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The Presidential Inauguration of 2005: Basic Facts and Information on Inaugural Festivities

Tom Coipuram, Jr.
Senior Research Librarian
Information Research Division

Summary

The next presidential inauguration is set for January 20, 2005. This report provides general information and facts concerning past inaugurations and the forthcoming one, as well as historical information on the weather on inauguration day and the financing of past inaugural festivities. Also provided is information on where to obtain tickets for the inaugural festivities and how to participate in the inaugural parade, and a brief list of resources on the history of presidential inaugurations and compilations of inaugural addresses. This report will be updated as events warrant.

Presidential Inauguration

The next inauguration of the President of the United States is set for Thursday, January 20, 2005.¹ In early 2004, both the Senate and House of Representatives approved S.Con.Res. 94,² a resolution establishing the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies (JCCIC), and S.Con.Res. 93, a resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Rotunda by the JCCIC.

Inauguration Day as a Federal Holiday. According to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) website, federal employees who work “in the District of Columbia, Montgomery or Prince George’s Counties in Maryland, Arlington or Fairfax Counties in Virginia, or the cities of Alexandria or Fairfax in Virginia, and who [are] regularly

¹ The U.S. Constitution, Twentieth Amendment, “Commencement of the Terms of Office,” states, “The terms of the President and Vice President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January ...” (ratified Jan. 23, 1933).

² The authorities contained in S.Con.Res. 94 and S.Con.Res. 93 will expire at the end of the 108th Congress on Jan. 3, 2005, and are expected to be renewed when the 109th Congress convenes in Jan. 2005.

scheduled to perform non-overtime work on Inauguration Day, [are] entitled to a holiday” on Inauguration Day (January 20th of each fourth year after 1965).³

In response to a variety of questions relating to the presidential inauguration, the following selected information has been compiled: costs of recent inaugural festivities; historical facts on past presidential inaugurations and the various inaugural committees; and information on how to obtain tickets to the swearing-in ceremony, inaugural balls and galas, and how to participate in the inaugural parade.

Historical Information

Costs of Recent Inaugural Festivities. Following is information on financing of past inaugural festivities:⁴

- George W. Bush, 2001, est. \$30 million⁵
- Bill Clinton, 1997, est. \$29 million (included is the \$9 million surplus from the 1993 inauguration); 1993, est. between \$25 million and \$30 million
- George H. W. Bush, 1989, est. \$30 million
- Ronald Reagan, 1985, est. \$20 million; 1981, est. \$16.3 million
- Jimmy Carter, 1977, est. \$3.5 million
- Richard Nixon, 1973, est. \$4 million

Past Presidential Inaugurations. Historical information on past presidential inaugurations can be found at the Library of Congress website, *Presidential Inaugurations: “I Do Solemnly Swear ...,”* which is a collection of 400 selected items from each of the 63 inaugurations from George Washington’s in 1789 to George W. Bush’s in 2001. This site, at [<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/pihtml/pihome.html>], has a wealth of historical information, including

- Diaries and letters of Presidents and of those who witnessed the inaugurations
- Handwritten drafts of inaugural addresses
- Inaugural-related broadsides
- Past inaugural tickets and programs
- Inaugural prints, photographs, and sheet music
- Facts about the oaths of office, precedents, and notable events
- Bible and scripture passages for each President since George Washington

³ See OPM’s 2005 *Federal Holiday* website [<http://www.opm.gov/FEDHOL/2005.asp>]

⁴ Estimated costs through 1997 are from the 1997 Presidential Inaugural Committee and *Facts on File*, 1997.

⁵ “Bush Takes Oath of Office as 43rd U.S. President,” *Facts on File World Press Digest*, Jan. 20, 2001.

Recent Presidential Inaugurations.

- The PBS Online NewsHour website can be found at [<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/inauguration/>]. It provides historical information on past inaugurations, including a photo gallery, and inauguration fashion, plus links to President George W. Bush's 2001 inauguration.
- The National Archives and Records Administration's Clinton Inaugurations website is available at the following address: [http://clinton4.nara.gov/textonly/WH/Family/html/inauguration_history.html]. It provides information and links to Bill Clinton's 1993 and 1997 inaugurations.
- A brief history of the first presidential inauguration, including information on the tradition, language, and technology in past and current inaugurations is also available at the National Archives and Records Administration's Clinton Inauguration site at [http://clinton4.nara.gov/textonly/WH/Family/html/inauguration_history.html].

Inaugural Photographs/Images.

- The Presidential Inaugural: Documentary Photographs website of the Smithsonian Institution provides photographs of recent inaugurals (1985-1997), including photographs of inaugural festivities held at various Smithsonian Museums since 1881: [http://photo2.si.edu/inaugural/inau_top/inaugural.html].
- "I Do Solemnly Swear": A Half Century of Inaugural Images from the U.S. Senate Collection features historic engravings that depict inaugural festivities at the Capitol and around Washington, DC, from Franklin Pierce's 1853 inauguration to Theodore Roosevelt's 1905 inauguration. [http://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/art/common/slideshow/Inauguration_1905.jsp].

