



United States Army
Warrant Officers Association

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Esteemed Members:

Happy New Year and welcome to 2025! As I write this note, we in the Virginia, Washington, DC, and Maryland areas are awaiting the arrival of ice and snow which will undoubtedly impact everyone going back to work.

Later this month on Monday, 20 January 2025, Americans will observe our 60th Presidential Inauguration. As such, I've chosen to write about Inauguration Day, held every four years to usher in the new President and Vice President of the United States. In doing my preparation, I've found some interesting history I thought worth sharing.

Every President since George Washington in 1789, has delivered an Inaugural address upon ascending to the office of President of the United States of America. On September 13, 1788, the Continental Congress declared the official day for presidential inaugurations would be March 4th, to coincide with Congress' start of the new year. However, his inauguration did not actually happen on March 4th as it was delayed until April 30th, because Congress could not count the electoral ballots. Washington also bears the distinction of being the only President to be inaugurated in two capital cities, New York City in 1789 and Philadelphia in 1793. In 1801, Thomas Jefferson was the first to be sworn in as President in Washington, D.C.

In 1849, Zachary Taylor refused to be sworn in on Inauguration Day because it was a Sunday. Since the presidency could not technically be vacant, David Atchison, the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate was sworn in as a substitute. The inscription on Atchison's gravestone states, "President of the United States for One Day."

For 148 years, the Presidential Inauguration occurred in March. This changed with the passing of the Twentieth Amendment, Presidential Term and Succession on January 23, 1933, which established the terms of the President, and the Vice President would end at noon on the 20th day of January. Four years later in 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated on 20 January, the second of his historic, four-term presidency. Every President since has been inaugurated on 20 January, unless it falls on a Sunday, then the date is the following Monday, January 21.

Other interesting Presidential Inauguration trivia includes the fact that in 1961, President John F. Kennedy was the last president to wear a top hat to the inauguration ceremony. Federal District Judge Sarah Hughes became the first and only woman to administer the oath of office to Lyndon B. Johnson on November 22, 1963, aboard Air Force One after the assassination of President Kennedy. The shortest inaugural speech lasted a mere 135 words, given by President Washington at his first inauguration and on March 4, 1841, our ninth President, William Henry Harrison, delivered the longest inauguration address on record, 8,445 words. He unfortunately died a month later of pneumonia, whom many believe was brought on by the prolonged

exposure to the cold temperatures. With January weather on our minds, President Ronald Reagan has the distinction of having both the warmest and coldest inaugurations on record. The warmest Inauguration Day was in 1981, with a tepid temperature of 55° and the coldest being 7° in 1985.

I had the pleasure of lining Pennsylvania Avenue in 1992 to watch the Presidential motorcade make its way from the Capitol to the White House and I vividly remember the throngs of Americans fervently waving US flags and a sense of utter patriotism by being one of the participants. It was an experience I'll never forget and if you ever have an opportunity to witness an Inaugural Address or parade in person, it will be a memory you will likely cherish forever.

As a reminder, the United States Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA) is currently without an Executive Director and full-time membership manager. USAWOA National Vice President, CW4 Louise Lingenfelser and I are tag teaming to cover down on all administrative and membership related issues until we can hire someone into the positions. Membership renewals and routine issues will still be taken care of, however, it may not be immediately. Louise and I can always be reached at our president@usawoa.org and vicepresident@usawoa.org emails and our phone numbers are published in every NEWSLINER. If you have a question or issue, please don't hesitate to reach out to us,

Thank you for being members of this great association. I'm looking forward to continuing to move us forward in 2025 and beyond.

Sincerely,



CW5 Michael D. Dye
National President
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