

Presidential Inauguration: A Significant Event in the United States

By Mirchaye Woldeleoul

January 22, 2013



Ever since the inauguration of the first president of the United States of America, President George Washington took place on April 30, 1789, every four years an inauguration of the newly-elected president of the United States takes place on the 20th of January.



The Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies is the government body, which has been in charge of organizing the 57th inaugural celebration for quite some time, in the same manner it has been working to organize all previous inaugural celebrations that took place in the past to date. Planning of the event began several months ahead and people have been preparing themselves to attend the parade and started buying tickets well ahead of time not to miss the historic and colorful balls held in different places.

Metro stations were packed with people, vendor stands were aligned on the streets selling t-shirts, posters, wooly hats, key chains and pendants illustrating the president himself. In front of the Capital, while waiting for the program to commence, people were taking pictures and trying to keep themselves warm. “ I may be cold as hell, but it’s ok it’s worth being here” said Carla Davis, one of the many Inauguration celebration attendees.

The theme of the 57th presidential inauguration was “Faith in America’s future “as it was introduced by Charles Schumer, senior United States Senator from New York and a member of the Democratic Party. Schumer was introducing all the guest of honors, politicians including former presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton accompanied by their wives and performers as they walked down the Capital stairs greeting the public.

President Barack Obama recited the oath of office for a second time in front of the Capital after he recited it in a brief ceremony held in the White House the previous day, Sunday 20th of January. After the oath swearing, the gun salute took place followed by the President Obama’s speech. Other than speeches by civil rights activist Mrs. Evers and benedict Dr. Leon, there were also performances by R’n’b singer Beyonce Knowles and American Idol winner Kelly Clarkson. Once this part of the Inaugural

celebration was wrapped up, people headed to the parade, the second part of the celebration. The streets of Washington D.C were crowded but colorful as the people attending the celebration were walking towards the location of the parade, which the parade itself was picturesque and unforgettable. As the sun went down, men and woman were seen elegantly dressed with their lavish tuxedos and gorgeous dresses in the streets and some riding the metro heading to the Inaugural ball. Be it the oath recitation, speeches, parade or inaugural ball, America had an unforgettable inaugural celebration.