

Inauguration 2009 - Tradition and Change



Washington, DC, January 20, 2009

7:23 AM – Sunrise over the National Mall



“The world is watching today as our great democracy engages in this peaceful transition of power.

Here, on the National Mall, where we remember the Founders of our Nation and those who fought to make it free, we gather to etch another line in the solid stone of history.

The freedom of a people to choose its leaders is the root of liberty. In a world where political strife is too often settled with violence, we come here every four years to bestow the power of the presidency upon our democratically elected leader.”

*- Senator Diane Feinstein
Opening Welcome Remarks
at the 2009 Presidential Inauguration
January 20, 2009*

8:45 AM – Morning Worship Service



Inaugural Firsts

1933 - President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt attended a worship service prior to his Inauguration. Since then every President except Richard Nixon has done the same, often at nearby St. John's Episcopal Church, above.

President-elect Barack Obama and Michelle Obama are welcomed by Rev. Luis Leon as they arrive for church service at St. John's Episcopal Church.

9:55 AM – Coffee at the White House



President Dwight D. Eisenhower, left, greets Jacqueline Kennedy and President-elect John F. Kennedy at the White House January 20, 1961.

10:48 AM – Procession to the Capitol



Inaugural Firsts

1837 - Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren were the first out-going and in-coming presidents to travel together to the Capitol. Below, President Harry S Truman and President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower leave the White House in 1953. Above, Lyndon B. Johnson's motorcade to the Capitol, 1965.



11:48 AM – Invocation and Musical Moments



The Rev. Billy Graham, center, gives the invocation at the inauguration of Richard M. Nixon, January 20, 1969.



Above, Aretha Franklin sings “My Country ‘Tis of Thee.” At right, the Rev. Rick Warren gives the opening prayer for the inauguration ceremony.

11:57 AM – Vice-Presidential Oath

“I, Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr., do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic ... and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God.”



Inaugural Firsts

1937 marked the first time the vice president was sworn in outdoors on the same platform as the president. 1937 remains the rainiest inaugural on record.

With his wife Jill, in red coat holding a Bible, Joe Biden takes the vice-presidential oath.

12:05 PM – Presidential Oath

"I, Barack Hussein Obama, do solemnly swear 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. So help me God."



Inaugural Firsts

1829 - Andrew Jackson, left, was the first president to take the oath of office on the portico of the U.S. Capitol. Chief Justice John Marshall, right, administered the oath at nine inaugurations, Adams to Jackson, a record still unsurpassed.

Chief Justice John Roberts administers the presidential oath to Barack Obama. Between Justice Roberts and President Obama are, from left, Sasha, Malia, and Michelle Obama.



Inaugural Firsts
2009 - Barack Obama is the first African-American to be elected president of the United States.



Chief Justice John Roberts administers the Presidential Oath to Barack Obama. Michelle Obama holds a Bible once owned by Abraham Lincoln. At right, Sasha Obama congratulates her father on his inauguration.

12:05 PM – Presidential Oath



Nearly 2 million people witnessed the Obama inauguration and parade, surpassing the estimated 1.2 million at the inauguration of Lyndon B. Johnson in 1965.

