the newly-sworn Vice President would call the Senate into extraordinary session, and then the Senators-elect would come forward and take their oaths of office. Finally, the procession would form and make its way to the east front portico of the Capitol for the President's swearing-in ceremony.

In 1937, Inauguration Day moved to January 20, a change enacted by the 20th amendment to the Constitution. The Vice President's swearing-in ceremony also moved, from the Senate chamber to the Inaugural Platform on the Capitol's east front. In 1981, the Inaugural Ceremonies moved to the west front terrace of the Capitol, where they have been held ever since.

Although the Vice Presidential swearing-in ceremony lost some of its distinctness after it moved to the east front portico, it gained a public audience, and reflected the growing political importance of the Vice President as part of the executive branch of government.



PRESIDENTIAL SWEARING-IN CEREMONY



U.S. Senate Historical Office

Inauguration of George Washington, 1789

“I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.”

—Presidential oath of office, Article II, Section 1, United States Constitution

Proceedings associated with the 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, with membership equal to the number of Senators and Representatives from each state. It authorizes

58th Presidential Inauguration



Congress to determine when elections are held, when the Electoral College meets, and when the new President takes the oath of office. The Constitution also requires that the President must be a native born citizen of the United States, have lived in this country for at least 14 years, and have attained the age of 35. It even specifies the oath of office the new President should swear or affirm. Beyond that, the Constitution says nothing about the Inaugural Ceremony.

The first inauguration of George Washington occurred on April 30, 1789, in front of New York's Federal Hall. Our nation's first President took the oath of office on a balcony overlooking Wall Street. With the ceremony complete, the crowd below let out three big cheers, and President Washington returned to the Senate chamber to deliver his brief Inaugural Address. He 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 happened in Philadelphia, where the government had taken up temporary residence while a permanent capital was being built along the Potomac. 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 135 words—and repeated the oath of office, administered by Supreme Court Justice William Cushing.

By March of 1801, the seat of the U.S. government had moved to Washington, D.C. The streets were muddy, almost impassable, and overgrown with bushes. Crude arrangements for the workers charged with constructing buildings for the federal government scarred the landscape. At the time, the Capitol Building comprised just one wing, which housed the Senate, the House of Representatives, the Library of Congress and the Supreme Court, all under one roof. On March 4, 1801, President-elect Thomas Jefferson walked with few attendants and little fanfare to the Capitol Building from his nearby lodgings at a boarding house to become the first President to be Inaugurated in the nation's new capital city. Upon entering the Senate chamber, now the Old Supreme Court Chamber, Jefferson immediately took the oath of office administered by Chief Justice John Marshall and addressed the audience gathered in the Senate chamber. After his Inaugural Address he finished his day with a meal at the boarding house. But for a few occasions, the Inauguration Ceremonies for all future Presidents and Vice Presidents would take place in the City of Washington.

Andrew Jackson's Inauguration on March 4, 1829, was the first of 35 held on the east front of the Capitol. Though Jackson's second Inauguration in 1833 took place inside the House chamber because of his ill health and bad weather, Presidents from Martin Van Buren in 1837 to Theodore Roosevelt in 1905 were sworn into office on the Capitol's east front. In 1909 a raging blizzard forced William Howard Taft's ceremony indoors to the Senate chamber.

The turn of the century brought a milestone worth noting—the formation of the Joint



Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies. Until the twentieth century, the Inaugural Ceremonies had been handled exclusively by the United States Senate. In 1901, 100 years after the Inauguration of Thomas Jefferson, the Joint Committee was formed to plan and conduct the Inauguration Ceremonies at the U.S. Capitol. Senator Marcus A. Hanna, a Republican from Ohio, became the first chairman, responsible for President William McKinley's second Inauguration.

On March 4, 1913, Woodrow Wilson resumed use of the east front for his Inauguration. The ceremony continued to be held there until Franklin D. Roosevelt's unprecedented fourth Inauguration on January 20, 1945. With the nation and the President weary after four years of war, Roosevelt chose to have a simple, low-key ceremony on the south portico of the White House.

In 1949, Harry Truman's Inauguration saw the return of the ceremonies to the Capitol's east front, where they remained through the Inauguration of Jimmy Carter in 1977.

Ronald Reagan's 1981 Inauguration was the first held on the west front of the Capitol. Seeking to minimize construction costs and improve visibility for a larger number of spectators, Congress shifted the ceremony from its traditional location of the east front. Although Ronald Reagan's second Inauguration, on January 21, 1985, was forced indoors to the Capitol Rotunda because of bitterly cold weather, every presidential inauguration since has continued with the west front tradition.

