

*The honor of your presence
is requested at the ceremonies attending the
Inauguration of the
President and Vice President
of the United States*

*January twenty-first
Two thousand thirteen*

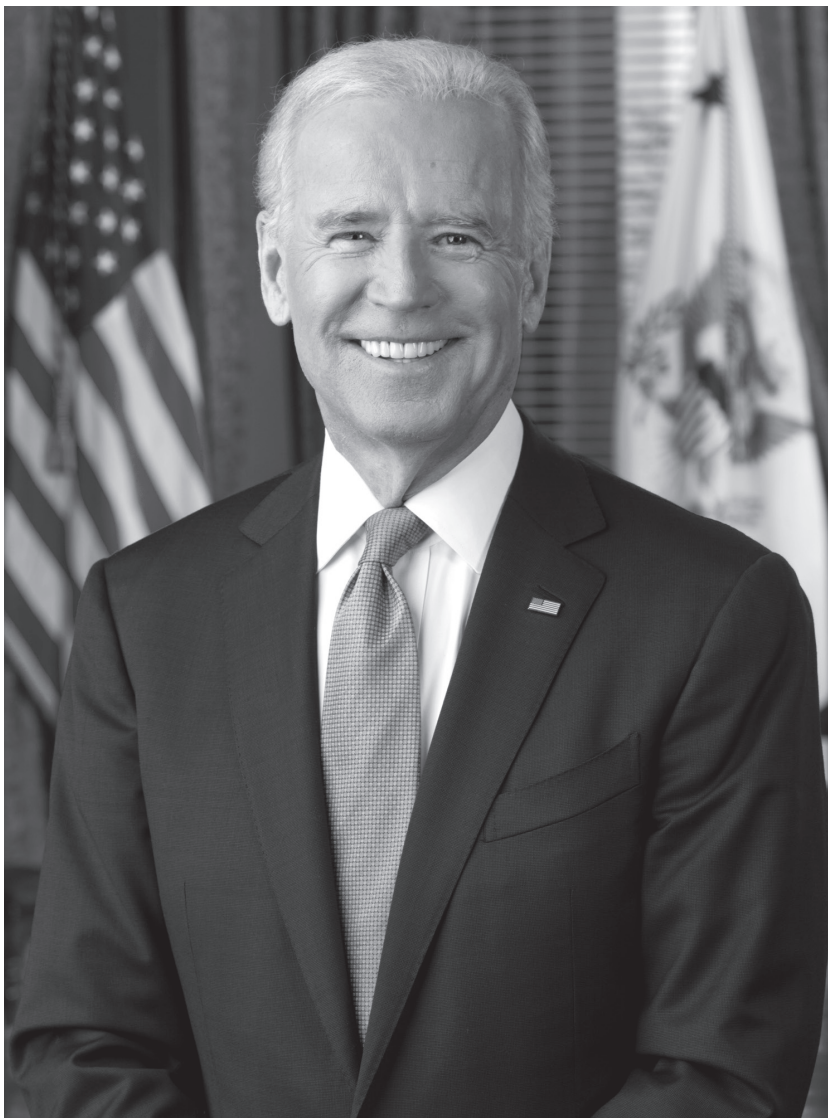
*The Capitol of the United States of America
City of Washington*

*by the
Joint Congressional
Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies*

*Charles E. Schumer, Chairman,
Harry Reid, Lamar Alexander,
John A. Boehner, Eric Cantor,
Nancy Pelosi*



Barack Obama



Joseph L. Biden, Jr.



Inauguration Ceremonies
Program

The Capitol of the United States of America

January twenty-first
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*Inauguration
of the
President and Vice President
of the
United States of America*

The Capitol of the United States of America

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*The Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies cordially
welcomes you to the 57th Presidential Inauguration.*

Charles E. Schumer, Chairman

U.S. SENATE, NEW YORK

Harry Reid

MAJORITY LEADER, U.S. SENATE, NEVADA

Lamar Alexander

U.S. SENATE, TENNESSEE

John A. Boehner

SPEAKER, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OHIO

Eric Cantor

MAJORITY LEADER, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, VIRGINIA

Nancy Pelosi

DEMOCRATIC LEADER, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, CALIFORNIA



The theme of the 57th Presidential Inaugural ceremonies, “Faith in America’s Future,” honors the sesquicentennial of the construction of the Capitol dome and the placement of the Statue of Freedom in 1863. As we look toward the future, our nation celebrates the continuing fulfillment of America’s promise of liberty, equality, and opportunity for all.