Inaugural Day Weather. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Eastern Regions Headquarters website, Presidential Inaugural Weather, provides numerous facts on the weather during presidential inaugurations, including normal weather for January inaugurations, extreme weather for past inaugurations, inaugural weather fact sheets, and a chart showing the inauguration day weather (with notes) for each presidential inauguration from 1798 to 1997: [http://www.erh.noaa.gov/lwx/Historic_Events/Inauguration/Inauguration.html]

Inaugural Addresses. Texts of the inaugural addresses of U.S. Presidents from George Washington to George W. Bush are available at the Avalon Project of Yale Law School website at [<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/presiden/inaug/inaug.htm>] or at the Bartleby.com website at [<http://www.bartleby.com/124/>].

Inaugural Committees, Tickets, and Parade Information

Three major committees⁶ plan and support the various inaugural activities.

Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies (JCCIC). The JCCIC, at [<http://www.inaugural.senate.gov/>], is responsible for conducting the official swearing-in ceremony of the President and Vice President at the Capitol on January 20, 2005. This committee also distributes blocks of tickets for the swearing-in ceremony to Members of both houses, and Members may decide how they wish to distribute the tickets. Detailed information about the allotments and the distribution process is to be available after the November 2004 election, and tickets are to be distributed in early January 2005. Historical information concerning the JCCIC and the names of past and current members of the committee is available at the JCCIC website. Also included is a link to “Facts & Firsts,” which provides historical information on past presidential inaugurations from George Washington to William J. Clinton. For additional information on the swearing-in ceremony, congressional offices may contact the JCCIC, Senate Russell Office Building Courtyard, Room 5, at 4-8232.

Presidential Inaugural Committee (PIC). The PIC at [<http://www.inaugural05.com>] organizes, plans, and executes most of the inaugural celebration activities, including the inaugural parade, opening ceremonies, concerts, galas, and inaugural balls. The PIC, which is directly responsible to the newly elected President and is staffed by volunteers, generally from the winning party, is to be formed shortly after the general election on November 2, 2004. All requests for ball tickets, the parade, and gala information should be referred to the PIC. The PIC, with the support of the Joint Task Force-Armed Forces Inaugural Committee (JTF-AFIC) [see below], also selects the high school and college bands that will participate in the inaugural parade. Traditionally, the bands are chosen so that each of the 50 states is represented. For additional information concerning the PIC, including the leadership of the 2005 PIC, see the White House November 19, 2004, press release⁷ or contact the PIC at 202-863-2005.

Joint Task Force - Armed Forces Inaugural Committee (JTF-AFIC). The JTF-AFIC at [<http://www.afic.army.mil/>], which is established by the Secretary of Defense, continues the tradition of military participation in the presidential inaugurations that dates back to 1789. It supports the work of both the JCCIC and the PIC. However, the JTF-AFIC only supplements support to the PIC. For example, it does not choose the groups that will take part in the inauguration, but will collect and organize applications from groups and individuals interested in participating in various inaugural events. Information concerning the inaugural parade and an online application for school bands or individuals interested in participating in the inaugural parade, including contact information (e-mail and address), is available at the “How Can I Participate?” link of the JTF-AFIC website. Applications may be submitted online (recommended) or mailed to the JTF-AFIC at the following address:

⁶ Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies (JCCIC) *Fact Sheet*, Sept. 19, 2000.

⁷ Full text of the November 19, 2004, White House press release is available at the White House website at [<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/11/20041119.html>].

Joint Task Force Armed Forces
Inaugural Committee
ATTN: Band Control
330 C Street SW, Suite 4064 A
Washington, DC 20597-5580

Tel.: 202-358-7216
E-mail: lee.packnett@fmmc.army.mil
[<http://www.afic.army.mil/>]

Inaugural Tickets, School Bands, and the Inaugural Parade.

- Detailed information about the allotments and the distribution process is to be available after the general election on November 2, 2004, but information concerning tickets for the swearing-in ceremony, which is available from the JCCIC, will not be available until early January 2005. Tickets for the inauguration balls and galas are available from the PIC (202-863-2005).
- Applications to participate in the inaugural parade are available at the “How Can I Participate?” link of the JTF-AFIC website at [<http://www.afic.army.mil/>]. Applications may be submitted online (recommended) or mailed to the JTF-AFIC at the above address. The JTF-AFIC is accepting applications now.

In past presidential inaugurations, a Senator or Representative has either nominated or recommended a school band from their state or district to the PIC for the inaugural parade. School bands, in addition to submitting an application with the JTF-AFIC, can also contact their Senators or Representatives if they are interested in participating in the parade.

Additional Sources of Information

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