Sadly, not all Presidential Inaugurals have been stately formal ceremonies, or happy occasions. Eight Vice Presidents have taken the oath of office upon the death of a President, while another was sworn in following a Presidential resignation.

John Tyler was at his home in Williamsburg, Virginia, when he received news that President William Henry Harrison had died. Tyler immediately took a coach to Washington. The next day, April 6, 1841, Tyler was sworn in as President at the Indian Queen Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue. Chief Justice William Cranch of the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia administered the oath to Tyler, as he did nine years later to Millard Fillmore, following the death of President Zachary Taylor. On July 10, 1850, Vice President Fillmore took the oath in a public ceremony in the House of Representatives chamber.

President Abraham Lincoln died early on the morning of April 15, 1865, and shortly afterwards



Architect of the Capitol
**January 20, 1981-Ronald Reagan's
Inaugural Ceremony in progress
on the Capitol's West front**



Vice President Andrew Johnson was sworn in quietly at Kirkwood House, in Washington, by Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase. At 2:00 a.m. on September 20, 1881, Chester Alan Arthur took the oath at his home on Lexington Avenue, in New York City. Two days later, President Arthur repeated the oath in the Vice President's Room in the Capitol, in the presence of former

Presidents Grant and Hayes. When William McKinley died, on September 14, 1901, Theodore Roosevelt took the oath in the home of Ansley Wilcox, in Buffalo, New York. News of President Harding's death reached Vice President Calvin Coolidge at his family's homestead in Plymouth, Vermont, in the early hours of the morning on August 3, 1923. By the light of a kerosene lamp, Coolidge took the oath from his father, Colonel John Calvin Coolidge, a farmer, notary public, and justice of the peace. On August 21, Coolidge repeated the ceremony in his suite at the Willard Hotel in Washington.



LBJ Library

Sarah T. Hughes, U.S. District Judge, Northern District of Texas, administering oath of office to Lyndon B. Johnson in the Conference Room aboard Air Force One at Love Field, Dallas, Texas, November 22, 1963.

Harry Truman took his oath as President in the Cabinet Room at the White House on the evening of April 12, 1945, following the death of Franklin Roosevelt. On November 22, 1963, in a crowded cabin on Air Force One, at Love Field in Dallas, Texas, Lyndon Johnson was sworn in as President after the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Judge Sarah T. Hughes, who administered the oath that day, became the first woman to swear in a President. Most recently, when President Richard

Nixon resigned on August 9, 1974, Vice President Gerald R. Ford took the oath of office in a ceremony in the East Room of the White House, becoming the ninth Vice President to complete an unexpired Presidential term.

Although inaugural traditions have changed through the years, their fundamental premise remains unchanged and unwavering. The American Presidential Inauguration Ceremony, with its speeches and attendant festivities, has represented both national renewal and continuity of leadership since 1789 and will continue to do so into the future.



INAUGURAL ADDRESS

The custom of delivering an address on Inauguration Day started with the very first inauguration: George Washington's on April 30, 1789. After taking his oath of office on the balcony of Federal Hall in New York City, Washington proceeded to the Senate chamber where he read a speech before members of Congress and other dignitaries. His second inauguration took place in Philadelphia on March 4, 1793, in the Senate chamber of Congress Hall. There, Washington gave the shortest Inaugural Address on record, just 135 words, before repeating the oath of office.

Every President since Washington has delivered an Inaugural Address. While many of the early Presidents read their addresses before taking the oath, current custom dictates that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court administer the oath first, followed by the President's speech.

William Henry Harrison delivered the longest Inaugural Address, at 8,445 words, on March 4, 1841 a bitterly cold, wet day. He died one month later. It has been rumored that he died of pneumonia, brought on by prolonged exposure to the elements on his Inauguration Day, but it is more likely he died of Typhoid fever.



Library of Congress
Theodore Roosevelt delivers his Inaugural Address

John Adams' Inaugural Address, which totaled 2,308 words, contained the longest sentence, at 737 words. After Washington's second Inaugural Address, the next shortest was Franklin D. Roosevelt's fourth address on January 20, 1945, at just 559 words. Roosevelt had chosen to have a simple Inauguration at the White House in light of the nation's involvement in World War II.

