INAUGURAL CEREMONY JANUARY 20, 2005

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The following is an overview of the expected order of events at the Capitol on Inauguration Day. Times are tentative and subject to change.

Beginning at 10:00 AM

The United States Naval Academy Glee Club

The United States Marine Band

Alcorn State University Concert Choir

Beginning at 11:00 AM

United States Marine Band

Musical Selection
Wintley Phipps

Musical Selection
Guy Hovis

Beginning at 11:30 AM

President Bush and Vice President Cheney will arrive appear on the West Front

The United States Marine Band

Call to Order and Welcoming Remarks
The Honorable Trent Lott, United States Senator from Mississippi

Invocation
The Rev. Dr. Louis Leon, St. John’s Church, Washington D.C.

Musical Selection
Susan Graham

Oath of Office Administered to Vice President Richard B. Cheney
by the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert

Musical Selection
Denyce Graves

Oath of Office Administered to President George W. Bush
By the Chief Justice of the United States
The Honorable William H. Rehnquist

The Inaugural Address
The President of the United States, The Honorable George W. Bush
Musical Selection – God of Our Fathers
Performed Jointly by
The United States Marine Band
The United States Army Herald Trumpets
The United States Navy Sea Chanters

Benediction
Pastor Kirbyjon H. Caldwell

The National Anthem
Technical Sergeant Bradley Bennett
The United States Air Force Band

1:00pm Joint Congressional Inaugural Committee Luncheon Chairman of the luncheon, Sen. Trent Lott of Mississippi, at Statuary Hall

INAUGURAL PARTICIPANTS
(biographical content primarily provided by the JCCIC)

The Reverend Kirbyjon Caldwell serves as Senior Pastor of the Windsor Village United Methodist Church in Houston. Faith-based community development has been a priority of Rev. Caldwell throughout his ministry. Windsor Village is home to more than 100 community outreach ministries, which deal with issues ranging from job placement and drug rehabilitation to education, health care and housing. In 2001, he performed the benediction at President Bush’s first Inaugural.

The Reverend Dr. Luis León is the fourteenth Rector of St. John's Church in Washington, DC. Since his ministry began in 1995, he has specialized in building inner city parishes through spiritual leadership, preaching, excellence in worship and liturgical music, stewardship and outreach. Prior to his time at St. John's, Rev. Leon served as Rector of Trinity Church in Wilmington, Delaware and St. Paul's Church in Paterson, New Jersey. During his tenure St. Paul's was named "Church of the Year" by the New Jersey Council of Churches in 1985. Rev. Leon began his spiritual journey when he was baptized into the Episcopal Church in Guantanamo, Cuba. He came with his sister to the United States in 1961 at the age of twelve and was supported by the Episcopal Church in Miami. In 2001, the invocation was performed by Rev. Franklin Graham, son of Rev. Billy Graham.

Denyce Graves is recognized as one of the world’s most impressive voices. She continues to garner critical acclaim in performances on four continents. Denyce Graves made her debut at the Metropolitan Opera in the 1995-96 season in the title role of Carmen. Ms. Graves appears continually in leading theaters in North America and Europe. Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, she was invited by President Bush to participate in the National Prayer Service at Washington's National Cathedral in which she sang 'America, the Beautiful' and 'The Lord's Prayer.’ In 2003 Denyce Graves was appointed as a Cultural Ambassador for the United States, and she now travels around the world on good-will missions giving special musical performances, lectures, and seminars. She is a native of Washington, D.C.

Susan Graham is an acclaimed mezzo-soprano. She has been a frequent guest at the Metropolitan Opera since her debut in 1991 and has sung leading roles in the great opera houses of the world, including the Metropolitan Opera, La Scala, Paris Opera, Royal Opera Covent
Garden and the Salzburg Festival. Ms. Graham has appeared with the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra and the St. Louis Symphony. She has collaborated often with some of the world’s most renowned conductors. Ms Graham is a native of Midland, Texas and a graduate of Manhattan School of Music. Susan Graham is a winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and the Schwabacher Award of San Francisco Opera's Merola Program.

**Wintley Phipps** has traveled the world for more than 25 years performing for U.S. Presidents, at the Vatican and audiences on five continents. His vocals of gospel acclamation have won him broad critical acclaim. Mr. Phipps was nominated for Grammy Awards in 1989 and 1989 and has made a number of television appearances throughout his career. He is the founder the U.S. Dream Academy, an online Christian academic resource.

**Guy Hovis** has entertained millions with his exceptional signing talent for more than four decades. A native of Tupelo Mississippi, Mr. Hovis was a signature performer on the Lawrence Welk show from 1970-1982. During his twelve years with the show, Mr. Hovis became an accomplished record producer and songwriter earning him a nomination for producer of the year from the Gospel Music Association. During the 1970's and 1980's Hovis’ television credits included appearances with Johnny Carson, Bob Hope, Lucille Ball, Jim Nabors, Mike Douglas, Merv Griffin, Dinah Shore. His work for various charitable organizations has garnered awards from The American Cancer Society, The March of Dimes, and Childhelp USA.

The **United States Marine Band** has been an important part of national events for more than two centuries. It has preformed for every Presidential Inauguration since Thomas Jefferson’s in 1801. This is its 51st consecutive performance. Established in 1798, the Marine Band is America's oldest professional musical organization. Its primary mission is to provide music for the President of the United States and the Commandant of the Marine Corps. The played their first Inauguration in 1801 for President Thomas Jefferson who gave the band the title, “The President’s Own.” John Philip Sousa was the 17th director of the band. Many of his now famous marches were written during his tenure and first performed by the Marine Band. The Band performs across the country and around the world. Lieutenant Colonel Michael J. Colburn is the current and 27th director of the Band.

