

## **INAUGURAL HISTORY**

Here is some inaugural trivia, followed by a short description of each inauguration since George Washington.

### **Ceremony**

- o First outdoor ceremony: George Washington, 1789, balcony, Federal Hall, New York City. George Washington is the only U.S. President to have been inaugurated in two different cities, New York City in April 1789, and his second took place in Philadelphia in March 1793.
- o First president to take oath on January 20th: Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1937, his second inaugural.
- o Presidents who used two Bibles at their inauguration: Harry Truman, 1949, Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1953, George Bush, 1989.
- o Someone forgot the Bible for FDR's first inauguration in 1933. A policeman offered his.
- o 36 of the 53 U.S. Inaugurations were held on the East Portico of the Capitol. In 1981, Ronald Reagan was the first to hold an inauguration on the West Front.

### **Platform**

- o First platform constructed for an inauguration: Martin Van Buren, 1837 [note: James Monroe, 1817, was inaugurated in a temporary portico outside Congress Hall because the Capitol had been burned down by the British in the War of 1812].
- o First canopied platform: Abraham Lincoln, 1861.

### **Broadcasting**

- o First ceremony to be reported by telegraph: James Polk, 1845.
- o First ceremony to be photographed: James Buchanan, 1857.
- o First motion picture of ceremony: William McKinley, 1897.
- o First electronically-amplified speech: Warren Harding, 1921.
- o First radio broadcast: Calvin Coolidge, 1925.
- o First recorded on talking newsreel: Herbert Hoover, 1929.
- o First television coverage: Harry Truman, 1949. [Only 172,000 households had television sets.]
- o First live Internet broadcast: Bill Clinton, 1997.

### **Oath**

- o Champion oath-givers: Chief Justice John Marshall administered the oath nine times; the runner-up is Chief Justice Roger B. Taney [pronounced TAWN-Y], who gave seven oaths, followed by Chief Justice Melville W. Fuller, who gave six.

o Only former President to administer the oath of office: Chief Justice William Howard Taft swore in Calvin Coolidge in 1925, and Herbert Hoover, 1929.

o First Chief Justice to administer the oath: Oliver Ellsworth, 1797, for John Adams.

### **First Ladies**

o First First lady to be called a "First Lady": Lucy Webb Hayes, 1877. [Also the first college educated]

o First First Lady to attend an inauguration: Dolley Madison, 1809.

o First First Lady to ride with her husband to the ceremony: Helen Taft, 1909.

o First First Lady to participate in the swearing-in ceremony: Lady Bird Johnson, 1965, held the family Bible.

o First First Lady to go to an inaugural ball alone: Eleanor Roosevelt, 1933.

o Wives not present: Martha Washington (George), Abigail Adams (John), Louisa Adams (John Quincy), Anna Harrison (William Henry), and Jane Pierce (Franklin).

### **Balls**

o First inaugural ball: George Washington, 1789, held in May.

o First inaugural ball in Washington, DC: James Madison, 1809.

o First public building to house an inaugural ball: Treasury Building, 1869, Ulysses S. Grant.

o First ball to be held at the Pension Building: Grover Cleveland, 1885.

### **Addresses**

o Longest address: William Henry Harrison, 1841, 8,445 words. The new President insisted on delivering his lengthy address without an overcoat or hat. He consequently caught pneumonia and died a month later. (First Lady Abigail Fillmore caught pneumonia and died after attending Franklin Pierce's inauguration in the bitter cold.)

o Shortest address: George Washington, 1793, 135 words.

o Only president to interrupt his inaugural address: William Henry Harrison, 1841, stopped to take the oath of office in the midst of delivering his address.

o Only President to use "affirm" rather than "swear" in the oath: Franklin Pierce, 1853.

o Variation in oath: Chief Justice William Howard Taft replaced the phrase "preserve, protect and defend" with "preserve, maintain and protect" at Herbert Hoover's 1929 inauguration.

### **Weather**

o Coldest inauguration: Ronald Reagan, 1985, 7 degrees and 10 to 20 degrees below with wind chill.

o Some other inclement inaugurations: James Monroe, 1821; William Henry Harrison, 1841; James K. Polk, 1845; Abraham Lincoln, 1865; Ulysses Grant, 1873; James Garfield, 1881; Benjamin Harrison, 1889; Grover Cleveland, 1893, William Howard Taft, 1909, Franklin D.

Roosevelt, 1937, and John Kennedy, 1961.

### **Attire**

o George Washington wore a brown broadcloth suit for his first inauguration, but for his second oath of office, he wore a full suit of black velvet complete with diamond buckles sparkling at the knee.

o First completely American-made inaugural wardrobe: James Madison, 1809.

o Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1953, broke tradition by wearing a homburg instead of a high silk hat.

o Jimmy Carter took the oath of office in a \$175 business suit purchased the week before in Americus, Georgia.

### **Miscellaneous**

o Oldest president at inauguration: Ronald Reagan, 69 in 1981; second oldest is William Henry Harrison, 68.

o Youngest president at inauguration: Theodore Roosevelt was 42 when he was sworn in on September 13, 1901 after the death of William McKinley. At 43, John F. Kennedy was the youngest President to be formally inaugurated on January 20, 1961. Bill Clinton became the third youngest President in history, at age 46 when he was sworn in January 20, 1993.

o In 1841, William Henry Harrison had an inauguration that literally killed him. Harrison caught pneumonia after braving the elements with no coat or hat and delivering an especially long (8,445 words) inaugural address, and died exactly one month later.

o First president inaugurated in Washington, DC: Thomas Jefferson, 1801.

o First time Washington, DC city officials participated in an inauguration: Andrew Jackson, 1833.

o First President to ride to his ceremony in a car: Warren Harding, 1921.

o First to ride in a bullet-proof car: Lyndon Johnson, 1965.

o The carriage built to transport Martin Van Buren to his inauguration on March 4, 1837, was constructed of timber from the dismantled U.S.S. Constitution.

o First president to escort a president-elect to the ceremony: James Monroe escorted John Quincy Adams, 1825, rode in separate carriages. Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren, 1837, rode in the same carriage.

o All but four presidents attended the swearing in of their successor: John Adams, John Quincy Adams, Andrew Johnson, and Richard Nixon.

o First mother to witness her son's inauguration: Eliza Ballou Garfield, 1881.

o Only President to be elected and inaugurated four times: Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1933-1945.

o The second inauguration of James Monroe featured the first appearance of the Marine Corps Band in an official ceremony.

## **1789 - THE FIRST INAUGURATION**

**1st President:** George Washington, Federalist

**Date:** April 30, 1789

**Location:** Balcony, Federal Hall, New York

**Oath:** Robert Livingston, NY Chancellor

**Weather:** Cool, clear, pleasant

The first inauguration took place 57 days later than the specified March 4 date, due to the failure of Congress to convene a quorum to receive the electoral college results. The offices of President and Vice President were not confirmed until April 6. Washington was informed of what he already knew by messenger on April 14, departing Mount Vernon on April 16 for New York. A week's worth of receptions and processions in his honor diverted Washington via Alexandria, Georgetown, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Trenton, finally ending in Elizabeth, New Jersey, where he took a 47-foot barge to New York.

As Washington arrived in New York on April 23, Congressmen were involved in a grave debate over the form of address to be used for the country's leader. Vice President John Adams favored "His Highness, the President of the United States and Protector of their Liberties," while other options included "His Serene Highness," "His Excellency," and "Mr. Washington." The joint Congressional committee appointed to oversee protocol for the inauguration finally settled on "The President of the United States."

New York citizens had collected \$32,000 to help architect Pierre L'Enfant renovate City Hall into Federal Hall, complete with a dramatic open balcony and triangular pediment with an American Eagle adorned with the US shield holding thirteen arrows in one talon and an olive branch in the other.

April 30, inauguration day, was marked by perfect weather and hordes of people crowding the streets and rooftops. A half-hour ringing of church bells began at nine. At noon, the President was met at his mansion at Number 1 Cherry Street by two companies of grenadiers, members of Congress and other dignitaries. The procession left for Federal Hall with Washington in the state coach drawn by four horses.

While pomp and circumstance set the tone of the first inauguration, several unresolved details made it a rather awkward ceremony. Chancellor Robert Livingston discovered with dismay that there was no Bible to be found. One was quickly borrowed from the Masonic Lodge in the City Assembly Rooms in time for Washington to arrive with Vice President John Adams (who, interestingly, had taken his oath on April 22, holding a more formal ceremony in June), New York Governor George Clinton (a vehement anti-Federalist), Chancellor Livingston, and others.

Livingston read the 35-word Constitutional oath of office to Washington, who wore a dark brown suit with eagle-emblazoned buttons, a dress sword, and, according to Washington Irving, "His hair was dressed and powdered in the fashion of the day and worn in a bag and solitaire." Samuel Alyn Otis, Secretary of the Senate, held the Bible. Washington then went into the adjoining Senate Chamber, where he delivered to Congress the inaugural address he had written during his last days at Mount Vernon, which John Madison helped him edit down to 1425 words. The ensemble then proceeded to St. Paul's Church for a special service to commemorate the new nation, after which Washington returned to Federal Hall and went home for a short rest. The inaugural ball was delayed in an effort to accommodate Martha Washington, but she was still in Virginia when it took place in the first week of May at 115 Broadway, near Wall Street. The President is said to have danced with other ladies in the Knickerbocker society.

