

Destination White House

Part I : The Presidential Inauguration of Joseph R. Biden Jr.

By Faisal Ally, January 20, 2021; 5:49pm

At Noon, January 20, 2021, President Elect Joseph R. Biden Jr. was sworn in as the 46th president of the United States of America. He then delivers the inaugural speech where he says, "This is America's day, this is democracy day, a day of hope..." It certainly is a day of hope for many Americans that supported the Democrats with Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. But it was also a day of despair and failure for the many others who believed that the 2021 United States of America's election was rigged and that Donald Trump should still be running the country. Former President Donald Trump did not attend the inauguration, as he and his wife had already left for Miami Beach where as the inauguration began, Trump was getting off and airplane and then entered a vehicle that would take them to Miami Beach, as their new home would now be in Florida. Joe Biden continues, "...democracy is precious, democracy is precious...democracy has prevailed..." The Democrats have won the election and Biden and Harris were ready to run the greatest country in this world. Biden brought up the violence that had taken place at the Capitol on January 6, 2021 where a mob of protesters had broken into the Capitol building. This is just the beginning on the road to recovery. He said, "...This is a great nation, we are good people...we've come so far, but we have far to go." He spoke of the covid pandemic and where millions have lost their jobs due to the crisis. He continued by saying that there's a "rise of political extremism, White Supremacists...we must confront and we will win." The whole world had witnessed how divided America has become. Biden wants to unite the nation. "We can deliver racial justice and we can make America great again..." He continues, "...unity is the path forward and we must meet this moment as the United States of America...let's start a fresh all of us...show respect to each other..." As he faces the Washington monument zooming up into the sky, he mentioned Martin Luther King and his dream. Dreams do come true, at least for Kamala Harris. For the first time in America's history, the White House will have the first women in America elected to office, Vice President Kamala Harris. It's okay for people to disagree, and he said, "Disagreement must not lead to disunion..." He continued, "...There are truth and there are lies. Lies told for power and for profit...to defend the truth and defeat the lies..." He wants change and he is ready to work for it. There are people that distrust others because they look different. He wants an end to civil war. Regardless of what had taken place on January 6, 2021, he has hope. He says, "...we can do this, if we open our souls and open our hearts..."

Entertainers, poem and benediction

Singers, Lady Gaga sang the anthem, Jennifer Lopez sang 'This land is my land, this land is your land', and Garth Brooks sang Amazing grace and his singing was nothing

but amazing. Not long after, the twenty-two year old poet, Amanda Gorman, from Los Angeles read a poem; she had to overcome a speech impediment, as the President also had to overcome his. Then Rev. Silverster Beaman gave a Benediction.

Departure of the Former Vice President

At 1:35pm, the band began to play the National March, The stars and stripes forever as the President Biden and his wife, Dr. Biden depart from the area the inauguration had taken place, followed by the Vice President and her spouse. Former President Donald Trump was now in Miami Beach, and it was time for the former Vice President, Mike Pence, to depart from Capitol Hill. Everyone continued on and shortly after, on the steps of the Capitol stood Mike Pence, Kamala Harris and their spouses talking and sharing some precious moments together. A few minutes later, Pence and his partner departed, while Kamala and her husband, Mr. Emhoff, headed back up the stairs into the Capitol Building. Shortly after, the black vehicle Pence was in departed.

Signing ceremony and gift giving ceremony

At 1:30 pm the signing ceremony commenced where the new President of the United States of America placed his signature on a number of documents. Outside the band began to play bringing some life to Washington, which is on lockdown. A few minutes later, the President and his wife walk through the building and stopped, as the gift giving ceremony was about to take place. They were now standing next to a painting with a rainbow. Shortly after Joe and Jill were presented with a crystal gift, and Kamala and her husband were also presented with one. They walked to another area where another speaker discussed the flag. A flag was presented to Kamala as she was now the first female vice president. Nancy Pelosi gave a flag to the President, which was the same flag that was flown when he was sworn in as the President of the United States. They walked through the building to another spot where another speaker congratulated them. The speaker continued with a speech, as they stood in front of a big picture or painting hanging on the wall. Two photos taken earlier were enlarged and the speaker presented one to Kamala and her husband, and then addressed the President and his wife and presented them with the other photo. They continued to another area with guards on each side of the passageway. And outside, there were guards lining each side of the steps from top to bottom of the East Front of Capitol Hill. At 2:02 pm, at the top of the steps of the Capitol building stood the President and his wife, and on their left was the Vice President and her husband. A few seconds after they began walking down the steps, Kamala in a blue dress and Jill in a light blue dress while Joe Biden and Mr. Emhoff were in black jackets.