The **United States Naval Academy Men's Glee Club** is the largest and most active of the Naval Academy's musical organizations. They have appeared numerous television shows and specials including The Kennedy Center Honors. They participate in annual performances of Handel's Messiah, which have been broadcast over public television stations throughout the country. They have performed choral masterpieces with the Naval Academy Women's Glee Club and the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra.

The **United States Naval Academy Women's Glee Club** was founded in 1976, when women first entered the Naval Academy. This exciting ensemble has performed across America and internationally including the nationally televised "Christmas in Washington." The Women's Glee Club's diverse repertoire includes folk songs, patriotic compositions, popular music and Broadway tunes.

The **United States Navy Sea Chanters** are an 18-voice chorus of the United States Navy Band in Washington, D.C. They perform a variety of music ranging from traditional choral music to Broadway musicals. Formed in 1956 as an all male choral group, female voices were added in 1980, and the chorus' repertoire expanded. The Sea Chanters, are led by Senior Chief Musician Russell J. Rathier and musical director, Chief Musician Keith D. Hinton. They appear throughout the United States and often perform at the White House, the Vice President's residence and for other Washington events.
The Alcorn State University Concert Choir is comprised of 48 music majors attending Alcorn State University in Mississippi. The band is from JCCIC Chairman Trent Lott’s home state. These talented signers perform a wide variety of choral music at the premier level. They are known for their traditional choral music and gospel spirituals. A disciplined singing group with high musical standards, they were a featured performer at Walt Disney World’s Music Week in 2004. Many of the choir members have gone on to successful careers in music including playing leading roles in opera houses around the world. They are directed by Dr. David Blackburn.

The United States Army Herald Trumpets were formed in 1959 by Gilbert Mitchell and Bramwell Smith; who were executive officers of the “Pershing’s Own,” U.S. Army Band. Musicians who play in the section have backgrounds in trumpet, trombone and other brass instruments. For more than 40 years the Herald Trumpets have played opening fanfares for heads of state and other dignitaries. The group has also performed during the opening of the Olympic Summer Games. They are a fixture of White House State visit and Presidential events.

Technical Sergeant Bradley Bennett, United States Air Force, is a tenor vocalist and member of the Singing Sergeants. Sgt. Bennett is a native of Kent, Ohio, and his Air Force career began in 2000. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in music specializing in vocal performance from Kent State University in 1996. He is the two-time winner of the Tuesday Music Club’s scholarship competition and the recipient of the Irene Beamer Memorial Scholarship. He is the first Air Force performer to fill this role at a Presidential Inauguration.

The United States Air Force Band is the Air Force's premier musical organization. For more than 60 years it has entertained audiences through its engaging concerts and masterful recordings. The band has earned a reputation as "America's International Musical Ambassadors." Over the years components of the Band have journeyed to Europe, South America, Asia and the Middle East, performing in over 50 countries and 42 world capitals. These international performances have imparted firsthand insight into America's culture and fostered a solid foundation for better understanding among the citizens of the world. Through these and similar efforts, The United States Air Force Band stands as one of the most potent instruments of goodwill at the command of the American people.

THE PRESIDENTIAL OATH

Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist will administer the presidential oath of office to George W. Bush. [Bible info to come] This is the fifth time Chief Justice Rehnquist will administer the presidential oath (George H.W. Bush in 1989, Bill Clinton in 1993 & 1997 and George W. Bush in 2001). As stated in Article II, Section I of the United States Constitution it reads:

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

On occasion, this oath has been amplified. In 1957, for example, President Eisenhower inserted "Dwight D. Eisenhower," after the first "I" and added "So help me God" at the end of the oath. Most other recent Presidents have added "So help me God," which, while not in the oath required by the Constitution, is found in the oath specified by statute for other major federal office holders, including the Vice President.

So far, at least, of all the incoming Presidents, only Franklin Pierce (1853) has chosen to exercise the constitutional option to "affirm" rather than "swear."
It is legal for anyone authorized to hear oaths to administer the oath to a president. In 1923, John Coolidge, a justice of the peace, swore in his son Calvin in the lamplight of his Vermont farmhouse, after Warren Harding's death. In 1963, Sarah Hughes, a U.S. District Judge, administered the oath to Lyndon Johnson aboard Air Force One at Dallas's Love Field, following the assassination of John F. Kennedy. But the custom under normal conditions is for the Chief Justice of the United States to perform the function.

Oliver Ellsworth was the first Chief Justice to swear in a President -- John Adams in 1797. Chief Justice John Marshall officiated more than anyone else -- nine times for five Presidents. Chief Justice Roger B. Taney ("Tawney") administered the oath to more Presidents, though -- seven.

According to the 20th amendment of the Constitution, the president's term of office ends on January 20th at noon. It is the consensus of constitutional law experts that the new president's term of office begins immediately at that point, even if he is late in taking the oath of office. However, he may not take any official action as president until he has been sworn in.

**THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL OATH**

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Dennis Hastert, will administer the vice presidential oath to Dick Cheney.

**House Speaker Dennis Hastert**, 63, a Representative from Illinois; born in Aurora, Kane County, Ill., January 2, 1942; B.A., Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill., 1964; M.S., Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Ill., 1967; teacher and athletic coach at Yorkville High School; business owner; member of the Illinois state house of representatives, 1980-1986; elected as a Republican to the One Hundredth and to the nine succeeding Congresses (January 3, 1987-present); Hastert was tapped after Speaker-designate Bob Livingston resigned from the House over extra-marital affairs and was officially selected on December 19, 1998. Married to Jean, sons Ethan and Joshua.