In 1921, Warren G. Harding became the first President to take his oath and deliver his Inaugural Address through loud speakers. In 1925, Calvin Coolidge's Inaugural Address was the first to be broadcast nationally by radio. And in 1949, Harry S. Truman became the first President to deliver his Inaugural Address over television airwaves.

Most Presidents use their Inaugural Address to present their vision of America and to set forth their goals for the nation. Some of the most



eloquent and powerful speeches are still quoted today. In 1865, in the waning days of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln stated, “With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation’s wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.” In 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt avowed, “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.” And in 1961, John F. Kennedy declared, “And so my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.”

Today, Presidents deliver their Inaugural Address on the west front of the Capitol, but this has not always been the case. Until Andrew Jackson’s first Inauguration in 1829, most Presidents spoke in either the House or Senate chambers. Jackson became the first President to take his oath of office and deliver his address on the east front portico of the U.S. Capitol in 1829. With few exceptions, the next 37 Inaugurations took place there, until 1981, when Ronald Reagan’s swearing-in ceremony and Inaugural Address occurred on the west front terrace of the Capitol. The West Front has been used ever since.



PRESIDENT'S ROOM AND APPOINTING CABINETS

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

In 1789, President George Washington wrote to the United States Senate recommending a chamber for the joint business of the President and the Senate. Although the Capitol's early architects planned for such a room, it was not until extensions were added to the building in the 1850s that one was finally built.



Photo from U.S. Senate Commission on Art
President's Room

The provisions of the Constitution made the President's Room an important necessity. As originally written, the Constitution scheduled the terms of office for the president and the Congress to begin at the same time-noon, March 4. For this reason, outgoing presidents often had to visit the Capitol during the final hours of March 3 to sign last-minute legislation that had been hurriedly passed by outgoing Congresses. These visits frequently lasted through the night, with the president remaining at the Capitol the entire time.

Bill signing was not the only presidential activity during these late night visits. On March 3, 1865, while President Abraham Lincoln was working in the President's Room, General Ulysses S. Grant received a message from General Robert E. Lee proposing a peace conference. Grant at once telegraphed Washington, D.C. for instructions. His message eventually

reached Lincoln at the Capitol, where the president drafted an immediate reply, ordering Grant not to confer with Lee unless it was to consider terms of surrender. The following morning, Lincoln was in the room again, finishing business before proceeding to the Inaugural Platform on the Capitol's East Front to renew his oath of office.

As President himself, Grant spent the final hours of the 44th Congress (March 3, 1877) in his room in the Capitol, working to sign his own accumulation of last-minute bills. In 1885 President



Chester Arthur, visiting the room to sign last-minute legislation, brought financial relief to the dying, poverty-stricken ex-President Grant by placing him on the army retired list as a lieutenant general. Similarly, just as his term in office expired, Benjamin Harrison signed a controversial bill in the room for the financial relief of Jefferson Davis' widow.

In the early 20th century, President Woodrow Wilson attempted to revive George Washington's practice of conferring in person with the Senate. To this end, Wilson used the President's Room as often as three times a week for legislative meetings. In 1917, the *Baltimore Sun* noted that frequently during such sessions the door to his office was left open, and visitors were treated to the unusual spectacle of a President actively at work in public. When Inauguration Day fell on a Sunday in 1917, Wilson took the oath of office privately in the room. His public oath followed on the Capitol's East Front the next day.

The President's Room was rarely used by presidents after 1921. The 20th Amendment, ratified in 1933, further eliminated the need for the room by unlinking the end of congressional and presidential terms, thus eliminating the troublesome crush of last-minute legislation on March 3. History was made once again in the room in 1965, when President Lyndon B. Johnson chose it as the site for his signing of the historic Voting Rights Act, prohibiting discrimination at the polls. On January 20, 1981, President Ronald Reagan established the tradition of an Inaugural Day visit to the President's Room. Succeeding presidents have followed Reagan's example, visiting the room immediately after the Inaugural Ceremony to sign documents, such as Cabinet nomination papers, and pose for photographers. Except for these infrequent presidential visits, the room is used today primarily by senators for private meetings, interviews, and impromptu caucuses.

ART HIGHLIGHTS

Early guidebooks referred to the President's Room as one of the gems of the Capitol. Diarist Mary Clemmer Ames described it in glowing terms in the 1870s:

"Gilding, frescoes, and arabesques glitter and glow above and around. There is not one quiet hue on which the tired sight may rest. Gazing, I feel an indescribable desire to pluck a few of Signor Brumidi's red legged babies and pug-nosed cupids from their precarious perches on the lofty ceilings, to commit them to nurses or to anybody who will smooth out their rumpled little legs and make them look comfortable."