## **1793 - THE SECOND INAUGURATION**

**1st President:** George Washington, Federalist  
**Date:** March 4, 1793  
**Location:** Congress Hall, Philadelphia  
**Oath:** William Cushing, Supreme Court Associate Justice  
**Weather:** Pleasant

Washington's second inauguration paled in comparison to the splendor of his first, a practice continued by other multi-term presidents. Supreme Court Justice William Cushing read the oath to Washington at exactly noon in the Senate Chamber of Congress Hall in Philadelphia, home of the Federal government during the planning of Federal City on the Potomac. The President followed with a 135 word inaugural address -- the shortest on record. Later in the evening, the President and his wife attended the Dancing Assembly's ball.

Adams, also elected to a second term, spent the inauguration in Massachusetts with his ailing wife.

### **1797 - THE THIRD INAUGURATION**

**2nd President:** John Adams, Federalist  
**Date:** March 4, 1797  
**Location:** Congress Hall, Philadelphia  
**Oath:** Chief Justice Oliver Ellsworth  
**Weather:** Fair

Though this day was intended to honor Adams, the nation's first president took center stage. With the thought that they would never see President Washington again, many members of the audience in the House Chamber reportedly broke into tears. The new president chose to deliver his inaugural speech before taking the oath of office, which was administered by Chief Justice Oliver Ellsworth, the first Chief Justice to perform this ceremony. Vice President Thomas Jefferson, leader of the opposing Democrat-Republican Party, had taken his oath earlier that day in the Senate Chamber, then delivered a short speech. In the evening, the merchants of Philadelphia sponsored a banquet in honor of the outgoing President, not for the newly-elected one. All in all, the third inauguration proved to be modest. Once again, Mrs. Adams missed the festivities, staying in Massachusetts to care for Adams's 88-year-old mother who died soon after.

### **1801 - THE FOURTH INAUGURATION**

**3rd President:** Thomas Jefferson, Democrat-Republican  
**Date:** March 4, 1801  
**Location:** The Senate Chamber of the Capitol, Washington, D.C.  
**Oath:** Chief Justice John Marshall  
**Weather:** Mild and beautiful

Jefferson's inauguration served as a kick-off for the new capital as well. Because of the close race between Jefferson and fellow Democrat-Republican party member Aaron Burr, Jefferson's nomination remained undecided until two weeks before the inauguration. Escorted by a throng of citizens and Congressmen, Jefferson walked from his boarding-house bachelor residence to the Capitol Building, where only the Senate Chamber was completed. The route they took is now Pennsylvania Avenue, a grand avenue-to-be as planned by L'Enfant, but in 1801 it remained a muddy path overgrown with swamp grass. Nevertheless, Jefferson's tracks would be followed by almost every president to come after him, though few chose to walk as Jefferson did, to demonstrate his "leveling principles." After the oath administered by Chief Justice and Acting Secretary of State John Marshall, the new President delivered a lengthy speech that was heard by few of the thousand members of the audience. But copies of the inaugural address were distributed by The National Intelligencer as the crowd left the Capitol. The Marine Corps Band

played a new composition titled "Jefferson's March." Jefferson walked back to his lodgings for a dinner attended by civic and military leaders.

Jefferson's predecessor, Adams, did not take part in the ceremony, and therefore was unable to make up for the slight he received at his own inauguration.

### **1805 - THE FIFTH INAUGURATION**

**3rd President:** Thomas Jefferson, Democrat-Republican

**Date:** March 4, 1805

**Location:** The Senate Chamber of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice John Marshall

**Weather:** Fair

On the occasion of his second inauguration, Jefferson rode a horse along a much-changed Pennsylvania Avenue, landscaped with rows of trees on the sides leading to the Capitol. For the second time, Chief Justice Marshall officiated. And once again, Jefferson's address was inaudible. A new Vice President, George Clinton, was also sworn in. But when Jefferson left the capitol, mechanics from the Navy yard marched to military music as they escorted the President along Pennsylvania Avenue to his residence. Albeit small in scale, this constituted the first inaugural parade on Pennsylvania Avenue. Jefferson opened the still-unfinished White House to the public, which left the place in shambles.

### **1809 - THE SIXTH INAUGURATION**

**4th President:** James Madison, Democrat-Republican

**Date:** March 4, 1809

**Location:** House Chamber of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice John Marshall

**Weather:** Probably fair

James Madison, the "Father of the Constitution," delivered a brief address before taking the oath of office. Chief Justice Marshall presided at his third inauguration. Madison was the first president-elect to wear an entirely American-made outfit. Dolley Madison became the first president's wife to attend the inaugural ceremony. More than 400 people attended the first inaugural ball in Washington, which was held at Long's Hotel for four dollars per ticket. While Dolley enjoyed the event, the new President remarked: "I would much rather be in bed." The dancing lasted until midnight.

### **1813 - THE SEVENTH INAUGURATION**

**4th President:** James Madison, Democrat-Republican

**Date:** March 4, 1813

**Location:** House Chamber of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice John Marshall

**Weather:** Probably fair

Even though the country was at war with England, Madison's second inauguration closely resembled his first. After Madison's inaugural address, Chief Justice Marshall administered the oath of office for the fourth time. A festive inaugural ball was held at Davis's Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue.

### **1817 - THE EIGHTH INAUGURATION**

**5th President:** James Monroe, Democrat-Republican

**Date:** March 4, 1817

**Location:** A temporary portico, outside Congress Hall

**Oath:** Chief Justice John Marshall

**Weather:** Warm and sunny

James Monroe's inauguration was held outdoors for the first time since Washington, in part because the Capitol had been burned down by the British in August of 1814. Monroe stood on a specially-constructed inaugural platform (the first such edifice) and addressed the crowd of 5-8,000. Then, with chief Justice Marshall presiding, Monroe took the oath of office. The Marine Corps band played at the ceremonies. A gala ball was held at Davis's Hotel in the evening. Monroe broke with tradition by riding to his inauguration with his Vice President, Daniel Tompkins.

### **1821 - THE NINTH INAUGURATION**

**5th President:** James Monroe, Democrat-Republican

**Date:** March 5, 1821

**Location:** House Chamber of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice John Marshall

**Weather:** 28 degrees, snow

While Monroe's first inauguration was historic for being held outdoors, inclement weather forced him to begin his second term in the House Chamber. Chief Justice Marshall quietly watched as President Monroe repeated the inaugural oath. Officials worried that the building's floor could not withstand the large crowds of soaked spectators. Monroe preferred not to make an address, for the Constitution did not require it, but advisers urged him to do so. Some spectators nodded off as he delivered his hour-long speech. The ceremony ended with the US Marine Band playing "Yankee Doodle Dandy." The inaugural ball was held at Brown's Indian Queen Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue.

This was the first inauguration in which the designated March 4 date fell on a Sunday. Monroe and Vice President Daniel Tompkins opted to wait one day to take their oaths. As their first terms expired at noon of March 4, Senate President Pro Tem John Gaillard became the only man to be president for a day.

### **1825 - THE TENTH INAUGURATION**

**6th President:** John Quincy Adams, National-Republican

**Date:** March 4, 1825

**Location:** House Chamber of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice John Marshall

**Weather:** 47 degrees, rain

John Quincy Adams's inauguration was considered the most impressive thus far. President Monroe established a new tradition by escorting Adams to the Capitol, although they rode in separate carriages. A Marine Corps band saluted the President as he entered the Capitol. After a rousing 40-minute address, Adams read the oath of office from a law book that he received from Chief Justice Marshall. A ball was held at Carusi's Saloon on Pennsylvania Avenue.

### **1829 - THE 11TH INAUGURATION**

**7th President:** Andrew Jackson, Democrat

**Date:** March 4, 1829

**Location:** Platform on the East Portico of Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice John Marshall

**Weather:** Warm and balmy

Jackson's first inauguration day fell on Ash Wednesday. An estimated 30,000 people poured

into Washington to see the Hero of The Battle of New Orleans take the oath of office. Jackson, still in mourning for his wife Rachel, chose to walk to the Capitol with little fanfare in a populist fashion, accompanied only by fifteen elderly Revolutionary War veterans. Jackson was persuaded by his advisers to forgo the customary visit to his predecessor due to the hard-fought battle between the two of them, and this caused some clamor. Arriving at the ceremony, the crowd outside the Capitol was so dense that Jackson entered through the West basement door. After delivering his inaugural address to a huge crowd and receiving the oath from Chief Justice Marshall, Jackson rode down Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House, only slightly ahead of the rowdy mob of 20,000 well-wishers who descended on the official residence. The crowd was so wild, ruining furniture and crashing crystal, that Jackson was forced to escape through a window. In contrast to the day's events, a rather staid inaugural ball (not attended by the new President) was held at Carusi's Assembly Room.

### **1833 - THE 12th INAUGURATION**

**7th President:** Andrew Jackson, Democrat

**Date:** March 4, 1833

**Location:** House Chamber of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice John Marshall

**Weather:** Probably fair

Plans for public festivities at Jackson's second inauguration were cancelled due to his poor health. Waiting for him as he arrived at the Capitol was the Mayor of the city of Washington and other city officials, the first time municipal officers participated prominently in an inaugural ceremony. After Jackson delivered his inaugural speech, Chief Justice Marshall -- for the ninth and final time -- administered the oath of office to the President and his Vice President, Martin Van Buren. At the inaugural balls held at Carusi's and at the Central Masonic Hall, the ailing President was represented by relatives.