There have only been three other such occasions where the Speaker of the House swore in a Vice President:
1. On January 20, 1961, Sam Rayburn swore in Lyndon Baines Johnson as John F. Kennedy's VP. Rayburn was Speaker of the House from 1940-1961 with the exception of 1947-1949 and 1953-1955 when Republicans were in control and he served as Minority Leader.

Chief Justice William Rehnquist delivered Cheney the oath in 2001, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg administered the oath to Vice President Al Gore in 1997, Justice Byron White in 1993, and Justice Sandra Day O'Connor administered the oath to Vice President Quayle in 1989. The vice presidential oath is the same oath administered to members of Congress, commissioned officers of the armed forces and high officials of the executive branch.

The text reads as follows:

"I...do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same, that I will take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter."
The Constitution is quite specific about the need for the president to take his oath of office before exercising the powers of that office. It does not prescribe an oath for anybody else, and it took Congress six months at its first session in 1789 to get around to writing an oath for the rest of the federal government, including its own members. In an act of June 1, 1789, it did so, and the oath was short and sweet: "I.....do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States."

On June 3, John Adams, who had served as vice president since April, took the oath. So, presumably, around that time, did Congress, cabinet officers, admirals and generals as well as ensigns and lieutenants. It was the oath taken by all other vice presidents through Lincoln's first, Hannibal Hamlin.

In 1862 Congress rewrote the oath to exclude anybody who had given "aid, countenance, counsel or encouragement to persons engaged in armed hostilities" against the federal government.

Andrew Johnson was the only vice president who took that oath. In 1868, Congress rewrote the oath in its final form, as it is taken today by members of Congress, commissioned officers of the armed forces and high officials of the executive branch, including the vice president.

**LOGISTICAL LAYOUT**

The platform will accommodate approximately 1,000 people. George W. Bush, Dick Cheney, their immediate families, members of the Supreme Court, the Congress, Governors, Cabinet designees, invited guests and diplomats will all be seated on the platform.

The lectern, where Bush gives his inaugural address, will be in front of the platform. Looking out to the left of the inaugural stand, will be an enclosed multi-level platform for television cameras and reporters. On the right, a smaller stand will be used for radio and other reporters. Pool cameras face the center of the inaugural stand about 30 yards back.

Immediately in front of the podium, on the ground, will be the U.S. Marine Band which will perform the musical prelude. The seating area begins just beyond the band. Reporters will be seated up front followed by folding chairs for invited guests. Approximately 40,000 folding chairs will accommodate the seated guests and another 200,000 will stand on a stretch of area beyond that and on the mall. The total number of ticketed spectators is expected to be 250,000.
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS

The inaugural address is a custom, not a constitutional requirement, but it dates back to the beginning of the Republic when George Washington delivered the first inaugural speech to Congress in the Senate Chamber of New York City's Federal Hall, in 1789.

Since that first speech, more than 100,000 words have been delivered by incoming presidents with an average speech of about 2,400 words. John Adams (1797) holds the record for the longest sentences, including one which began by praising his predecessor and moved on for 730 words to a general declaration of principle. Dwight Eisenhower had the shortest sentences, but the single shortest sentence -- two words -- was spoken by William McKinley, in 1901, in describing the Spanish American War: "It came."

Republican presidents generally speak longer than Democratic ones -- on average, over 700 words more. The longest speech of all was by William Henry Harrison (1841), who as a result of it also served the shortest term. The speech was 8,445 words long and took Harrison two hours to deliver, not counting a pause toward the end to take the oath of office. He used the personal pronoun "I" forty-five times, a record use. (The only President who did not use "I" in his inaugural address was Theodore Roosevelt.) The shortest speech, only 135 words -- including "My fellow citizens" at the start -- was given by George Washington at his second inauguration in 1793. Franklin Pierce delivered his speech from memory, in 1853.

James Monroe delivered his address out of doors, thus it became the first to be heard by ordinary citizens, although, for well over a century, there was often difficulty in actually hearing the speeches. The first electronically-amplified speech was by Warren Harding, in 1921, and the first recorded speech was by William McKinley, in 1897. The first inaugural to be broadcast on radio was Calvin Coolidge's in 1925; the first televised speech was by Harry Truman in 1949.

Following are some of the more memorable highlights of inaugural addresses since 1789.

HIGHLIGHTS OF PAST INAUGURAL ADDRESSES

George Washington - First inaugural address. New York City, April 30, 1789.

"No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand, which conducts the affairs of men more than the people of the United States.

"Every step, by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation, seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency. And, in the important revolution, just accomplished in the system of united government, the tranquil deliberations and voluntary consent of so many distinct communities, from which the event has resulted, cannot be compared with the means by which most governments have been established, without some return of pious gratitude along with humble anticipation of the future blessings which the past seems to presage."

John Adams - Philadelphia, March 4, 1797.

"Employed in the service of my country abroad during the whole course of these transactions (the formative period 1777-1787), I first saw the Constitution of the United States in a foreign country. Irritated by no literary altercation, animated by no public debate, heated by no party animosity, I read it with great satisfaction, as the result of good heads prompted by good hearts; an experiment better adapted to the genius, character, situation, and relations of this nation and country than any which had ever been proposed or suggested."
What other form of government, indeed can so deserve our esteem and love?...

**Thomas Jefferson - First inaugural address, Washington, D.C., March 4, 1801.**

"We are all Republicans -- we are all Federalists. If there be any among us who would wish to dissolve this union or to change its republican form, let them stand undisturbed as monuments of the safety with which error of opinion may be tolerated where reason is left free to combat it.

It is proper you should understand what I deem the essential principle of our government...Equal and exact justice to all men, or whatever state or persuasion, religious or political; peace, commerce and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with none."