Leaving for the Arlington cemetery

At 2:05 pm, marching by the military commenced and the band began to play as they marched with the drums and the sound of the flutes resonating in the air as the President, Vice President and their partners stood on the lower steps looking on. A couple minutes later, a black limousine pulled up and Joe and his wife began walking towards the limo. The President escorted his wife to the car. She entered and then he paced to the other side and entered. There were two flags at the front of the vehicle, one on each side, and the license plate is 46, as Joe Biden is the 46th President of the United States, and his son had died of brain cancer at the age of 46. A few minutes after, Kamala and her partner walked down from the steps and entered another limousine. Not long after the vehicles slowly drove from the East Front of the Capitol, departing the grounds. As they drove through the city of Washington now on lockdown, trees were still lively lining the sides of the roads. The motorcade continued passing under many over passes heading for the Arlington cemetery. In the procession there were motorbikes, followed by white vehicles with flashing lights, followed by at least twenty-five black limousines or some may have other names. At 2:26pm, the motorcade entered the Arlington cemetery and continued driving through a long narrow winding road through the burial ground, as cannons went off about every ten seconds carrying out the 21 gun salute. There were guards at the 'Tomb of the Unknown Soldier', and behind the tomb on the other side, you can see the procession moving through the cemetery. Some presidents were buried at this cemetery. At the Tomb stood a wreath with a ribbon with the colors of the American flag. A few minutes later, the vehicles began parking and a few minutes after, former presidents' Obama, Bush, Clinton and their partners walked down the steps from the building and stood a short distance from the 'Tomb of the Unknown Soldier' facing the wreath and the tomb. Carter who is 96 years old could not attend and Trump was now in Miami Beach. A few minutes later, Jill Biden and others entered. At 2:44pm, President Biden and Vice President Harris arrived walking side by side, social distancing and then stopped in front of the wreath as they faced the tomb. The band began to play and Biden salute while Kamala placed her right hand on her chest. A few minutes passed and a few drum rolls and then the trumpet began to play. Shortly after one of the guard said, 'Order.' Not long after, as the ceremony completed, the President and Vice President headed up the stairs to the building, followed by Obama, Clinton, Bush and the former first ladies, and then the reporters.

Leaving the Arlington cemetery, and the parade on Pennsylvania Avenue

At 3:22pm, the procession exited the cemetery, heading for the Whitehouse located at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Minutes went by and then there were three rows with six motorbikes in each row with flashing lights, followed by the presidential

limo which had three secret service men on each side of the vehicle walking along the parade route as the marching bands with drums playing on Pennsylvania Avenue. Instead of a color parade with bands from around the country, the parade made up of mainly members from the US army, marine and law enforcers. There was also a band from Howard University, which is the university the Vice President had attended. The vehicles stopped for about five minutes and then the President and the first lady exited the limousine and began walking down the parade route, followed by his family, with the secret service agents walking behind them. During the walk, the President ran over to greet a few people that called him over.

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At 3:53pm, the President and the first lady entered the gates of the White House, followed by the agents and his family. About three minutes later, they walked up the steps and he and his wife turned facing the guards and reporters. The President hugged his wife, and then turned towards the door behind them, opened the doors and entered, followed by his family, the agents and others, while the Vice President and her husband now exited their limo at 4:05pm, walking with Kamala's family, along with her sister, Maya and her husband. They've arrived. Destination White House.