### **1837 - THE 13th INAUGURATION**

**8th President:** Martin Van Buren, Democrat

**Date:** March 4, 1837

**Location:** Platform on the east portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Roger B. Taney [pronounced TAWNWEY]

**Weather:** Sunny and brisk

Martin Van Buren's inauguration takes on special significance this year, for he was the last sitting vice president before George Bush to assume the presidency. His inauguration, however, was not otherwise exceptional. Jackson and his protege, Van Buren, broke with precedent and rode in the same carriage, made of wood from the frigate Constitution, from the White House to the Capitol. Following Van Buren's inaugural address, Chief Justice Roger Taney administered the oath of office. The former and new presidents proceeded to the mansion where they received the Diplomatic Corps, mistakenly called the "democratic corps" by the new President. An opulent inaugural ball was held that evening at Carusi's, attended by the widower President and his Cabinet.

### **1841 - THE 14th INAUGURATION**

**9th President:** William Henry Harrison, Whig

**Date:** March 4, 1841

**Location:** Platform on the east portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Roger B. Taney

**Weather:** Overcast, chilling wind

Harrison traveled to the capitol by train (an inaugural first), but made a side-trip to Virginia prior

to his inauguration. Mrs. Anna Symmes Harrison, who was ill at the time, stayed behind in Ohio. Riding a white charger to the Capitol, "Old Tippecanoe" (the nickname derived from the site of his victory over the Shawnee Indians in 1811) was greeted by 50,000 cheering admirers. The 68-year-old general chose to take the oath of office -- administered by Chief Justice Taney -- just before the last paragraph of his inaugural address. The new president had delivered the 9,000 word speech (the longest on record) in very cold weather, bare-headed and without a top coat.

Returning to the White House on horseback, Harrison led a grander parade than had ever been held before, including the first floats, wheeled log cabins drawn by horses, symbolizing the Harrison campaign. Harrison's parade set the example for parades in years to come. Several inaugural balls and dancing assemblies were held that evening. The new president complained of a chill that night and died of pneumonia exactly one month later on April 4. (Year's later, First lady Abigail Fillmore also caught pneumonia and died after attending Franklin Pierce's inauguration in the bitter cold.) In a sense, this grand inaugural was the highlight of Harrison's presidency.

### **1845 - THE 15th INAUGURATION**

**11th President:** James K. Polk, Democrat

**Date:** March 4, 1845

**Location:** East portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Roger B. Taney

**Weather:** Rain

Despite the downpour, President John Tyler, who finished the term of William Henry Harrison, and the President-elect rode in an open carriage up Pennsylvania Avenue to the Capitol. The road was so slippery that marching soldiers fell into the mud. Amidst an "assemblage of umbrellas," Polk read his inaugural speech, the first to be transmitted by telegraph, and then was sworn into office by Chief Justice Taney. An inaugural ball held at Carusi's for \$10 a ticket turned a \$1,000 profit, which was divided between two orphanages. A second inaugural ball held at the National Theatre, for "pure Democrats," was more modestly priced. Music and dancing prevailed at the second ball despite the wishes of Mrs. Polk, a Calvinist, known as "Sahara Sarah."

### **1849 - THE 16th INAUGURATION**

**12th President:** Zachary Taylor, Whig

**Date:** March 5, 1849.

**Location:** East portico of the Capitol.

**Oath:** Chief Justice Roger B. Taney

**Weather:** 42 degrees, cloudy, snow flurries

On Sunday, March 4th, Polk's term expired. Taylor declined to be sworn in on the sabbath, and the country for a day was without a functioning President. (The term of President Pro Tem of the Senate David Atchison ended on the 3rd.) On Monday, however, Polk and General "Old Rough and Ready" Taylor rode together both to and from the Capitol. Chief Justice Taney officiated, using the Bible first used by George Washington. Three well-attended inaugural balls were held. A "Grand Inaugural Ball" attended by 4,000 was held in a temporary building on Judiciary Square. Near dawn, departing guests realized their wraps were left in heaps by long-gone coat checkers. A lanky congressman from Illinois lost his hat. His name was Abraham Lincoln.

### **1853 - THE 17th INAUGURATION**

**14th President:** Franklin Pierce, Democrat

**Date:** March 4, 1853

**Location:** East portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Roger B. Taney

**Weather:** Snow all day

Between the election and the inauguration, the President-elect's family was in a train wreck, in which their only surviving child was killed before his parents' eyes. Mrs. Pierce refused to participate in the festivities because of her loss. An estimated 70,000 people, double the city's normal population, were on hand for the inaugural ceremonies. With Chief Justice Taney officiating, Pierce chose to use the word "affirm," rather than "swear," in his inaugural oath, the only President to do so. Two literary giants graced the platform, England's William Makepeace Thackeray and America's Washington Irving.

The new Vice President, William R. King, was in Cuba that day, where the U.S. consul gave him the oath of office. The Washington inauguration was cut short due to the tragic circumstances of the Pierce family, and after canceling the ball, the new President retired to an unprepared White House, where he slept on a mattress.

### **1857 - THE 18th INAUGURATION**

**15th President:** James Buchanan, Democrat

**Date:** March 4, 1857

**Location:** East portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Roger B. Taney

**Weather:** 49 degrees, bright and sunny

A brilliant pre-inaugural procession highlighted by floats of the frigate Constitution and the "Goddess of Liberty," (applauded by some of the 150,000 people on hand for the inauguration ceremonies) was joined by an open carriage carrying the President and President-elect to the Capitol. After Buchanan read his inaugural speech, standing on a specially constructed wooden platform, Chief Justice Taney was on hand to administer the oath of office. In the afternoon, an aeronaut made a balloon ascension. The site of the ostentatious inaugural ball was a temporary structure erected on Judiciary Square, where the guests danced until dawn.

### **1861 - THE 19th INAUGURATION**

**16th President:** Abraham Lincoln, Republican

**Date:** March 4, 1861

**Location:** East Portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Roger B. Taney

**Weather:** Rain early, sunny and warm later

With the nation on the verge of war and the Confederate flag flying across the Potomac River, extensive security measures, including police standing in the crowd and riflemen stationed on Pennsylvania Avenue rooftops, were taken to protect this northern President-elect -- who won with only 40% of the popular vote -- during the inaugural ceremony. Lincoln, who had slipped into the city via an unannounced route, warned a friend that "bullets may be flying." Nevertheless, Lincoln and President Buchanan rode up Pennsylvania Avenue in an open carriage. A temporary wooden structure was in place on the Capitol below the still-scaffolded dome. Sporting his new beard, Lincoln read a 35-minute inaugural speech standing on a platform under a wooden canopy, then took the oath of office administered for the seventh and final time by 84-year old Chief Justice Taney. There were four future Presidents among the spectators, namely, Rutherford B. Hayes, James Garfield, Chester Arthur, and Benjamin Harrison. A parade with floats followed. Despite the air of impending crisis, an elegant ball was held in a specially-constructed hall on Judiciary Square. Lincoln entered arm-in-arm with

his Vice President, Hannibal Hamlin, while Mary Todd Lincoln, much to everyone's surprise, held the arm of Senator Stephen Douglas, her husband's rival.

### **1865 - THE 20th INAUGURATION**

**16th President:** Abraham Lincoln, Republican

**Date:** March 4, 1865

**Location:** East portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase

**Weather:** 45 degrees, rain

A military procession arrived at the presidential residence to accompany the President to the Capitol, but he was already there, working. Mrs. Lincoln therefore rode alone, but the crowds outside were none the wiser and cheered as though the President was inside. So deep was the mud on the streets due to extensive rain that the Army Corps of Engineers contemplated constructing pontoons from the Capitol to the White House. With the new Capitol dome towering over the East Portico, President Lincoln delivered an eloquent inaugural address (its concluding passage, "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...", is carved on the Lincoln Memorial), which commemorated the close of the Civil War. Prior to Lincoln's speech, Chief Justice Salmon Chase administered the oath of office. Two companies of black troops and a lodge of black Odd Fellows participated in the official inaugural parade. Despite the new spirit of emancipation, blacks were denied tickets to the inaugural balls (held on March 6.) On the afternoon of the inauguration, several thousand people attended the Lincoln's reception at the White House, including former slave and freedom fighter, Frederick Douglass.

As Lincoln crossed the Capitol Rotunda, on the way out to the platform, to be sworn in, a young man broke through the police ranks and almost reached the President. The man was seized, questioned, and released. It was John Wilkes Booth, who was to shoot Lincoln 41 days later.

### **1869 - THE 21st INAUGURATION**

**18th President:** Ulysses S. Grant, Republican

**Date:** March 4, 1869

**Location:** East portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase

**Weather:** 40 degrees, rain early, sunny afternoon

General Grant snubbed President Andrew Johnson, who succeeded Abraham Lincoln, by refusing to share a carriage ride to the Capitol. The oath was administered by Chief Justice Chase after Vice President Schuyler Colfax had taken his. An inaugural ball was held at the Treasury Building, the first time that a public building was used for an inaugural ball, the result of heavy lobbying of an inaugural committee formed to organize the event. The best laid plans turned to disaster, however, at the dinner after the ball, when people finally stormed the kitchen and were turned away by an angry cook brandishing dirty dishrags. Grant's children attended the parade and the ball.