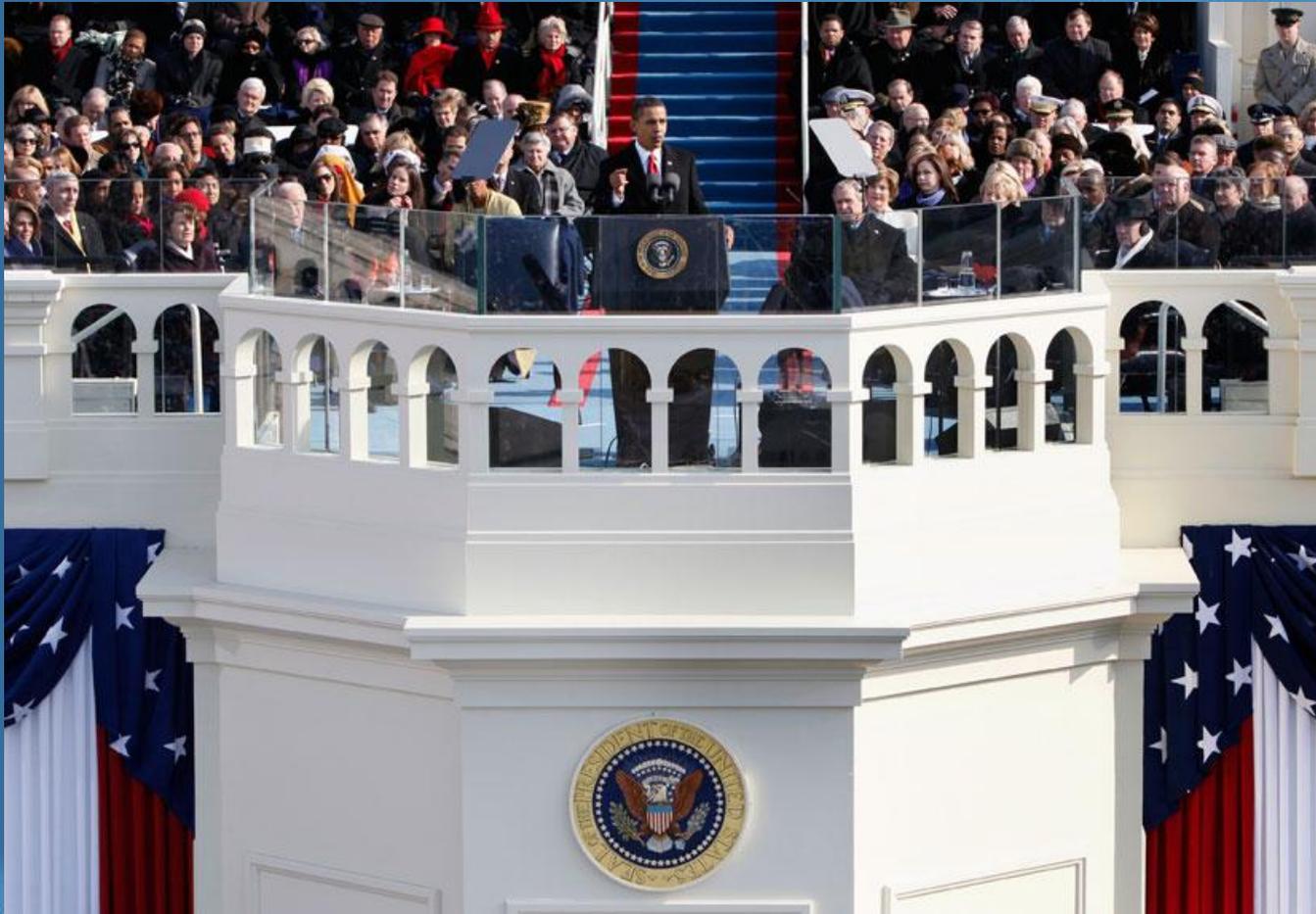


Against the backdrop of the U.S. Capitol, Barack Obama begins his Inaugural Address.

12:13 PM – Inaugural Address

"The time has come to reaffirm our enduring spirit, to choose our better history, to carry forward that precious gift, that noble idea, passed on from generation to generation: the God-given promise that all are equal, all are free, and all deserve a chance to pursue their full measure of happiness."

-President Barack Obama Inaugural Address



Inaugural Firsts

Starting with George Washington in 1789, above, all U.S. presidents have delivered inaugural addresses. Below, Calvin Coolidge was first to be broadcast on radio, in 1925. Harry S Truman's 1948 address was first to be televised. Bill Clinton's was webcast in 1997. In 2009 Barack Obama's inauguration was widely Twittered.



12:19 PM – Inaugural Address

“To the people of poor nations, we pledge to work alongside you to make your farms flourish and let clean waters flow, to nourish starved bodies and feed hungry minds. And to those nations like ours that enjoy relative plenty, we say we can no longer afford indifference to suffering outside our borders, nor can we consume the world's resources without regard to effect. For the world has changed, and we must change with it.”