The rich frescoes gracing the walls and ceiling were completed from 1859–1860 by Italian artist Constantino Brumidi. Brumidi, who emigrated to the United States in 1852, spent the last third of his life decorating the interior of the Capitol Building. He based his design for the President's Room on Raphael's ceiling of the Stanza della Segnatura in the Vatican Palace.

Adorning the walls, elegantly framed with floral motifs, are portraits of George Washington and the members of his first cabinet. On the ceiling are four allegorical figures personifying



the foundations of government—Religion, Legislation, Liberty, and Executive Authority. Four historical portraits, each representative of fundamental aspects of the development of the nation, decorate the corners of the ceiling— Christopher Columbus, discovery; Amerigo Vespucci, exploration; Pilgrim leader William Brewster, religion; and Benjamin Franklin, history.

The frescoes, darkened with long neglect and periodic over painting, were professionally restored in 1994–1995, uncovering their original vibrant colors and revealing Brumidi’s fine technique.

Most of the furnishings in the room have long been associated with this historic chamber. The two Turkish sofas and five large armchairs were acquired in 1875, and have been restored to their original appearance.

The President’s Room chandelier is the only one specifically made for the Capitol extensions that still remains in place. Originally gas-burning, it was later converted to electricity. Subsequent modifications added 33 electric lights and six additional arms. The chandelier is richly decorated with historical and allegorical figures. The elaborate floor tiles were made by Minton, Hollins and Company of Stoke-Upon-Trent, England. Their excellent condition after nearly 150 years is a result of a unique encaustic tile making process. Encaustic tiles were made using layers of colored clay embedded in a neutral clay base to create vibrant, durable colors. Ordinary tiles are merely painted with colored glazes, which wear away much more quickly.

Photographs of the room from the late 1890s show the floor clock in the same location where it stands today. It was acquired for \$250 in 1887 from Washington jewelers Harris & Shaefer. The mahogany table, often erroneously associated with President Lincoln, also dates from the late 19th century.

Today, the President’s Room is considered one of the showpieces of the Capitol’s Senate wing. It continues to be used for important national and ceremonial events, and serves as a constant reminder of the close relationship between the executive and legislative branches of our government.

For a printable pamphlet on the President room and a picture, please visit:
[The President’s Room pamphlet and picture](#)



INAUGURAL LUNCHEON



Photo from U.S. Senate Photo Studio

National Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol on January 20, 2009, ready for the Inaugural Luncheon immediately following the swearing-in ceremonies

After the newly elected President has taken the oath of office and delivered his Inaugural Address, he will be escorted to Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol for the traditional Inaugural Luncheon, hosted by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies (JCCIC). While this tradition dates as far back as 1897, when the Senate Committee on Arrangements gave a luncheon for President McKinley and several other guests at the U.S. Capitol, it did not begin in its current form until 1953. That year, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Mrs. Eisenhower, and 50 other guests of the JCCIC dined on creamed chicken, baked ham, and potato puffs in the now-restored Old Senate Chamber.

From the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth century, Presidents left the Capitol after the Inauguration Ceremonies and traveled to the White House for a luncheon prepared by the outgoing President and First Lady. After the luncheon, the President and his party would view the parade from a stand erected in front of the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue.



As the parade grew larger over the years, and lasted later and later into the afternoon, organizers began to look for ways to hasten its start. In 1897, they proposed that the President go directly from the Capitol to the reviewing stand, and have lunch there, if he desired. Instead, the Presidential party dined in the Capitol as guests of the Senate Committee on Arrangements.

In 1901, the President again took his lunch at the Capitol, and the parade delays continued. In 1905, the luncheon returned to the White House, again in the hopes that the parade could start earlier. Eventually, the organizers turned their focus to shortening the parade, rather than the luncheon.

As the twentieth century progressed, the White House luncheons became more and more elaborate. In 1945, President and Mrs. Roosevelt played host to over 2,000 guests in what would be the last White House post-Inaugural Luncheon. In 1949, Secretary of the Senate Leslie Biffle hosted a small lunch for President Truman in his Capitol reception room. They dined on South Carolina turkey, Smithfield ham, potato salad, and pumpkin pie. In 1953, the JCCIC began its current tradition of hosting a luncheon for the President, Vice President, and their spouses; Senate leaders; the JCCIC members; and other invited guests.