### **1873 - THE 22nd INAUGURATION**

**18th President:** Ulysses S. Grant, Republican

**Date:** March 4, 1873

**Location:** East portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase

**Weather:** 16 degrees, clear, windy, cold

In bitter cold, snowy weather that caused some of the cadets participating in the festivities to faint, President Grant rode to the Capitol in an open carriage. He was sworn in to a second term by Chief Justice Chase as 2,000 spectators shivered in their seats opposite the inaugural stand. Because Grant's first inaugural ball turned out to be such a disaster, officials would not allow the use of a public building for the 1873 ball, therefore a wooden wigwam was built on Judiciary Square. But the cold winds penetrated the structure and froze the singing canaries imported for the occasion. Angry guests, their overcoats still on, were further riled when they discovered that their dinners were served frozen.

### **1877 - THE 23rd INAUGURATION**

**19th President:** Rutherford B. Hayes, Republican

**Date:** March 3 and 5, 1877

**Location:** White House Red Parlor and East portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Morrison R. Waite

**Weather:** 35 degrees, cloudy, light snow

At 4am, on March 2, 1877, Congress settled the disputed presidential election by awarding 185 electoral votes to Rutherford B. Hayes and 184 to Samuel Tilden (who beat Hayes in the popular balloting by over 200,000 votes). Concerned that Tilden would challenge the verdict of Congress by taking the oath of office on Sunday, March 4, Hayes visited the White House on Saturday, March 3, where he was secretly sworn in by Chief Justice Morrison B. Waite, while President Grant, who wanted to assure continuing Republican rule, looked on. As Grant was still President until noon the next day, the country actually had two presidents for a short time.

On Monday morning, March 5, President Grant escorted Hayes to the Capitol, where Justice Waite officiated at the ceremony and Hayes read a lengthy speech. Lucy Webb Hayes, the first college-educated president's wife, was referred to in the press as "the first lady of the land," popularizing that title which has since become standard (interestingly, it was a female journalist, Mary Clemmer Ames, who coined the phrase). Military processions led Hayes and Grant to and from the Capitol. Just after being sworn in, Hayes asked a White House staffer to bring a saw and cut a small square of wood from the place where he was inaugurated, perhaps the most unusual request ever made in an inaugural ceremony. Afterwards, Hayes attended a hastily assembled reception planned by the Columbus Cadets, and a torchlit parade down Pennsylvania Avenue took place that night.

### **1881 - THE 24th INAUGURATION**

**20th President:** James A. Garfield, Republican

**Date:** March 4, 1881

**Location:** East portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Morrison R. Waite

**Weather:** 33 degrees, early snow, sunny and windy afternoon

After delivering his address and taking the oath of office administered by Chief Justice Waite, Garfield kissed his mother, Eliza Ballou Garfield, who was the first mother to witness her son's inauguration. Over 5,000 guests attended an inaugural ball held in the new National Museum building.

### **1885 - THE 25th INAUGURATION**

**22nd President:** Grover Cleveland, Democrat

**Date:** March 4, 1885

**Location:** East portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Morrison R. Waite

**Weather:** 54 degrees, bright and sunny

An estimated 150,000 people watched as Cleveland delivered his inaugural address and was sworn in by Chief Justice Waite. Cleveland reviewed a three-hour inaugural parade -- which included militia units from Southern states for the first time since the Civil War -- from a stand in front of the White House. A fireworks display was held in the evening. As inaugural balls became more formal events, inaugural organizers worked to procure a permanent location to house them, which resulted in the construction of the Pension Building. This was the first time the still-unfinished Pension Building became the site of the inaugural ball, as it would be for several inaugural balls to come.

### **1889 - THE 26th INAUGURATION**

**23rd President:** Benjamin Harrison, Republican

**Date:** March 4, 1889

**Location:** East portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Melville W. Fuller

**Weather:** 43 degrees, rain all day

Although President Cleveland had won more popular votes in the election of 1888, Benjamin Harrison defeated him in the electoral college. Mrs. Cleveland vowed to the staff as she left the White House that she would return in four years, and indeed she did. Harrison was the first and only grandson of a president to win the office himself. Bad weather plagued Benjamin Harrison's inauguration as it had his grandfather's; therefore, Cleveland continued to hold an umbrella over Harrison's head as they rode to the Capitol and as the new President took the oath of office. The rain continued through the inaugural parade, which featured Buffalo Bill and his Wild West troupe. That night, 12,000 guests crowded into the Pension Building for a brilliant inaugural ball.

### **1893 - THE 27th INAUGURATION**

**24th President:** Grover Cleveland, Democrat

**Date:** March 4, 1893

**Location:** East portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Melville W. Fuller

**Weather:** Snow and chilling winds

Returning to the presidency after a four year absence, Grover Cleveland was inaugurated in a snowstorm -- with Chief Justice Fuller administering the presidential oath. Decorations for the elegant inaugural ball held at the Pension Building included colored electric lights and a water fountain. Frances Folsom Cleveland, the president's wife, surprised onlookers with her public displays of affection toward her husband, outbursts of joy attributable to the Clevelands' return to the White House which she predicted four years earlier.

### **1897 - THE 28th INAUGURATION**

**25th President:** William McKinley, Republican

**Date:** March 4, 1897

**Location:** East portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Melville W. Fuller

**Weather:** 40 degrees, clear

Thomas Edison's motion picture camera and phonograph recorded the events of McKinley's first inauguration. Justice Fuller administered the oath of office as two special guests, the new president's 84-year old mother, Ida Saxton McKinley, and Queen Liliuokalani of the Hawaiian Islands, looked on. Victor Herbert played at the inaugural ball, held at the Pension Building. The festivities in the 28th inaugural event were large and elegant. It was at the ball that a mishap

occurred: Mrs. Ida Saxton McKinley, an epileptic, fainted while mounting the steps to the ball.

### **1901 - THE 29th INAUGURATION**

**25th President:** William McKinley, Republican

**Date:** March 4, 1901

**Location:** East portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Melville W. Fuller

**Weather:** 47 degrees, overcast, rain

William McKinley was inaugurated with a new Vice President, Theodore Roosevelt. Hats commemorating the Rough Rider became a popular souvenir. McKinley's second inaugural took place on the centennial of the first oath taken in Washington, by Thomas Jefferson. Chief Justice Fuller officiated. Puerto Rico, an American dependency, was represented in the inaugural parade by native soldiers wearing U.S. uniforms. An inaugural ball, attended by 12,000 guests, was held at the Pension Building.

### **1905 - THE 30th INAUGURATION**

**26th President:** Theodore Roosevelt, Republican

**Date:** March 4, 1905

**Location:** East portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Melville W. Fuller

**Weather:** Sunny, strong winds

Before a crowd of 200,000 cheering Chief Justice Fuller administered the oath of office to President Roosevelt. In his inaugural address, T.R., who had inherited the presidency upon McKinley's death in 1901, promised "a square deal" for the American people. Among the 35,000 participants in the inaugural parade were cowboys, Indians, including Apache chief Geronimo, and Rough Riders. The gala ball at the Pension Building was attended by the President's niece, Eleanor Roosevelt, and her fiance, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

### **1909 - THE 31st INAUGURATION**

**27th President:** William Howard Taft, Republican

**Date:** March 4, 1909

**Location:** Senate Chamber of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Melville W. Fuller

**Weather:** 32 degrees, heavy snow and winds

With a blizzard raging outside, President Taft took the oath of office indoors for the first time since Jackson in 1833. The aged Chief Justice Fuller presided. Making a joke of the inclement conditions, Taft remarked, "I always knew it would be a cold day when I got to be president." While the elements kept President Theodore Roosevelt from accompanying Taft in his inaugural ride in the traditional manner, they did not stand in Helen (Nellie) Taft's way. Breaking with inaugural precedent, Mrs. Taft rode with her husband from the Capitol to the White House. The Pension Building was the site of the inaugural ball.

### **1913 - THE 32nd INAUGURATION**

**28th President:** Woodrow Wilson, Democrat

**Date:** March 4, 1913

**Location:** East portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Edward D. White

**Weather:** 55 degrees, overcast

President Taft escorted the new President both to and from the inaugural ceremony, but the

Progressive Party's candidate, Theodore Roosevelt, did not participate in the day's events. A former Confederate soldier, Chief Justice Edward D. White administered the oath of office to the country's first Democratic president since Cleveland. A quarter of a million people watched the inaugural parade, which included Annapolis and West Point cadets, Dwight D. Eisenhower among them. Believing that inaugurations should be solemn events, Wilson vetoed plans for an inaugural ball, but briefly attended a Princeton alumni dinner that evening.

### **1917 - THE 33rd INAUGURATION**

**28th President:** Woodrow Wilson, Democrat

**Date:** March 4 and 5, 1917

**Location:** East portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Edward D. White

**Weather:** 38 degrees, partly cloudy, windy

With America on the verge of entering World War I, Wilson reasoned that the nation should not be without a functioning president in times of crisis and opted for a quiet inaugural ceremony on Sunday, March 4th. Extensive security precautions, including sharpshooters, were taken the following day for the public ceremony, at which Chief Justice White officiated. The subsequent inaugural parade included women (for the first time), who seized the occasion to protest for their right to vote (which they received in time for the next presidential election). The austere international situation precluded festive balls in 1917.