**James Madison, Second inaugural address, Washington, March 4, 1813.**

"As the war (1812) was just in its origin and necessary and noble in its object, we can reflect with a proud satisfaction that in carrying it on no principle of justice, no usage of civilized nations, no precept of courtesy or humanity, have been infringed."

**James Monroe, Second inaugural address, Washington, D.C., March 5, 1821.**

"The movements of a great nation are connected in all their parts. If errors have been committed they ought to be corrected; if the policy is sound, it ought to be supported. It is by thorough knowledge of the whole subject that our fellow-citizens are enabled to judge correctly of the past and to give a proper direction to the future."

**Andrew Jackson, Second inaugural address, Washington, D.C., March 4, 1833.**

"...In the domestic policy of this government, there are two objects which especially deserve the attention of the people and their representatives, and of which have been and will continue to be the subjects of my increasing solicitude. They are the preservation of the rights of several states and the integrity of the Union.

The time at which I stand before you is full of interest. The eyes of all nations are fixed on our Republic. The event of the existing crisis will be decisive in the opinion of mankind of the practicability of our federal system of government. Great is the stake placed in our hands; great is the responsibility which must rest upon the people of the United States... Let us exercise forbearance and firmness. Let us extricate our country from the dangers which surround it, and learn wisdom from the lessons they inculcate."

**Abraham Lincoln, Second inaugural address, Washington D.C., March 4, 1865.**

"Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondsman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until very drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn by the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said that the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

**With malice towards none, with charity for all,** with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace amount ourselves and all nations."

"...Our relations with the other powers of the world are important; but still more important are our relations among ourselves. Such growth in wealth, in population, and in power, as a nation has seen during a century and a quarter of its national life, is inevitably accompanied by a like growth in the problems which are ever before every nation that rises to greatness. Power both means inevitable responsibility and danger. Our forefathers faced certain perils which we have outgrown. We now face perils the very existence of which it was impossible that they should foresee..." 


"...This is not a day of triumph; it is a day of dedication. Here muster, not the forces of a party, but the forces of humanity. Men's hearts wait upon us; men's lives hang in the balance; men's hopes call upon us to say what we will do. We shall live up to the great trust. Who dares fail to try?

I summon all honest men, all patriotic, all forward-looking men to my side. God helping me, I will not fail them, if they will but counsel and sustain me!..."

Herbert Hoover - Washington, D.C., March 4, 1929.

"...Self-government can only succeed through an instructed electorate. Our objective is not simply to overcome illiteracy. The nation has marched far beyond that... We cannot hope to succeed in directing this increasingly complex civilization unless we can draw all the talent of leadership from the whole people. One civilization after another has been wrecked upon the attempt to secure sufficient leadership from a single group or class. We constantly refresh our leadership with the ideals of our people, we must draw constantly from the mass. The opportunity for every boy or girl to rise through the selective processes of education can alone secure to us this leadership..."

Franklin D. Roosevelt - First inaugural address, Washington, D.C., March 3, 1933.

"...First of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing to fear is fear itself -- nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.

Our greatest primary task is to put people to work. This is no unsolvable problem if we face it wisely and courageously. It can be accomplished in part by direct recruiting by the government itself, treating the task as we would treat the emergency of war, but at the same time, through this employment, accomplishing greatly needed projects to stimulate and reorganize the use of our natural resources."


"...In this nation I see tens of millions of its citizens -- a substantial part of its whole population -- who at this very moment are denied the greater part of what the very lowest standards of today call the necessities of life.

I see millions of families trying to live on incomes so meager that the pall of family disaster hangs over them day by day.
I see millions whose daily lives in city and farm continue under conditions labeled indecent by so-called polite society half a century ago..."
I see one-third of a nation ill-housed, ill-clad, ill-nourished. It is not in despair that I paint you this picture. I paint it for you in hope -- because the nation, seeing and understanding the injustice in it, proposes to paint it out...

"If I know aught of the spirit and purpose of our nation, we will not listen to Comfort, Opportunism, and Timidity. We will carry on."


"...The United States and other like-minded nations find themselves directly opposed by a regime with contrary aims and a totally different concept of life.

That regime adheres to a false philosophy which purports to offer freedom, security, and greater opportunity to mankind. Misled by this philosophy, many people have sacrificed their liberties only to learn to their sorrow that deceit and mockery, poverty and tyranny are their reward.

That false philosophy is communism.

Communism is based on the belief that man is so weak and inadequate that he is unable to govern himself, and therefore requires the rule of strong masters.

Democracy is based on the conviction that man has the moral and intellectual capacity, as well as the inalienable right, to govern himself with reason and justice..."


"...No people can live to itself alone. The unity of all who dwell in freedom is their only sure defense... Not even America's prosperity could long survive if other nations did not prosper. No nation can longer be a fortress, lone and strong and safe. Any people, seeking such shelter for themselves, can now build only their own prison..."


"...Let the world go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch passed to a new generation of American -- born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by a hard and bitter peace, proud of our ancient heritage -- and unwilling to witness or permit the slow undoing of those human rights to which this Nation has always been committed, and to which we are committed today at home and abroad.

Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe in order to assure the success and survival of liberty in the world. In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility -- I welcome it. I do not believe that any of us would exchange places with any other people of any other generation. The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it -- and the glow from that fire can truly light the world.

And so my fellow Americans: Ask not what your country can do for you -- ask what you can do for your country."

"... I do not believe that the great Society is the ordered, changeless, and sterile battalion of the ants.

It is the excitement of becoming -- always becoming, trying, probing, falling, resting, and trying again -- but always trying and always gaining...