For the Inaugural ceremonies, five flags adorn the West Front of the Capitol. The current United States flag is displayed in the center. On either side are two others. The flag with twenty-one stars arranged in rows was created in 1819 when Illinois, the home state of President Obama, entered the Union. The outer flag, with thirteen stars arranged in a circle representing the original states, flew in the early 1790s.

P R O G R A M

PRELUDE	THE UNITED STATES MARINE BAND COLONEL MICHAEL J. COLBURN <i>Director</i>
CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOMING REMARKS	THE HONORABLE CHARLES E. SCHUMER <i>United States Senator, New York</i>
INVOCATION	MYRLIE EVERS-WILLIAMS
MUSICAL SELECTION	THE BROOKLYN TABERNACLE CHOIR

**THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL OATH OF OFFICE
WILL BE ADMINISTERED TO JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.,
BY ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
THE HONORABLE SONIA SOTOMAYOR**

MUSICAL SELECTION	JAMES TAYLOR
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**THE PRESIDENTIAL OATH OF OFFICE
WILL BE ADMINISTERED TO BARACK H. OBAMA
BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES
THE HONORABLE JOHN G. ROBERTS, JR.**

INAUGURAL ADDRESS	THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
MUSICAL SELECTION	KELLY CLARKSON
POET	RICHARD BLANCO
BENEDICTION	REV. LOUIE GIGLIO
THE NATIONAL ANTHEM	BEYONCÉ

“A BEAUTY, LARGE AND BOLD”

THE CAPITOL DOME: SYMBOL OF FAITH IN AMERICA'S FUTURE

by Donald A. Ritchie, *Senate Historian*

The United States Capitol's massive dome stands as an enduring symbol of America's democratic institutions. While it is difficult to imagine the building without it, the dome evolved over time with our national history. President George Washington selected a design for a neoclassical domed Capitol in 1793, which he believed would provide beauty and grandeur to the new capital city. But the crowning feature of the first Capitol, completed by 1824, bore little resemblance to either the original plans or to the structure so recognizable today. Made of brick and stone and covered in copper, that first dome was only one third the size of the current dome. Between 1824 and 1850, the United States acquired vast new territories, created seven new states, and brought to Washington an increasing number of representatives and senators. As the House and Senate outgrew their legislative chambers, members authorized construction of two new wings to accommodate larger chambers. It quickly became apparent that the original dome would be too small for the enlarged building.



U.S. Senate Collection

East view of the Capitol, 1848

In 1854 Capitol architect Thomas Walter designed a new and much larger dome, inspired by the great classical domes of European cathedrals. Working with Walter, army captain and chief Capitol engineer Montgomery C. Meigs believed the taller dome—to be made of fireproof cast iron—could serve as “a crown,” collecting the “whole into one grand composition.” Construction began in 1856, and over the next five years Washingtonians marveled at the sight of the new dome taking shape. By March 4, 1861, when Abraham Lincoln first took the oath of office as president, a half-finished dome loomed over the Capitol.

The attack on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, sparked a Civil War and transformed the capital city. President Lincoln’s call for troops brought soldiers streaming into Washington, where they set up camp in and around the unfinished Capitol. Building materials intended for the construction of the new dome were converted for use in fortifying the building, and the Capitol took on the appearance of an armed fort. “About the entrance and between the pillars were barricades of iron plates intended for the dome, held in place by barrels of sand and cement,” wrote one observer. In May of 1861, Meigs directed contractors to cease construction, explaining the government “has no money to spend except in self defense.”

Despite Meigs’ order, the company of Janes, Fowler and Kirtland, an iron foundry contracted to build the dome, continued its work—without pay. Much of the cast iron was already on the Capitol grounds, and they feared it might



U.S. Senate Historical Office

Construction of the Capitol dome, 1861

be damaged or destroyed if installation was delayed. “It seemed a strange contradiction to see the workmen . . . going on with their labor of laying the foundations,” wrote a *New York Times* reporter; “the click of the chisel, the stroke of the hammer,” blending with “the tramp of the battalions drilling in the corridors.” Although “they were directed to suspend operations, and were notified that if they proceeded they would do it at their own expense and risk, they concluded to go on,” Walter later recalled. “They have thus prevented the sound of the hammer from being stopped on the national Capitol a single moment during all of our civil troubles.”