### **1921 - THE 34th INAUGURATION**

**29th President:** Warren G. Harding, Republican

**Date:** March 4, 1921

**Location:** East portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Edward D. White

**Weather:** 38 degrees, clear

Harding became the first President to ride to his inauguration in an automobile -- a Packard Twin Six. He was escorted by President Wilson, even though he had suffered a debilitating stroke. Harding was sworn into office by Chief Justice White using the same Bible as George Washington, then delivered the first electronically-amplified inaugural speech, audible to more than just the guests standing on the platform for the first time. Harding then proceeded to the Senate Chamber to present his Cabinet nominations -- the first President to do so since Jefferson. Festivities were held to a minimum due to the depressed state of the nation. The inaugural parade was limited to a troop of cavalry and a private party was held in lieu of an inaugural ball.

### **1925 - THE 35th INAUGURATION**

**30th President:** Calvin Coolidge, Republican

**Date:** March 4, 1925

**Location:** East portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice William Taft

**Weather:** 44 degrees, mostly sunny

For the first time in American History, a former President, Chief Justice William Howard Taft, officiated at the inaugural ceremony. An estimated 25 million people, mostly in East Coast cities, tuned in by radio to hear the taciturn President deliver his inaugural address. The broadcast was limited to the swearing-in and the address, and did not cover the parade and other events as modern broadcasts do. Because the Coolidges were mourning the death of their 16-year old son, the inaugural festivities were limited to a brief parade. Only charity balls were held.

## **1929 - THE 36th INAUGURATION**

**31st President:** Herbert Hoover, Republican

**Date:** March 4, 1929

**Location:** East portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice William Howard Taft

**Weather:** 48 degrees, rain

The first inauguration to be recorded by talking newsreel -- President Hoover's oath and speech were transmitted by networks and shortwave to Tokyo, Leningrad and to Commander Richard E. Byrd's Antarctic camp, 10,000 miles away. Chief Justice Taft officiated, replacing the phrase "preserve, protect and defend" with "preserve, maintain and protect." A downpour marred the inaugural ceremonies and parade, but Hoover stood without a coat anyway.

## **1933 - THE 37th INAUGURATION**

**32nd President:** Franklin D. Roosevelt, Democrat

**Date:** March 4, 1933 (The last March inauguration)

**Location:** East portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Charles E. Hughes

**Weather:** 42 degrees, cloudy

Franklin Roosevelt would become the only US President to be elected four times. President Hoover rode with Gov. Roosevelt to the Capitol, where Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes (like Roosevelt, a former N.Y. Governor) administered the oath of office. The Bible belonged to the Roosevelt family and originated from seventeenth century Holland. Standing to deliver his memorable inaugural address before a crowd of 100,000, Roosevelt declared to the American public that despite the country's economic crisis, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself" and outlined the New Deal. The Depression notwithstanding, a brilliant inaugural parade was held. As Democrats enthusiastically planned their first inaugural ball since 1893, FDR announced that the first couple would not be attending. Hearing of a flood of cancellations, Mrs. Roosevelt said she would come, and in so doing became the only first lady to attend the ball without the president.

Security for the inaugural events had been tightened, following the Miami assassination attempt on Roosevelt, which had resulted in the death of Mayor Cermak of Chicago.

## **1937 - THE 38th INAUGURATION**

**32nd President:** Franklin D. Roosevelt, Democrat

**Date:** January 20, 1937

**Location:** East portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Charles E. Hughes

**Weather:** 33 degrees, rain

With the ratification of the 20th Amendment, January 20 was established as the new inauguration date. The miserable weather of the day might have caused supporters of the Amendment to reconsider. Another first was accomplished at this second FDR inauguration -- Vice President

John Nance Garner was sworn into office on the outdoor platform three minutes before the President took the oath administered again by Chief Justice Hughes, using a Bible wrapped in cellophane to protect it from the freezing, heavy rain. President and Mrs. Roosevelt rode back to the White House in an open limousine, despite the elements. The President commented, "If they can take it, I can." A concert at Constitution Hall was held in lieu of an inaugural ball, and once again, Eleanor went alone.

### **1941 - THE 39th INAUGURATION**

**32nd President:** Franklin D. Roosevelt, Democrat

**Date:** January 20, 1941

**Location:** East portico of the White House

**Oath:** Chief Justice Charles E. Hughes

**Weather:** 29 degrees, clear, brisk wind

At his record breaking third inauguration, FDR had a new Vice President in the person of Henry Wallace. Chief Justice Hughes was on hand to preside at the ceremonies. Twelve hundred guests including international visitors lunched at the White House. Mechanized military units -- a harbinger of America's participation in WWII -- dominated the inaugural parade. Following this, 4,000 more guests came to tea at the White House and were greeted by Eleanor Roosevelt who, once again, attended an inaugural concert alone. In a salute to popular culture, the inauguration included a performance by Mickey Rooney.

### **1945 - THE 40th INAUGURATION**

**32nd President:** Franklin D. Roosevelt, Democrat

**Date:** January 20, 1945

**Location:** South portico of the White House

**Oath:** Chief Justice Harlan F. Stone

**Weather:** 35 degrees, cloudy

FDR's unprecedented fourth inauguration was held on the back porch of the White House. While there are several explanations for Roosevelt's choice of location involving the President's health and security, a favorite theory is that the President was snubbing Congress, with which he had developed a rocky relationship during his third term. About 1,800 spectators watched this brief, 15-minute, ceremony. A new Vice President, Sen. Harry S. Truman, was sworn. Then, Chief Justice Harlan F. Stone administered the oath of office to Roosevelt. Because of the war effort, inaugural parades, balls and concerts were eliminated.

### **1949 - THE 41st INAUGURATION**

**33rd President:** Harry S. Truman, Democrat

**Date:** January 20, 1949

**Location:** East portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Frederick M. Vinson

**Weather:** 38 degrees, mostly sunny, windy

In a memorable political upset, Harry Truman won the election over Thomas Dewey. Truman's was the first televised inauguration, for the first time making the presidential inauguration a national event. The First Family started the day with a prayer service at St. John's. Truman used two bibles during the swearing-in, one which he had used during his assumption of office after Roosevelt's death, and the other a Gutenberg Bible, presented by residents of Independence, Missouri to their favorite son. The format of the 41st inauguration was also modernized with the inclusion of several new social events such as the governors' reception and the first ladies' reception. Truman received the oath of office from Chief Justice Fred Vinson, used his inaugural address to announce his famous "Point Four" foreign aid program, then led the seven mile inaugural parade with its dogs, trained seals, cowboys, Indians and B-36 bombers, down Pennsylvania Avenue before a million viewers. From the reviewing stand, Truman deliberately snubbed the marchers from South Carolina, who were led by Strom Thurmond, who had run against Truman as a Dixiecrat. Along with 10,000 guests, the Trumans attended an inaugural ball at the National Armory that evening.

### **1953 - THE 42nd INAUGURATION**

**34th President:** Dwight D. Eisenhower, Republican

**Date:** January 20, 1953

**Location:** East portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Frederick M. Vinson

**Weather:** 49 degrees, cloudy

General Dwight D. Eisenhower was the first Republican elected since Herbert Hoover in 1924, and the first professional soldier since Grant in 1873. "Ike" opted for a homburg, rather than the traditional high silk hat. Chief Justice Vinson administered the oath of office using two bibles, one a gift from Eisenhower's mother when he graduated from West Point, and the other used by Washington. The President then said a prayer which he had composed for the event. Eisenhower led the inaugural parade, which featured 62 bands and included 26,000 participants, and allowed himself to be lassoed by a California cowboy named Monty Montana. The Eisenhowers attended inaugural balls at the National Guard Armory and Georgetown University, but passed up several other festive events over a three-day period.

### **1957 - THE 43rd INAUGURATION**

**34th President:** Dwight D. Eisenhower, Republican

**Date:** January 20 and 21, 1957

**Location:** The White House and the east portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Earl Warren

**Weather:** 44 degrees, chilling wind

President Eisenhower and Vice President Nixon were sworn in for second terms in a private White House ceremony on Sunday, January 20 to which no reporters were invited. On the following day, a public ceremony was held with Chief Justice Earl Warren administering the oaths of office. Contralto Marian Anderson sang "The Star Spangled Banner," at the Capitol. This inauguration was grander than many that preceded it, due in part to the passage in August of 1956 of the Presidential Inaugural Ceremonies Act by a joint Congressional resolution. The public portion of Ike's second inaugural parade featured a guided missile and elephants, but a few of the floats broke down along the parade route. Receptions sponsored by the committee for governors, the Vice President, youth, and distinguished ladies, set precedents for more inaugurations to come. Four inaugural balls were held.