Our enemies have always made the same mistake. In my lifetime -- in depression and in war -- they have awaited our defeat. Each time, from the secret places of the American heart, came forth the faith they could not see or that they could not even imagine. It brought us victory. And it will again.

For this is what American is all about. It is the uncrossed desert and the unclimbed ridge. It is the star that is not reached and the harvest sleeping in the unplowed ground..."


"...In these difficult years, America has suffered from a fever of words; from inflated rhetoric that promised more than it can deliver; from angry rhetoric that fans discontents into hatreds; from bombastic rhetoric that postures instead of persuading.

We cannot learn from one another until we stop shouting at each other -- until we speak quietly enough so that our words can be heard as well as our voices...."


"... You have given me a great responsibility -- to stay close to you, to be worthy of you, and to exemplify what you are. Let us create together a new national spirit of unity and trust. Your strength can compensate for my weakness, and your wisdom can help to minimize my mistakes..."


"...Well, this administration's objective must be a healthy, vigorous, growing economy that provides equal opportunities for all Americans with no barriers born of bigotry or discrimination. Putting America back to work means putting all Americans back to work. Ending inflation means freeing all Americans from the terror of runaway living costs. All must share in the productive work of this new beginning, and all must share in the bounty of a revived economy. With the idealism and fair play which are the core of our system and our strength, we can have a strong, prosperous America at peace with itself and the world...

...It is my intention to curb the size and influence of the Federal establishment and to demand recognition of the distinction between the powers granted to the Federal government and those reserved to the states or to the people. All of us need to be reminded that the Federal government did not create the states; the states created the Federal government.

Now so there will be no misunderstanding, it is not my intention to do away with government. It is rather to make it work -- work with us, not over us; to stand by our side, not ride on our back. Government can and must provide opportunity, not smother it; foster productivity, not stifle it...

...on the far shore the sloping hills of Arlington National Cemetery with its row upon row of simple white markers bearing crosses or Stars of David. They add up to only a tiny fraction of the price that has been paid for our freedom.
Each one of those markers is a monument to the kind of hero I spoke of earlier. Their lives ended in places called Belleau Wood, The Argonne, Omaha Beach, Salerno and halfway round the world on Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Pork Chop Hill, The Chosin Reservoir, and in a hundred rice paddies and jungles of a place called Vietnam.

Under such a marker lies a young man -- Martin Treptow -- who left his job in a small town barber shop in 1917 to go to France with the famed Rainbow Division. There, on the Western Front, he was killed trying to carry a message between battalions under heavy artillery fire.

We are told that on his body was found a diary. On the flyleaf under the heading, "My Pledge," he had written these words: "America must win this war. Therefore I will work, I will save, I will sacrifice, I will endure, I will fight cheerfully and do my utmost, as if the issue of the whole struggle depended on me alone."

The crisis we are facing today does not require of us the kind of sacrifice that Martin Treptow and so many thousands of others were called upon to make. It does, however, require our best effort, and our willingness to believe in ourselves and to believe in our capacity to perform great deeds; to believe that together and with God's help we can and will resolve the problems which confront us..."


"...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 glory. But we, the present-day Americans, are not given to looking backward. In this blessed land, there is always a better tomorrow...

...We believed then [1980] and now [1985] there are no limits to growth and human progress when men and women are free to follow their dreams. And we were right to believe that. Tax rates have been reduced, inflation cut dramatically and more people are employed than ever before in our history...

...My fellow citizens, our nation is poised for greatness. We must do what we know is right and do it with all our might. 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...

...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...

...Today we utter no prayer more fervently than the ancient prayer for peace on earth. Yet history has shown that peace does not come, nor will our freedom be preserved, by good will alone. There are those in the world who scorn our vision of human dignity and freedom. One nation, the Soviet Union, has conducted the greatest military buildup in the history of man, building arsenals of awesome offensive weapons.

We've made progress in restoring our defense capability. But much remains to be done. There must be no wavering by us, nor any doubts by others, that America will meet her responsibilities to remain free, secure, and at peace...

...I have approved a research program to find, if we can, a security shield that will destroy nuclear missiles before they reach their target. It wouldn't kill people, it would destroy weapons.
It wouldn't militarize space, it would help demilitarize the arsenals of earth. It would render nuclear weapons obsolete. We will meet with the Soviets hoping that we can agree on a way to rid the world of the threat of nuclear destruction...

...History is a ribbon, always unfurling; history is a journey. And as we continue on our journey we think of those who traveled before us. We stand again at the steps of this symbol of our democracy, 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, and we see and hear again the echoes of our past.

A general falls to his knees in the hard snow of Valley Forge; a lonely President paces the darkened halls and powers, 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...

George Bush - Washington, D.C., January 20, 1989 – (2,283 words)

"There is a man here who has earned a lasting place in our hearts and in our history. President Reagan, on behalf of our nation I thank you for the wonderful things that you have done for America...

We meet on democracy's front porch, a good place to talk as neighbors and as friends. For this is a day when our nation is made whole, when our differences for a moment are suspended...

I come before you and assume the Presidency at a moment rich with promise. We live in a peaceful, prosperous time but we can make it better. For a new breeze is blowing and a world refreshed by freedom seems reborn; for in man's heart, if not in fact, the day of the dictator is over. The totalitarian era is passing, its old ideas blown away like leaves from an ancient, lifeless tree.

A new breeze is blowing - and a nation refreshed by freedom stands ready to push on. There's new ground to be broken and new action to be taken. There are times when the future seems thick as a fog; you sit and wait, hoping the mist will lift and reveal the right path...