Since then, the JCCIC has organized a luncheon celebration at 14 Presidential Inaugurations. The luncheon program includes speeches, gift presentations from the JCCIC, and toasts to the new administration.



PRESIDENTIAL ESCORT AND INAUGURAL PARADE

After the conclusion of the Congressional Luncheon, the First and Second families will review the military units of the Presidential Escort as they pay their respects to the Commander-In-Chief on the East Plaza of the U.S. Capitol. The Presidential Escort is a military formation, which precedes the Inaugural Parade and escorts the President, Vice President, and other dignitaries from the Capitol to the White House along Pennsylvania Avenue.

Once the President has arrived at the White House reviewing stand, the parade officially begins at the corner of 4th Street and Pennsylvania Ave. The parade's participants are placed into divisions with a military element leading each division followed by civilian bands, dance teams, equestrian units, and floats. The Joint Task Force-National Capital Region (JTF-NCR) collects, compiles, organizes, and offers historical perspective concerning the parade participant applications to the Presidential Inaugural Committee (PIC). The PIC then chooses the parade participants.

The tradition of an Inaugural Parade dates back to the very first Inauguration, when President George Washington took the oath of office on April 30, 1789, in New York City. As he began his journey from Mount Vernon to New York City, local militias joined his procession as it passed through towns along the way. Once he arrived in New York City, members of the Continental

Army, government officials, members of Congress, and prominent citizens escorted President Washington to Federal Hall for his swearing-in ceremony.



U.S. Senate Collection

President McKinley Reviewing the Inaugural Procession from the Stand in Front of the White House

The early Inaugural Parades primarily consisted of escorts for the President-elect to the Capitol. President Thomas Jefferson's first Inauguration, in 1801, was the first to take place in the new capital city of Washington. Only the north wing of the Capitol



was completed at that time, and as President Jefferson walked from his nearby boarding house to the Capitol, he was accompanied by an Alexandria, Virginia, company of riflemen, friends, and “fellow citizens.” After his second Inauguration in 1805, a procession formed at the Navy Yard made up of Members of Congress and citizens, which escorted President Jefferson from the Capitol to the White House, accompanied by the United States Marine Band, who has played at every Presidential Inauguration since.

The first organized parade occurred in 1809, at the Inauguration of President James Madison. A troop of cavalry from Georgetown escorted him to the Capitol. After taking the oath of office, President Madison sat in review of nine companies of militia. Future Inaugurations saw these military escorts grow more and more elaborate. President William Henry Harrison’s parade in 1841 featured floats, and for the first time, military companies from outside the Washington, D.C., area accompanied the President-elect to The Capitol. Citizens clubs, political clubs, several military bands, and groups of college students also marched in the parade, setting future precedent.

In 1865, during President Abraham Lincoln’s second Inauguration, African-Americans marched in the parade for the first time. Four companies of African-American troops, a lodge of African-American Odd Fellows, and African-American Masons joined the procession to the Capitol, and then back to the White House after the Inaugural.

In 1873, President Grant started the tradition of reviewing the parade at the White House after the Inaugural Ceremony, shifting the focus of excitement to the post-Inaugural Procession rather than the escort to the Capitol. In 1881, President James Garfield reviewed the parade from a specially built stand in front of the White House. Reviewing stands were also erected along Pennsylvania Avenue for visitors. In 1897, President McKinley reviewed the parade in a glass-enclosed stand to protect him from cold and possibly harsh weather.

Despite a blizzard that forced the Inauguration Ceremony indoors for President William H. Taft in 1909, the parade proceeded as planned, as workers busily cleared snow from the parade route. For the first time, the First Lady accompanied her husband as they led the parade from the Capitol to the White House. The only parade known to have been canceled owing to bad weather was President Ronald Reagan’s second in 1985, when frigid temperatures made the situation dangerous. The largest parade, with 73 bands, 59 floats, horses, elephants, and civilian and military vehicles, and lasting 4 hours and 32 minutes, occurred in 1953 at President Dwight D. Eisenhower’s first Inauguration.

Women first participated in the Inaugural Parade in 1917, at President Woodrow Wilson’s second Inauguration. In 1921, President Warren G. Harding became the first President to ride in the procession in an automobile. The parade was first televised in 1949 at the Inauguration of President Harry S. Truman.



PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL BALLS

On May 7, 1789, one week after the inauguration of President George Washington in New York City, sponsors held a ball to honor the new President. It was not until 1809, however, after the Inauguration of President James Madison at the Capitol in Washington, D.C., that the tradition of the Inaugural Ball began. That night, First Lady Dolley Madison hosted the gala at Long's Hotel. Four hundred tickets sold for \$4 each. In 1833, two balls were staged for President Andrew Jackson, one at Carusi's Assembly Rooms, a theatre house and public hall, and the other at Central Masonic Hall. President William Henry Harrison attended all three of the 1841 Inaugural Balls held in his honor.

The Inaugural Ball quickly turned into an anticipated highlight of Washington society, and its location became a prime topic of discussion. Organizers wanted a building that could accommodate large numbers of guests. A temporary wooden building was erected in the city's Judiciary Square in 1849 for one of President Zachary Taylor's Inaugural Balls. By the time of President James Buchanan's Inauguration in 1857, the idea of multiple balls was abandoned for one grand ball that could accommodate thousands of guests. Again, a temporary ballroom was built in Judiciary Square for the occasion. Food purchased for President Buchanan's ball included \$3000 worth of wine, 400 gallons of oysters, 500 quarts of chicken salad, 1200 quarts of ice cream, 60 saddles of mutton, 8 rounds of beef, 75 hams, and 125 tongues.

In 1865, the ball following President Lincoln's second Inauguration took place in the model room of the Patent Office - the first time a government building was used for the celebration. The Inaugural Ball for President Grant's 1869 Inauguration was held in the north wing of the Treasury Building. Apparently there was not enough room there for dancing, so for President Grant's 1873 Inauguration, a temporary building was again constructed in Judiciary Square.

Later Inaugural Balls were held at the National Museum Building, now the Smithsonian Arts and Industries Building, and the Pension Building, which became the favorite venue from 1885 through 1909.

In 1913, the city's inaugural organizers began planning the ball to celebrate President Woodrow Wilson's Inauguration, again to be held at the Pension Building, but President-elect Wilson thought otherwise. He felt the ball was too expensive and unnecessary for the solemn occasion of the Inaugural, and asked the Inaugural Committee to cancel it. The city of Washington had not missed an Inaugural Ball since 1853, when a grieving President Franklin Pierce, mourning the recent loss of his son, asked that the ball be canceled.



President-elect Warren G. Harding also requested that the Inaugural Committee do away with the elaborate ball (and the parade as well) in 1921, hoping to set an example of thrift and simplicity. The committee complied, and instead, the chairman of the Inaugural Ball committee hosted a private party at his home. Subsequent inaugurations followed this trend, with charity balls becoming the fashion for the inaugurations of Presidents Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

President Harry Truman revived the official ball in 1949. Organizers for President Dwight D. Eisenhower's 1953 Inaugural Ball added a second event due to the great demand for tickets. Four years later, President Eisenhower's second Inauguration featured four balls, and President Kennedy attended five in 1961. President Carter attempted to strip the balls of their glitz and glamour in 1977, calling them parties and charging no more than \$25 each, but by the second Inaugural of President Clinton in 1997, the number of balls reached an all-time high of 14. George W. Bush's Inaugural in 2001 saw the number of official balls decline to eight, and his second Inaugural in 2005 was celebrated with nine official balls. In 2009, President Obama attended 10 Inaugural Balls, including the Commander-In-Chief's Ball. In 2013, there were two official balls.

PRESIDENT	NUMBER OF BALLS ATTENDED	DATE
Barack H. Obama	2	January 21, 2013
Barack H. Obama	10	January 20, 2009
George W. Bush	9	January 20, 2005
George W. Bush	8	January 20, 2001
William J. Clinton	14	January 20, 1997
William J. Clinton	11	January 20, 1993
George H. W. Bush	9	January 20, 1989
Ronald W. Reagan	9	January 21, 1985
Ronald W. Reagan	10	January 20, 1981
James E. Carter	7	January 20, 1977
Richard M. Nixon	5	January 20, 1973
Richard M. Nixon	6	January 20, 1969
Lyndon B. Johnson	4	January 20, 1965
John F. Kennedy	5	January 20, 1961
Dwight D. Eisenhower	4	January 20, 1957
Dwight D. Eisenhower	2	January 20, 1953
Harry S. Truman	1	January 20, 1949