### **1961 - THE 44th INAUGURATION**

**35th President:** John F. Kennedy, Democrat

**Date:** January 20, 1961

**Location:** East portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Earl Warren

**Weather:** 22 degrees, snow in early morning, sunny, chilling wind

Six inches of fresh snow covered Washington as President Eisenhower and Sen. Kennedy rode to the Capitol. The weather caused traffic problems to escalate, as passengers abandoned their cars to watch the events. The army worked through the night to clear Pennsylvania Avenue in time for the procession. As Richard Cardinal Cushing gave the invocation at the beginning of the ceremony, a small fire, caused by a short circuit in a portable heater, momentarily threatened the inaugural stand. The poet Robert Frost had prepared an original composition, but ended up reciting another one from memory when glare from the snow interfered with his reading. Marian Anderson contributed to the inaugural festivities before Chief Justice Warren swore the new President into office. As the first Roman Catholic ever to serve as president, Kennedy used an authorized Rheims-Douay Bible. The East Portico of the Capitol had been expanded and renovated for the occasion. Braving the 22 degree chill, an estimated 1 million spectators watched Kennedy deliver his inaugural speech ("...ask not what your country can do for you:

Ask what you can do for your country...") without overcoat or hat. Kennedy wore a high silk hat during the rest of the ceremony, going back to the tradition which Eisenhower broke when he donned a homburg instead. Mrs. Kennedy's coat and pill-box hat, designed by Oleg Cassini, soon became her trademark and a popular item among fashionable women. The three-hour inaugural parade featured a replica of Kennedy's World War II craft, "PT 109," and the young President was joined by his parents on the reviewing stand. Jacqueline Kennedy accompanied her husband to two of the five inaugural balls, then retired to the White House, for she was recovering from the caesarean birth of John, Jr., eight weeks before. On the previous evening, Frank Sinatra had organized an Inaugural Gala.

Though television was first used in the Truman inauguration, Kennedy's was the first to receive full coverage.

### **1965 - THE 45th INAUGURATION**

**36th President:** Lyndon B. Johnson, Democrat

**Date:** January 20, 1965

**Location:** East portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Earl Warren

**Weather:** 38 degrees, cloudy

Wearing a gray business suit, President Johnson repeated the oath of office after Chief Justice Earl Warren. Mrs. Johnson held the family bible -- marking the first time a First Lady participated in the inaugural ceremony. During the parade, LBJ took his pet beagle into the reviewing stand, the first presidential dog known to have played such a role. With the recent memory of President Kennedy's assassination, 5,000 security guards were posted at stations along the parade route. The President led the dancing at one inaugural ball, attended by 28,000 guests, and visited four others before the night was out.

### **1969 - THE 46th INAUGURATION**

**37th President:** Richard M. Nixon, Republican

**Date:** January 20, 1969

**Location:** East portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Earl Warren

**Weather:** 35 degrees, overcast, chilly wind

The first Californian to become President, Nixon was sworn into office by Chief Justice Warren. Patricia Ryan Nixon held two family Bibles. Nixon's daughters Tricia and Julie, and Julie's husband Dwight David Eisenhower, were also present. As the Nixons led the inaugural parade down Pennsylvania Avenue, anti-war protesters hurled rocks and beer cans at their limousine. But the demonstrators were kept at a distance by a security force that included 3,000 District police, 5,000 regular troops, and 1,000 National Guardsmen. Duke Ellington's band entertained at one of the six inaugural balls at the Smithsonian Museum of History and Technology.

### **1973 - THE 47th INAUGURATION**

**37th President:** Richard M. Nixon, Republican

**Date:** January 20, 1973

**Location:** East portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Warren Burger

**Weather:** 42 degrees, chilling wind

One month after the Christmas bombing of North Vietnam, fifteen thousand youthful demonstrators congregated at the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument to protest the policies of the Nixon administration -- and 80 Congressmen boycotted the inaugural ceremonies

-- as Nixon entered his second term. Chief Justice Warren Burger administered the oath of office. Troops cordoned off the parade route from anyone not bearing government credentials, and Air Force jets stood ready at nearby bases to intercept any plane that seemed about to fly over Pennsylvania Avenue. But in the face of these extraordinary precautions, Nixon was in a buoyant mood, and refused to wear a coat to the inauguration. As the temperature dropped, one was procured from a Secret Service agent, and it is now a part of the Smithsonian's collection. There were five inaugural balls held in honor of the President's second inauguration.

## **1977 - THE 48th INAUGURATION**

**39th President:** Jimmy Carter, Democrat

**Date:** January 20, 1977

**Location:** East portico of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Warren Burger

**Weather:** 28 degrees, sunny, wind chill in the teens

At the Plains, Georgia, train station, Jimmy Carter bid goodbye to nearly 400 of his neighbors who leased a special Amtrak train called "The Peanut Special" for the journey to Washington. On the eve of the inauguration, the Carter family attended a Kennedy Center concert where Shirley MacLaine, Leonard Bernstein, James Dickey, John Wayne, Aretha Franklin and John Lennon contributed to the festivities.

At 8 a.m. on inauguration morning, a prayer service was held on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Ten thousand people attended the service, but Mr. Carter opted to worship at Washington's First Baptist Church. Later in the morning, the Carters were invited to the Blue Room of the White House for coffee with the President and Mrs. Ford.

On the gleaming inaugural platform the temperature was below freezing as the formal events commenced, but an audience of 150,000 braved the chill and gathered on the lawn of the Capitol. Senator Walter Mondale requested that Speaker Tip O'Neill administer the Vice Presidential oath of office. Then it was Mr. Carter's turn: he was sworn in by Chief Justice Warren Burger with Rosalynn Carter holding the family Bible. The new President began his inaugural address by thanking President Ford "for all he has done to heal our land." He also spoke of the need for recognizing limits and honoring individual human rights.

Perhaps the highlight of the day came when the presidential limousine stopped at Constitution Avenue, where the new President and his wife stepped out and began to walk at the head of the inaugural parade down Pennsylvania Avenue, following the example of Thomas Jefferson. 250,000 spectators watched the Carters, joined on foot by daughter Amy and other members of the Carter clan, as they walked to the White House. From a solar-heated reviewing stand, the Carters watched for two hours as the rest of the parade -- 170 floats, bands and marching groups -- passed by.

In keeping with the theme of a "people's inauguration," the seven inaugural balls were called "parties." The Carters attended each event, and the President noted that Rosalynn had opted to wear the same blue satin gown that she had worn for his gubernatorial inauguration, six years earlier. Populist sentiments also inspired a number of smaller events around the Mall which were open to the public.

In the course of the day, the President's mother, Mrs. Lillian Carter, remarked, "I don't like everybody calling him (Jimmy) Mr. President." And the raffish Billy Carter, who had promised his presidential brother not to get arrested during the celebration concluded that, "One day in Washington is enough."

## **1981 - THE 49th INAUGURATION**

**40th President:** Ronald Reagan, Republican

**Date:** January 20, 1981

**Location:** West Front of Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice Warren Burger

**Weather:** 55 degrees, mostly cloudy

Amid international drama unmatched in 48 previous American inaugurations, Ronald Wilson Reagan became the 40th President of the United States on a day that merged chiming church bells and blazing fireworks for the new President's inauguration into a national celebration of freedom for the 52 American hostages released after 444 days of captivity in Iran.

The hostages, whose 14 months of captivity had been a central point of contention in the bitterly fought 1980 election campaign, flew out of Iran at 12:25 EST, at almost the same time President Reagan was concluding his inaugural address outside the U.S. Capitol.

But the new President made no reference to the hostages or their long awaited release. Instead, Reagan repeated familiar economic and patriotic themes from his campaign speeches, emphasizing the need to tame an overgrown federal government and bring inflation and unemployment under control. In keeping with Reagan's campaign promises to pull the American people out of hard times, his first inauguration turned out to be a luxurious display of opulence rivaling Britain's royal wedding. Later criticisms of the cost of the festivities -- an estimated \$16 million dollars -- caused the President to tone down the celebration considerably the second time around.

Promising to begin an "era of national renewal" by dealing promptly with an "economic affliction of great proportions," Reagan declared: "In the present crisis, government is not the solution to the problem; government is the problem...it is my intention to curb the size and influence of the federal government."

Dressed in a charcoal gray club coat, striped trousers, and gray vest, Reagan took the oath of office three minutes before noon on the West Front of the Capitol overlooking the Mall and monuments to Washington, Lincoln and Jefferson. It was the first inaugural ever enacted on the western front.

Buoyant and ruddy-cheeked at 69, Mr. Reagan became the oldest man ever to be sworn in as President. The 56-year-old Jimmy Carter, who stood behind Mr. Reagan, looked tired and haggard after spending two sleepless nights in a last effort to resolve the hostage crisis. Carter would leave Washington immediately following the inaugural ceremonies for his home in Plains, Georgia.

The following day, Carter flew to Weisbaden, West Germany to greet the released hostages as the personal emissary of President Reagan.

The winter day turned balmy with blue skies and temperatures in the 50s, making it one of the warmest inauguration days on record. It began with a prayer service at St. John's Episcopal Church, just across Lafayette Park from the White House. Mrs. Reagan, in a bright red coat and hat, drew great attention, as she had at other events preceding the inaugural ceremony.

At a traditional tea held by the President for the President-elect before the inauguration, the campaign animosity between Reagan and President Carter seemed to have vanished. President Carter expressed his gratitude for Reagan's support during the final hours of the hostage

negotiations. Then the two rode together up Pennsylvania Avenue to the Capitol where the US Marine Band played "Hail to the Chief" one final time for President Carter. But it was the pageantry greeting the new President that stirred the vast crowd that packed the Capitol grounds.

Vice President Bush took the oath of office first, placing his hand on a Bible held by his wife, Barbara, as Associate Justice Potter Stewart administered the oath. Then, with his hand placed on a bible owned by his mother and held by his wife, Nancy, Mr. Reagan repeated the Presidential oath of office administered by Chief Justice Warren Burger. Reagan then kissed his wife, shook hands with the Chief Justice, and also waved to the cheering crowd.