No President, no government can teach us to remember what is best in what we are. But if the man you have chosen to lead this Government can help make a difference, if he can celebrate the quieter, deeper successes that are made not of gold and silk but of better hearts and finer souls; if he can do these things, then he must.

America is never wholly herself unless she is engaged in high moral principle. We as a people have such a purpose today. It is to make kinder the face of the nation and gentler the face of the world...

And I am speaking of a new engagement in the lives of others - a new activism, hands-on and involved, that gets the job done. We must bring in the generations, harnessing the unused talent of the elderly and the unfocused energy of the young. For not only leadership is passed from generation to generation, but so is stewardship. And the generation born after the Second World War has come of age.

I've spoken of a thousand points of light - of all the community organizations that are spread like stars throughout the nation doing good. We will work hand in hand, encouraging, sometimes
leading, sometimes being led, rewarding...The old ideas are new again because they're not old, they are timeless: duty, sacrifice, commitment, and a patriotism that finds its expression in taking part and pitching in...

We need compromise; we've had dissension. We need harmony; we've had a chorus of discordant voices. For Congress, too, has changed in our time. There's grown a certain divisiveness. We've seen the hard looks and heard the statements in which not each other's ideas are challenged, but each other's motives. And our great parties have too often been far apart and untrusting of each other...

To my friends - and yes, I do mean friends - in the loyal opposition - and yes, I mean loyal - I put out my hand...

The American people await action. They didn't send us here to bicker. They asked us to rise above the merely partisan. In crucial things, unity - and this my friends, is crucial.

To the world, too, we offer new engagement and a renewed vow: We will stay strong to protect the peace. The 'offered hand' is a reluctant fist; but the fist, once made, is strong and can be used with great effect...

Some see leadership as high drama, and the sound of trumpets calling. And sometimes it is that. But I see history as a book with many pages - and each day we fill a page with acts of hopefulness and meaning.

The new breeze blows, a page turns, the story unfolds - and so today a chapter begins: a small and stately story of unity, diversity and generosity - shared and written together..."

**Bill Clinton - Washington, D.C., January 20, 1993 - (1,507 words)**

"My fellow citizens: Today we celebrate the mystery of American renewal. This ceremony is held in the depth of winter. But, by the words we speak and the faces we show the world, we force the spring. A spring reborn in the world's oldest democracy, that brings forth the vision and courage to reinvent America.

When our Founders boldly declared America's independence to the world and our purposes to the Almighty, they knew that America, to endure, would have to change. Not change for change's sake, but change to preserve America's ideals -- life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness. Though we march to the music of our time, our mission is timeless. Each generation of Americans must define what it means to be an American...

Today, a generation raised in the shadows of the Cold War assumes new responsibilities in a world warmed by the sunshine of freedom but threatened still by ancient hatreds and new plagues...

Thomas Jefferson believed that to preserve the very foundations of our nation, we would need dramatic change from time to time. Well, my fellow citizens, this is our time. Let us embrace it. Our democracy must be not only the envy of the world but the engine of our own renewal. There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America. And so today, we pledge an end to the era of deadlock and drift -- a new season of American renewal has begun...

To renew America, we must be bold. We must do what no generation has had to do before. We must invest more in our own people, in their jobs, in their future, and at the same time cut our
massive debt. And we must do so in a world in which we must compete for every opportunity. It will not be easy; it will require sacrifice. But it can be done, and done fairly, not choosing sacrifice for its own sake, but for our own sake...

We must do what America does best: offer more opportunity to all and demand responsibility from all. 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. Americans deserve better, and in this city today, there are people who want to do better. And so I say to all of us here, let us resolve to reform our politics, so that power and privilege no longer shout down the voice of the people. Let us put aside personal advantage so that we can feel the pain and see the promise of America...

The American people have summoned the change we celebrate today. You have raised your voices in an unmistakable chorus. You have cast your votes in historic numbers. And you have changed the face of Congress, the presidency and the political process itself. Yes, you, my fellow Americans, have forced the spring. Now, we must do the work the season demands.

To that work I now turn, with all the authority of my office. I ask the Congress to join with me. But no president, no Congress, no government, can undertake this mission alone. My fellow Americans, you, too, must play your part in our renewal.

I challenge a new generation of young Americans to a season of service -- to act on your idealism by helping troubled children, keeping company with those in need, reconnecting our torn communities. There is so much to be done -- enough indeed for millions of others who are still young in spirit to give of themselves in service too. In serving, we recognize a simple but powerful truth: We need each other. And we must care for one another.

Today, we do more than celebrate America; we rededicate ourselves to the very idea of America. An idea born in revolution and renewed through two centuries of challenge. An idea tempered by the knowledge that, but for fate, we -- the fortunate and the unfortunate -- might have been each other. An idea ennobled by the faith that our nation can summon from its myriad diversity the deepest measure of unity. An idea infused with the conviction that America's long heroic journey must go forever upward...

From this joyful mountaintop of celebration, we hear a call to service in the valley. We have heard the trumpets. We have changed the guard. And now, each in our way, and with God's help, we must answer the call."

Bill Clinton – Washington, D.C., January 20, 1997 – (2,170 words)

“My fellow citizens: At this last presidential inauguration of the 20th century, let us lift our eyes toward the challenges that await us in the next century. It is our great good fortune that time and chance have put us not only on the edge of a new century, in a new millennium, but on the edge of a bright new prospect in human affairs. A moment that will define our course, and our character for decades to come. We must keep our old democracy forever young. Guided by the ancient vision of a promised land, let us set our sights upon a land of New Promise...

...At the dawn of the 21st century, a free people must choose to shape the forces of the information age and the global society, to unleash the limitless potential of all our people, and form a more perfect union...