-President Barack Obama Inaugural Address



Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Ramallah, West Bank



Vienna, Austria



Silverdale, Washington

12:19 PM – Inaugural Address

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-President Barack Obama Inaugural Address



Paris, France



Moscow, Russia



Havana, Cuba



Mexico City, Mexico

12:56 PM – Presidential Farewell, Capitol Luncheon, First Signing

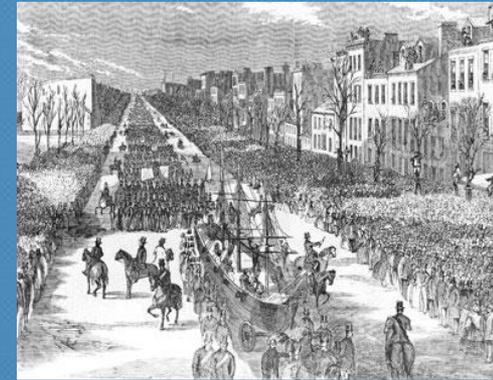


Inaugural Firsts

The inaugural luncheon in the Capitol was first held in 1953, for Dwight D. Eisenhower. Gerald R. Ford was first to depart the Capitol via helicopter, in 1977. At top, Former President Ronald W. Reagan and his wife Nancy are accompanied to their helicopter by new President George H.W. Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush in 1989.

Left, the Obamas and Bidens wave to the helicopter carrying George W. Bush and Laura Bush. Center top, President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama, with congressional leaders, have a moment of prayer at the inaugural luncheon at the Capitol. Center bottom, Barack Obama signs his first official documents as president.

4:03 PM – Inaugural Parade



Inaugural Firsts

In 1841 the parade for William H. Harrison was the first to feature floats and marching bands. Above, the Inaugural parade for President James Buchanan, 1857. Below, President Jimmy Carter, with daughter Amy and wife Roslyn, walks from the Capitol to the White House in 1977.



4:59 PM – Inaugural Parade



Inaugural Firsts

1881 - President James Garfield reviewed the parade from a specially built stand in front of the White House. Above, President Herbert Hoover watches the inaugural parade in 1929. Below, movie cowboy Montie Montana lassos President Eisenhower in 1953.



Top left, flags from around the world are carried past the presidential reviewing stand. Top middle, President Obama gives the Hawaii "hang loose" sign to students from his high school *alma mater*, lower left. Lower right, Sasha and Malia Obama enjoy the parade.