## **1985 - THE 50th INAUGURATION**

**40th President:** Ronald Reagan, Republican

**Date:** January 20 and 21, 1985

**Location:** Capitol Rotunda

**Oath:** Chief Justice Warren Burger

**Weather:** 7 degrees, sunny, wind chill 10 to 20 below

The 1985 inauguration, the nation's 50th, Washington DC's 47th, and Reagan's second, was more memorable for what did not occur than for what did. Freezing cold temperatures prompted President Reagan to personally request that the formal swearing-in ceremony be moved indoors for the first time since Franklin Roosevelt in 1945 (William Howard Taft moved the ceremony inside in 1909.) Ronald Reagan took his oath of office in the Capitol Rotunda instead of on the West Front of the Capitol steps, shutting out 140,000 guests with congressmen and dignitaries making up the bulk of the audience.

Just how cold does it have to be to cancel such a lavish event? The mercury registered seven degrees while Reagan was sworn in on Monday, January 21, 1985 breaking the 16 degree record set in March, 1873, when Ulysses Grant began his second term. In 1985, 49 deaths in 14 states were attributed to the weather, including one homeless man from Washington DC. But however historic the weather was, it could not compete with the 1841 inauguration of William Henry Harrison, in which Harrison braved the elements without a coat, catching a cold which quickly developed into pneumonia and killed him a month later.

January 20, the day mandated by the Constitution for the inauguration, fell on a Sunday in 1985, only the sixth such occurrence in presidential inaugural history. Two incoming presidents have opted to wait until Monday to be sworn in (Monroe in 1821, Taylor in 1849,) one chose Saturday (Hayes in 1877,) but more recent tradition dictates holding a private ceremony on Sunday before a more formal public event on Monday, the option chosen by Woodrow Wilson in 1917, Dwight Eisenhower in 1957 and Ronald Reagan in 1985. Unlike Eisenhower, Reagan admitted reporters to his so-called "private" ceremony.

The theme of Reagan's second inauguration was "We the People...An American Celebration." It was originally intended to have a more populist orientation than the first unabashedly opulent celebration of Reagan's arrival in Washington in 1981, itself a stark contrast to the thrift of the Carter era. The cost of the 1985 inauguration was estimated at \$20 million, and extravagance remained an issue, especially for the First Lady. At first, Mrs. Reagan called "ridiculous" reports that her outfit would cost as much as \$25,000. The actual figure turned out to be \$46,000, not including accessories. The gown later became fodder for the "Doonesbury" cartoon in 1988. Another aspect of the inaugural ceremony that generated criticism was an attempt to hire 200 non-union "attractive, clean-cut, all-American types." This proved embarrassing given Reagan's former role as president of the Screen Actors Guild, not to mention the racist undertones.

In his speech, Reagan drew on the past and looked forward to implementing the mandate he

received with his landslide election. Putting the present into historical perspective, he said, "Let history say of us, these were golden years -- when the American Revolution was reborn, when freedom gained new life and America reached her best." Describing the progress of the country under his stewardship, Reagan noted, "When I took this oath four years ago, I did so in a time of economic stress. Voices were raised saying that we had to look to our past for the greatness and the glory. But we, the present-day Americans, are not given to looking backward. In this blessed land, there is always a better tomorrow." Describing the mandate he received with his election, Reagan said, "We believed then and now there are no limits to growth and human progress when men and women are free to follow their dreams" and "We must never abuse the trust of working men and women by sending their earnings on a futile chase after the spiraling demands of a bloated Federal establishment. You elected us in 1980 to end this prescription for disaster. And I don't believe you re-elected us in 1984 to reverse course."

In addition to his emphasis on free enterprise, Reagan stressed the need for a strong defense, noting "One nation, the Soviet Union, has conducted the greatest military buildup in the history of man, building arsenals of awesome offensive weapons." His prescription for national security included reducing the need for defense by implementing the SDI program, "a security shield that will destroy nuclear missiles before they reach their target." He also pledged support for constitutional amendments to ban abortion and balance the budget.

His characteristic sense of humor and grace showed when he made a slight gaffe: reading from the speech, Reagan said, "We stand again at the steps of this symbol of our democracy" then realized that, due to the weather, they were in fact indoors, and added, "or we would've been standing at the steps if it hadn't gotten so cold. Now, we're standing inside this symbol of our democracy..."

The end of the speech evoked America's history in a dramatic fashion: "A general falls to his knees in the hard snow of Valley Forge; a lonely president paces the darkened halls and ponders, ponders his struggle to preserve the Union; the men of the Alamo call out encouragement to each other; a settler pushes west and sings a song, and the song echoes out forever and fills the unknowing air. It is the American sound: It is hopeful, big-hearted, idealistic -- daring, decent and fair. That's our heritage, that's our song. We sing it still."

Reagan reportedly went over drafts of the speech prepared by Ben Elliot, Peggy Noonan and Anthony Dolan and made additions, including the Star Wars reference, in longhand. The speech was implicitly directed to television viewers, for many in the Rotunda could not even hear. Many commentators noted the bipartisan nature of the speech. There were some echoes of Lincoln, but many noted reflections from earlier Reagan speeches, especially one made on behalf of Barry Goldwater in 1964. Sen. Joe Biden described the similarity to Kennedy's speeches. The speech was interrupted 11 times by applause.

## **1989 - THE 51st INAUGURATION**

**41st President:** George Bush, Republican

**Date:** January 20, 1989

**Location:** West Front of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist

**Weather:** 42 degrees, clear and cold

Two hundred years after George Washington first took the presidential oath of office at Federal Hall in New York City, George Bush repeated those same words, with his left hand on the same Bible, at the nation's 51st swearing-in ceremony.

His voice strong and his manner self-assured, Bush delivered his 20-minute address before tens

of thousands of people at the West Front of the Capitol, decorated to resemble the Federal Hall balcony where Washington became the nation's first president. Bush promised new efforts to heal social wounds and to end two decades of divisiveness between the White House and the Congress. In addition, he emphasized the urgency of dealing with the Federal budget deficit, and added because of that deficit, government alone can not solve all the pressing social problems.

Bush opened his speech with a tribute to Ronald Reagan for "the wonderful things that you have done for America," which drew a standing ovation on the platform and from the crowd below.

Bush also spoke of the Americans being held hostage in the Middle East, and held out the promise of an olive branch to those who help free them, and renewed the nation's commitment to keep the peace around the world.

Throughout the speech, Barbara Bush beamed, the new President's frail 87-year-old mother Dorothy watched her son impassively, and Reagan appeared to listen closely. Bush received a standing ovation at the end of the address.

Bush was sworn in three minutes after Reagan's term had officially expired. Barbara held two Bibles--one a family Bible and the other used 200 years earlier by George Washington at his swearing-in--as Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist administered the presidential oath at 12:03pm.

Shortly before Bush took the oath, Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor swore in Dan Quayle as the new Vice President. Marilyn Quayle held for him a family Bible, and together they were flanked by their three children.

Reagan, Quayle, and then Bush had been greeted by strong applause from a crowd, almost unmarked by signs of protest, as each of them emerged from the Capitol building a few minutes apart to the introduction of military trumpets, and strode down the red-carpeted steps of the West Front to the inauguration platform.

The inaugural ceremony concluded with the melancholy departure of Reagan and his wife Nancy. Bush, Quayle and their wives walked with the Reagans to the East Front of the Capitol, where a Marine helicopter was waiting to take the Reagans to Andrews Air Force Base for their flight to California.

As he stood at the door of the helicopter, Reagan smiled and gave a military salute to Bush, who saluted back in the changing of the guard. The helicopter lifted away from the Capitol, circled, and then headed towards Andrews.

Less than an hour earlier, as Reagan left the main entrance to the White House for the last time as President, he said, with Bush at his side, that his advice to Americans was to "keep the faith, just that." He said he had left a note in Bush's desk drawer offering him "very best wishes and all that sort of thing."

Then Reagan, wearing a black overcoat and white scarf, and Bush, in a blue pin-striped suit, a white shirt, and a silver tie, stepped into a new, \$600,000 armored limousine for the 1.6-mile ride via motorcade to Capitol Hill. Their wives - Barbara in a turquoise wool coat and a white wool dress designed by Bill Blass and Nancy in a high-necked, red wool coat - rode in another limousine.

The Bushes began their day at Blair House, and then attended services at St. John's Episcopal Church with family members, the Quayles, and close associates. The Bushes and the Quayles

then went to the White House, where they chatted briefly with the Reagans before leaving for the Capitol.

The 1989 inauguration was marked by festivities commemorating the bicentennial of the presidential inauguration. "George to George" was the inaugural theme.

The five-day inauguration opened Jan. 18 with a celebration at the Lincoln Memorial, attended by the Bushes and the Quayles, complete with musical entertainment, fireworks, and a military fly-over.

### **1993 - THE 52nd INAUGURATION**

**42nd President:** William Jefferson Clinton

**Date:** January 20, 1993

**Location:** West Front of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist

**Weather:** 42 degrees, clear and cold

On January 20th William Jefferson Clinton took the oath of office to become the nation's 42nd president, succeeding George Bush and giving the Democratic Party control of the White House, for the first time in 12 years.

The ceremony marked the transition of power from 68-year-old President George Bush, who had fought in World War II, to 46-year-old President Bill Clinton, the first post WWII Baby Boom president. Clinton became the third youngest U.S. president in history.