As the laborers worked, Congress in 1862 considered again whether to continue funding the massive construction project. “Every consideration of economy, every consideration of protection to this building, every consideration of expediency requires that it should be completed,” Vermont senator Solomon Foot explained. “To let these works remain in their present condition is . . . the most inexcusable, needless, and extravagant waste and destruction of property.” The Union was strong enough, Foot argued, “to put down this rebellion and to put up this our Capitol at the same time.” Congress renewed the contract for construction in May of 1862. “We shall therefore remain, and work away at the Capitol let come what may,” Walter commented. Nothing but a “force of arms will stop the work.”

Slowly and steadily during those dark days of war, the massive dome became a reality. Construction of the dome was an arduous task. Skilled and unskilled workers—many of whom began the project as enslaved labor and continued as free labor following the District of Columbia Emancipation Act of 1862—operated machinery at dangerous heights to hoist the heavy cast iron pieces into place. Accidents and injuries occurred. So formidable was the task of erecting the scaffolding for the installation of the Statue of Freedom atop the dome in 1863 that the disbursing agent for the Capitol increased the workmen’s pay. The vision of this unceasing labor in the midst of national crisis proved to be inspiring. “If people see the Capitol going on,” remarked President Lincoln in 1863, “it is a sign we intend the Union shall go on.”

At noon on December 2, 1863, a solemn ceremony marked the placement of the Statue of Freedom. “I shall always identify Washington with that huge and delicate towering bulge of pure white,” wrote Walt Whitman. “There is no place in the city, or for miles and miles off . . . , but what you see this tiara-like



Library of Congress

Statue of Freedom before installation, 1863

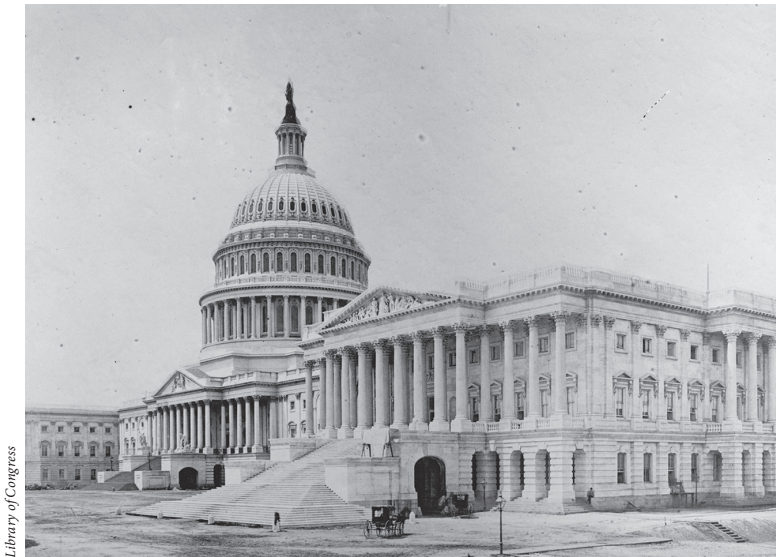
dome quietly rising out of the foliage.” As Freedom took her stance atop the dome, a salute was ordered to commemorate the event, “as an expression . . . of respect for the material symbol of the principle upon which our government is based.” The twelve forts that guarded the capital city answered with cannon fire when artillery at the Capitol fired a 35-gun salute—one gun for each state, including those of the Confederacy. “Freedom now stands on the Dome of the Capitol of the United States,” wrote Commissioner of Public Buildings Benjamin Brown French. “May she stand there forever, not only in form, but in spirit.”

The new dome stood behind Lincoln as he delivered his second inaugural address in 1865, as the war was drawing to a close. “With malice toward none, with charity for all,” he memorably concluded, “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.”

The Statue of Freedom has crowned the Capitol dome for 150 years. Within the shadow of the dome those once enslaved claimed their freedom, women suffragists marched for the right to vote, and civil rights activists demanded equality. Generations of Americans have embraced the image of the Capitol dome as the symbol of our enduring nation. Around the world, it has become the physical embodiment of democracy and freedom. From 1861, when Lincoln first took the oath of office before its rising columns, to the present day, the dome has served as backdrop for almost all presidential inaugurations. Today, as we celebrate the 57th Inauguration of a U.S. president, we honor this iconic image—a symbol of perseverance, freedom, and unity, and a monument to faith in America’s future.

“Ever as I look, especially when near,” wrote Walt Whitman in 1863, “the dome is a beauty, large and bold.”



Library of Congress

Southeast view of the Capitol, 1865