8:37 PM – Inaugural Ball



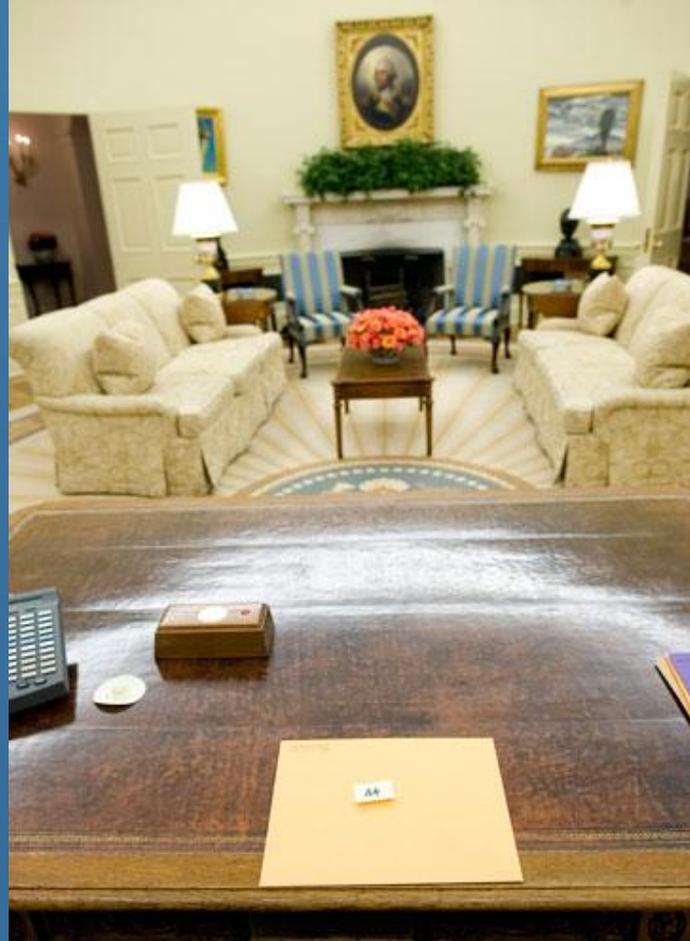
Inaugural Firsts

The first Inaugural Ball, held for James Madison, was given in 1807. Since then the number of balls given on inauguration night have ranged from 0 (Franklin Pierce, 1853, and Woodrow Wilson, 1913) to 14 (Bill Clinton, 1997). Above, inaugural fashions in 1861. Below, dancing at the 1925 Inaugural Ball, for President Calvin Coolidge.

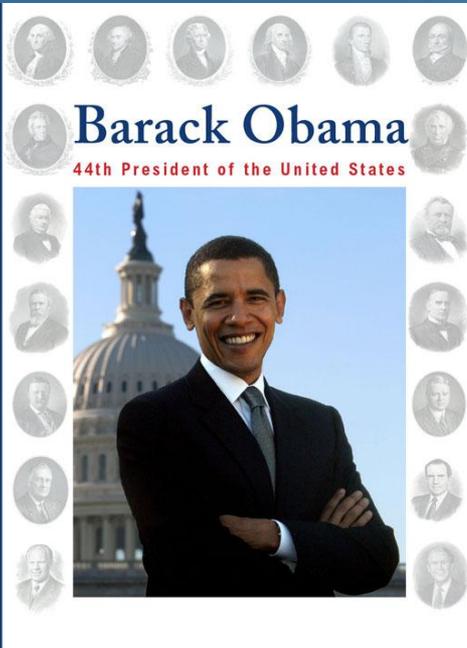


Michelle and Barack Obama dance at the Neighborhood Inaugural Ball, one of 10 they attended on inauguration night.

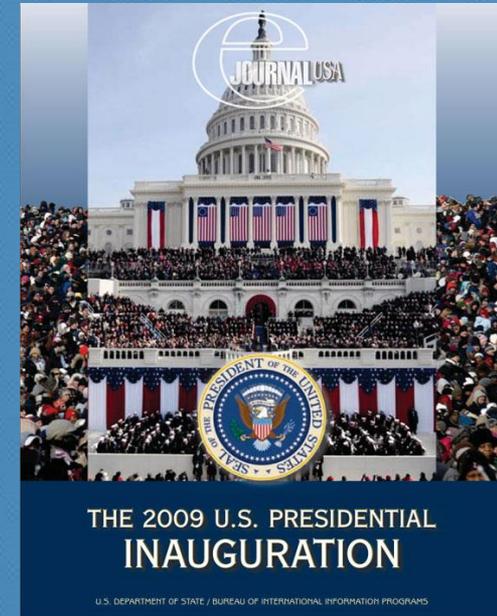
Letter from “43” to “44”



Waiting in the Oval Office for Barack Obama, the 44th president, was a personal letter from the 43rd president, George W. Bush. President Ronald Reagan was the first to leave a such a note for his successor, George H.W. Bush, in 1989.



A screenshot of the America.gov website. The header includes the site name "America.gov" and navigation links for Home, Foreign Policy, U.S. Politics, American Life, Democracy, Science & Health, World Regions, Multimedia, and Publications. The main content area is divided into several sections: "IN THE HEADLINES" with articles on Iran and Afghanistan; "POPULAR TOPICS" with links to Peace and Security and Diversity; "DEMOCRACY VIDEO CHALLENGE"; "VIDEO" with a "New Media: Government 2.0" article; and "COMING UP" with a webcast announcement. Below these are featured content blocks for a book "Free at Last", a blog "First 100 Days", and a video "College of Opportunity". A sidebar on the right contains "LINKS" to U.S. Embassies Worldwide and Travel and Visa Information, and a "QUIZ" section with a question about the first African American to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.



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