Standing in front of the Capitol's West Front before a long stretch of approximately 250,000 people, Clinton took the oath of office from Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist at 11:58 am Eastern standard time. His wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, held a King James Bible given to Clinton by his grandmother. Clinton's 12-year-old daughter, Chelsea, stood to his right. Outgoing President George Bush and Vice President Dan Quayle were both standing nearby on the podium. Despite a reputation for wordiness, Clinton delivered the third shortest address in history, 14 minutes.

The speech was reminiscent of the 1961 inaugural address of John F. Kennedy in its gestures, tone and spirit, and in it Clinton pledged a new season of American renewal. Americans have "forced the spring" and put an end to an era of deadlock and drift. "It is time to break the bad habit of expecting something for nothing from our government or from each other. Let us all take more responsibility not only for ourselves and our families but for our communities and our country."

Speaking at a time when the U.S. Troops were on active duty in Somalia and the Persian Gulf region, Clinton affirmed that the U.S. stood ready to defend its vital interest as well as "the will and conscience of the international community."

Clinton delivered his address under a clear blue sky and dispensed with his overcoat, preferring the ease of his suit and tie as the temperature hovered in the 40's.

Early on in his speech Clinton turned to Bush and saluted his predecessor, for his half-century service to America. Bush accepted a standing ovation.

Shortly before Clinton took the oath, former Tennessee Senator Al Gore, 44, had been sworn in as vice president by Justice Byron R. White. Gore's first choice to administer the oath, retired Justice Thurgood Marshall, was too ill to attend.

At the conclusion of the hour long-ceremony, Clinton escorted the Bushes', past a military honor guard to a waiting Marine Corps helicopter, on the other side of the Capitol, that would take them to Andrews Air Force Base. From there the Bushes flew to Houston, Texas where they were greeted by several hundred well-wishers and Bush told the crowd on his arrival, "All I can say is it's been a hell of a ride, and we are very lucky people."

Clinton then went inside the Capitol to sign the first official documents of his presidential term as "William J. Clinton," which included: an executive order imposing higher ethical standards on senior executive-branch officials; a second order proclaiming January 22 as "a national day of fellowship and hope"; and the formal nominating papers for his cabinet appointees.

The Clintons' began their day at Blair House, and then attended an interfaith service at the Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church in downtown Washington, marking the first time that the traditional inaugural-morning prayer service was held at a predominantly black church.

The president ended his day doing a little performing of his own at a ball for his fellow Arkansans, where he borrowed a saxophone from the rhythm-and-blues musician Ben E. King and sailed into a solo, meeting other musical celebrities approval.

The following day, the Clintons' held an open house at the White House for some 3,000 members of the public. That was twice the number expected, but all who stood in line for the event were admitted whether they had a ticket or not. The event lasted for three and half hours. Clinton shook hands with about 1,800 visitors before addressing the remainder in groups. Some 1,500 people won tickets for the Clinton open house in a post card lottery contest that drew some 90,000 entries.

The four-day inauguration opened January 17 with Clinton and Gore visiting Monticello, the home of President Thomas Jefferson. After their visit to Monticello, they led a 15-bus caravan that roughly retraced the route that Thomas Jefferson had taken in 1801 (121 miles) on his way to be sworn in to office, later ending the day leading a procession over the memorial bridge, to ring a replica Liberty Bell.

## **1997 - THE 53rd INAUGURATION**

**42nd President:** William Jefferson Clinton

**Date:** January 20, 1997

**Location:** West Front of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist

**Weather:** 43 degrees, partly cloudy

William Jefferson Clinton took the oath of office for the second time on January 20, 1997 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – becoming the first Democrat to be sworn in for second time since Lyndon Johnson.

The last inauguration of the 20th century began with cloudy skies, however at around noon, the sun began to peek out of the clouds, eventually raising the temperature to the mid 40s.

Clinton took the oath of office from Chief Justice William Rehnquist on the West Front of the Capitol using the Clinton's family bible. Shortly before, Al Gore was sworn in for a second time by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg – the second time a woman has administered the oath (Justice Sandra Day O'Connor in 1989).

After his oath, President Clinton gave a fairly short speech (22 minutes) to a crowd of under 250,000, though it wasn't as short as his 1993 remarks (14 minutes). He focused his speech on many of the themes he ran on: his "vision of a new government, a new sense of responsibility, a new sense of community."

During his remarks, Clinton noted that it was the King holiday and talked about race and prejudice. "The divide of race has been America's constant curse. Each new wave of immigrants gives new targets to old prejudices. Prejudice and contempt, cloaked in the pretense of religious or political conviction, are no different. They have nearly destroyed us in the past. They plague us still."

After his speech, Clinton lunched at the Capitol and spent a little extra time on the Hill. He began his trek up Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House an hour and 15 minutes late (around 3pm), eventually causing the parade to end after sunset.

Following the day's festivities, Clinton stopped by each of the record 14 inaugural balls, ending his day at 4am.

He began his day by attending an interfaith church service at the Metropolitan AME Church where over 2,000 people joined him for the 2-and-a-half hour service. This is the same church Clinton used in 1993, when it was the first time the inaugural prayer service was held at a predominantly black church. The Presidential Inaugural Committee chose to use the same church mainly because the inauguration shared the same date as Martin Luther King Jr. Day. At the service, Rev. Jesse Jackson spoke about King's legacy.

The official inaugural celebrations began on Saturday, January 18 with the two-day "An American Journey." The event, designed to celebrate America's history, featured seven tents along the National Mall and housed jazz singers, rock and country musicians, rural craftsmen, urban artists, interactive technology, traditional American cuisine, and regional delicacies.

The Presidential Inaugural Gala took place on Sunday the 19th at the U.S. Air Arena in Landover, Maryland. Continuing with the "An American Journey" theme, 14,000 people enjoyed the entertainment of Stevie Wonder, Trisha Yearwood, Kenny Rogers, Aretha Franklin, James Taylor, Bernadette Peters, Sandi Patti, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Kenny G, Yo-Yo Ma and the Dave Matthews Band.

## **2000 - THE 54th INAUGURATION**

**43rd President:** George W. Bush

**Date:** January 20, 2001

**Location:** West Front of the Capitol

**Oath:** Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist

**Weather:** Cold and rainy, with temperature around 35°F

On January 20<sup>th</sup> 2001, George W. Bush stood proudly at the West Front of the Capitol and promised to "work and build a single nation of justice and opportunity."

At exactly 12:02 p.m., with spirits not dampened by the raw drizzle, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist swore in George Walker Bush as the 43<sup>rd</sup> president of the United States. Although in 1989 Rehnquist repeated this solemn ceremony with the elder George Bush (41), this year his presence served as a reminder of legal battle over the presidency. Just a month prior to the Inauguration, Rehnquist had voted with the 5-4 majority of the Supreme Court in the Bush v. Gore case.

The ceremony took place before the crowd of 500,000 to 750,000 supporters, as estimated by the DC police. Nearby, separated by 16 police checkpoints, a large crowd of demonstrators also gathered, reminding supporters of the divided electorate. Receiving half-million less votes than Gore, Bush was the first president since Benjamin Harrison in 1888 to lose popular vote but win the Electoral College.

Both father and son grew misty-eyed as George W. Bush repeated the 35-word presidential oath that has been carried down without change since the 18th century. Unfortunately, the wet weather precluded Bush from using the 1767 Bible, the same one used by George Washington and George Bush Sr., to take his oath. When the U.S. Marine band burst out with “Hail to the Chief” and the Army set off a 21-gun salute on the North lawn of the Capitol, Bush 41 and Bush 43 were again moved by emotion and embraced.

“I ask you to be citizens: citizens, not spectators; citizens, not subjects; responsible citizens, building communities of service and a nation of character,” said Bush in his 14-minute speech.

Whereas the spirit of President Clinton’s inaugural addresses was that of cultural and generational change, Bush’s speech and ceremony harkened back to more traditional values. “We are guided by a power larger than ourselves who creates us equal in His image,” said Bush in his address.

Members of the first Bush administration graced the ceremony as well; Vice President Dick Cheney was sworn in only minutes before Bush, and James A. Baker III had a ringside position in the event.

Spectators and participants were treated to a lavish parade after the ceremony which George and First Lady Laura Bush enjoyed from the inside of a car that transported them down Pennsylvania Avenue. Getting out of the car once they got past the crowd of protestors, the President and First Lady walked the end of the parade route towards their new home at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

Throughout the event, former President Clinton looked on fondly as his successor spoke and the two men shook hands two times during the ceremony. Prior to the ceremony, Bush and Clinton met at the White House where they had a meeting over coffee. Having been half an hour late to meet the first President Bush in 1993, the Clintons had time for a last dance in the foyer of the White House as they waited for the younger Bush to arrive to his new home.

In his final moments in office, Clinton issued 140 pardons for everyone from his own brother to the controversial Marc Rich, who stole \$50 million from the federal government in an oil-trading scheme. Rich’s lawyer, Jack Quinn, is also the Clinton White House counsel, while Mrs. Rich has donated generously to the DNC and Hillary Clinton’s Senate campaign.

Even as the newly sworn-in President finished up his lunch in Statuary Hall in the Capitol, Clinton managed to steal the scene, or at least the news coverage. At a 90-minute rally at Andrews Air Force Base, the former President addressed the nation one last time, in a speech that was longer than Bush’s inaugural address.

“I left the White House,” said Clinton. “But I’m still here.”