

## **Ronald Reagan Inauguration Speech News**

**Timeline:** Written on January 20th, 1981 (Tuesday), right after the inauguration speech.

President Ronald Reagan took the oath of office on Tuesday in Washington, D.C., becoming the 40th president of the United States through deliberating not mentioning the fate of the nation's hostages being held in Iran even as he delivered his inaugural address.

Mr. Reagan began his speech by addressing the current economic crisis our nation faces. He addressed the long-standing inflation issue the country is suffering from and stated that Americans can work together to create a better future for generations to come.

"They will not go away in days, weeks, or months, but they will go away," Reagan said. "They will go away because we as Americans have the capacity now, as we've had in the past, to do whatever needs to be done to preserve this last and greatest bastion of freedom."

Mr. Reagan focused his speech on forward-looking themes, such as government problems, national defense, and the power of the American people.

As Mr. Reagan delivered his speech to the American public, the 52 American hostages in Iran, who had been held captive for 14 months, were finally returning to the US following the signing of the Algiers Accords. This agreement, which led to their release, was authorized and signed by former President Jimmy Carter during the final hours of his presidency.

Before Mr. Reagan took office, Mr. Carter informed him about the release of the American hostages. However, at the time of Mr. Reagan's speech, the hostages had not yet departed from the capital of Iran. Mr. Reagan decided not to mention the hostages in his remarks.

At 2:15 P.M., the plane carrying the hostages departed from Iranian airspace, and Mr. Reagan announced this news to his audience in Statuary Hall in the Capitol. The news brought joy to the inauguration celebration.

## **Obama Inauguration Speech News**

**Timeline:** Written on Tuesday January 20, 2009.

Barack Obama took the oath of office Tuesday, becoming the nation's first Black president, addressing the crises facing the nation and stressing the importance of citizens participating in the recovery.

As Obama walked up to the podium, the crowd cheered him by shouting “Obama” numerous times. This crowd was by far the largest for an inauguration speech in the history of the United States.

After acknowledging the contributions of previous presidents, Obama mentioned the economy being badly weakened and healthcare being too costly. Despite those difficulties, however, Obama insisted that his election represented the triumph of hope over fear, and he urged Americans to sustain that hope.

Obama said that the crisis the nation is facing is a reminder that the country needs a watchful eye because the market can spin out of control easily.

“The nation cannot prosper long when it favors only the prosperous,” Obama said. “The success of our economy has always depended not just on the size of our Gross Domestic Product, but on the reach of our prosperity; on the ability to extend opportunity to every willing heart—not out of charity, but because it is the surest route to our common good. As for our common defense, we reject as false the choice between our safety and our ideals.”

Obama stated that these challenges are new to the nation, yet with the truth that success depends on honesty, hard work, courage, fair play, etc., as a nation—every citizen—should take on a “new era of responsibility.” He addressed that everyone has duties to themselves, the nation, and the world, even when the country is facing difficult tasks.

“This is the meaning of our liberty and our creed,” Obama said. “Why men and women and children of every race and every faith can join in celebration across this magnificent mall, and why a man whose father less than sixty years ago might not have been served at a local restaurant can now stand before you to take a most sacred oath.”

That sentence was Obama’s first reference to his race in his entire inauguration speech. It brought the crowd cheering for him again and marked the journey the nation has gone through to reach the milestone of equality for everyone.

Obama ended his speech by using the words of George Washington, giving the nation virtue to go through the hardships together and for the nation to carry forth the gift of freedom and deliver it to future generations.