As times change, so government must change. We need a new government for a new century, a government humble enough not to try to solve all our problems for us, but strong enough to
give us the tools to solve our problems for ourselves. A government that is smaller, lives within its means, and does more with less. Yet where it can stand up for our values and interests around the world, and where it can give Americans the power to make a real difference in their everyday lives, government should do more, not less. The preeminent mission of our new government is to give all Americans an opportunity - not a guarantee - but a real opportunity to build better lives...

...And we need a new sense of responsibility for a new century. There is work to do, work that government alone cannot do. Teaching children to read. Hiring people off welfare roles. Coming out from behind locked doors and shuttered windows to help reclaim our streets from drugs, and gangs and crime. Taking time out from our own lives to serve others.

Each and every one of us, in our own way, must assume personal responsibility - not only for ourselves and our families, but for our neighbors and our nation...

...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. They fuel the fanaticism of terror. They torment the lives of millions in fractured nations around the world.

These obsessions cripple both those who are hated, and of course those who hate. Robbing both of what they might become.

We cannot - we will not - succumb to the dark impulses that lurk in the far regions of the soul, everywhere. We shall overcome them, and we shall replace them with the generous spirit of a people who feel at home with one another...

...As this new era approaches, we can already see its broad outlines. Ten years ago, the Internet was the mystical province of physicists. Today it is a commonplace encyclopedia for millions of school children. Scientists now are decoding the blueprint of human life. Cures for our most feared illnesses seem close at hand...

...My fellow Americans, as we look back at this remarkable century, we may ask, "Can we hope not just to follow, but even to surpass the achievements of the 20th century in America and to avoid the awful bloodshed that stained its legacy?" To that question, every American here and every American in our land today must answer a resounding "Yes."

This is the heart of our task. With a new vision of government, a new sense of responsibility, a new spirit of community, we will sustain America's journey. The promise we sought in a new land we will find again in a land of new promise.

In this new land, education will be every citizen's most prized possession. Our schools will have the highest standards in the world, igniting the spark of possibility in the eyes of every girl and every boy. And the doors of higher education will be open to all.

The knowledge and power of the information age will be within reach not just to the few, but of every classroom, every library, every child. Parents and children will have time not only to work but to read and play together. And the plans they make at their kitchen table will be those of a better home, a better job, the certain chance to go to college.
Our streets will echo again with the laughter of our children because no one will try to shoot them or sell them drugs any more. Everyone who can work will work with today's permanent underclass part of tomorrow's growing middle class.

New miracles of medicine at last will reach not only those who can claim care now but the children and hardworking families too long denied. We will stand mighty for peace and freedom and maintain a strong defense against terror and destruction. Our children will sleep free from the threat of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. Ports and airports, farms and factories will thrive with trade and innovation and ideas. And the world's greatest democracy will lead a whole world of democracies.

Our land of new promise will be a nation that meets its obligations, a nation that balances its budget but never loses the balance of its values; a nation where our grandparents have secure retirement and health care, and their grandchildren know we have made the reforms necessary to sustain those benefits for their time; a nation that fortifies the world's most productive economy even as it protects the great natural bounty of our water, air, and majestic land.

And in this land of new promise we will have reformed our politics so that the voice of the people will always speak louder than the din of narrow interest, regaining the participation and deserving the trust of all Americans...

...Thirty-four years ago, the man whose life we celebrate today, spoke to us down there at the other end of this mall in words that moved the conscience of a nation. Like a prophet of old, he told of his dream that one day America would rise up and treat all its citizens as equals before the law and in the heart.

Martin Luther King's dream was the American dream. His quest is our quest -the ceaseless striving to live out our true creed.

Our history has been built on such dreams and labors, and by our dreams and labors we will redeem the promise of America in the 21st century. To that effort, I pledge all my strength and every power of my office....

...And so, my fellow Americans, we must be strong, for there is much to dare.

The demands of our time are great, and they are different. Let us meet them with faith and courage, with patience and a grateful happy heart. Let us shape the hope of this day into the noblest chapter in our history. Yes, let us build our bridge, a bridge wide enough and strong enough for every American to cross over to a blessed land of new promise.

May those generations whose faces we cannot yet see, whose names we may never know, say of us here that we led our beloved land into a new century with the American dream alive for all her children, with the American promise of a more perfect union a reality for all her people, with America's bright flame of freedom spreading throughout all the world.

From the height of this place and the summit of this century, let us go forth. May God strengthen our hands for the good work ahead, and always, always bless our America.”

George W. Bush – Washington, D.C., January 20, 2001 (1,584 words)
The speech in its entirety is below
President Clinton, distinguished guests and my fellow citizens, the peaceful transfer of authority is rare in history, yet common in our country. With a simple oath, we affirm old traditions and make new beginnings.

As I begin, I thank President Clinton for his service to our nation.

And I thank Vice President Gore for a contest conducted with spirit and ended with grace.

I am honored and humbled to stand here, where so many of America's leaders have come before me, and so many will follow.

We have a place, all of us, in a long story--a story we continue, but whose end we will not see. It is the story of a new world that became a friend and liberator of the old, a story of a slave-holding society that became a servant of freedom, the story of a power that went into the world to protect but not possess, to defend but not to conquer.

It is the American story--a story of flawed and fallible people, united across the generations by grand and enduring ideals.

The grandest of these ideals is an unfolding American promise that everyone belongs, that everyone deserves a chance, that no insignificant person was ever born. Americans are called to enact this promise in our lives and in our laws. And though our nation has sometimes halted, and sometimes delayed, we must follow no other course.

Through much of the last century, America's faith in freedom and democracy was a rock in a raging sea. Now it is a seed upon the wind, taking root in many nations.

Our democratic faith is more than the creed of our country, it is the inborn hope of our humanity, an ideal we carry but do not own, a trust we bear and pass along. And even after nearly 225 years, we have a long way yet to travel.

While many of our citizens prosper, others doubt the promise, even the justice, of our own country. The ambitions of some Americans are limited by failing schools and hidden prejudice and the circumstances of their birth. And sometimes our differences run so deep, it seems we share a continent, but not a country.

We do not accept this, and we will not allow it. Our unity, our union, is the serious work of leaders and citizens in every generation. And this is my solemn pledge: I will work to build a single nation of justice and opportunity.

I know this is in our reach because we are guided by a power larger than ourselves who creates us equal in His image.

And we are confident in principles that unite and lead us onward.

America has never been united by blood or birth or soil. We are bound by ideals that move us beyond our backgrounds, lift us above our interests and teach us what it means to be citizens. Every child must be taught these principles. Every citizen must uphold them. And every immigrant, by embracing these ideals, makes our country more, not less, American.

Today, we affirm a new commitment to live out our nation's promise through civility, courage, compassion and character.

America, at its best, matches a commitment to principle with a concern for civility. A civil society demands from each of us good will and respect, fair dealing and forgiveness.
Some seem to believe that our politics can afford to be petty because, in a time of peace, the stakes of our debates appear small.

But the stakes for America are never small. If our country does not lead the cause of freedom, it will not be led. If we do not turn the hearts of children toward knowledge and character, we will lose their gifts and undermine their idealism. If we permit our economy to drift and decline, the vulnerable will suffer most.

We must live up to the calling we share. Civility is not a tactic or a sentiment. It is the determined choice of trust over cynicism, of community over chaos. And this commitment, if we keep it, is a way to shared accomplishment. America, at its best, is also courageous.

Our national courage has been clear in times of depression and war, when defending common dangers defined our common good. Now we must choose if the example of our fathers and mothers will inspire us or condemn us. We must show courage in a time of blessing by confronting problems instead of passing them on to future generations. Together, we will reclaim America's schools, before ignorance and apathy claim more young lives.

We will reform Social Security and Medicare, sparing our children from struggles we have the power to prevent. And we will reduce taxes, to recover the momentum of our economy and reward the effort and enterprise of working Americans.

We will build our defenses beyond challenge, lest weakness invite challenge.

We will confront weapons of mass destruction, so that a new century is spared new horrors.

The enemies of liberty and our country should make no mistake: America remains engaged in the world by history and by choice, shaping a balance of power that favors freedom. We will defend our allies and our interests. We will show purpose without arrogance. We will meet aggression and bad faith with resolve and strength. And to all nations, we will speak for the values that gave our nation birth.

America, at its best, is compassionate. In the quiet of American conscience, we know that deep, persistent poverty is unworthy of our nation's promise. And whatever our views of its cause, we can agree that children at risk are not at fault.

Abandonment and abuse are not acts of God, they are failures of love. And the proliferation of prisons, however necessary, is no substitute for hope and order in our souls.

Where there is suffering, there is duty. Americans in need are not strangers, they are citizens, not problems, but priorities. And all of us are diminished when any are hopeless. Government has great responsibilities for public safety and public health, for civil rights and common schools. Yet compassion is the work of a nation, not just a government. And some needs and hurts are so deep they will only respond to a mentor's touch or a pastor's prayer. Church and charity, synagogue and mosque lend our communities their humanity, and they will have an honored place in our plans and in our laws.

Many in our country do not know the pain of poverty, but we can listen to those who do. And I can pledge our nation to a goal: When we see that wounded traveler on the road to Jericho, we will not pass to the other side.
America, at its best, is a place where personal responsibility is valued and expected. Encouraging responsibility is not a search for scapegoats, it is a call to conscience. And though it requires sacrifice, it brings a deeper fulfillment. We find the fullness of life not only in options, but in commitments. And we find that children and community are the commitments that set us free.

Our public interest depends on private character, on civic duty and family bonds and basic fairness, on uncounted, unhonored acts of decency which give direction to our freedom.

Sometimes in life we are called to do great things. But as a saint of our times has said, every day we are called to do small things with great love. The most important tasks of a democracy are done by everyone.

I will live and lead by these principles: to advance my convictions with civility, to pursue the public interest with courage, to speak for greater justice and compassion, to call for responsibility and try to live it as well.

In all these ways, I will bring the values of our history to the care of our times. What you do is as important as anything government does. I ask you to seek a common good beyond your comfort; to defend needed reforms against easy attacks; to serve your nation, beginning with your neighbor. I ask you to be citizens: citizens, not spectators; citizens, not subjects; responsible citizens, building communities of service and a nation of character.

Americans are generous and strong and decent, not because we believe in ourselves, but because we hold beliefs beyond ourselves. When this spirit of citizenship is missing, no government program can replace it. When this spirit is present, no wrong can stand against it.

After the Declaration of Independence was signed, Virginia statesman John Page wrote to Thomas Jefferson: ``We know the race is not to the swift nor the battle to the strong. Do you not think an angel rides in the whirlwind and directs this storm?"

Much time has passed since Jefferson arrived for his inauguration. The years and changes accumulate. But the themes of this day he would know: our nation's grand story of courage and its simple dream of dignity.

We are not this story's author, who fills time and eternity with his purpose. Yet his purpose is achieved in our duty, and our duty is fulfilled in service to one another.

Never tiring, never yielding, never finishing, we renew that purpose today, to make our country more just and generous, to affirm the dignity of our lives and every life. This work continues. This story goes on. And an angel still rides in the whirlwind and directs this storm.

God bless you all, and God bless America.