

- Biden becomes President of the U.S.A.
- Gov. Gavin Newsom appoints CA senator

Joseph Biden sworn in as 46th President of the U.S.A.

by Senji Torrey

Media Production Editor

On Jan. 20, a sparse number of politicians and distinguished guests flocked to Washington D.C. to witness Joseph Biden officially become the 46th President of the United States of America. Even though American citizens could not attend the ceremony, the event was triumphant nonetheless.



BREAKING BARRIERS: VP Kamala Harris says the oath of office as Biden looks on.

Due to the attack on the Capitol just weeks before, the U.S. government took unusually extreme precautions to ensure everyone's safety. Iron and concrete barriers were erected for blocks around the inaugural platform. These barriers were so tall that an official said that citizens would be lucky to see the white dome of the Capitol building if they attended in person.

In addition to the aforementioned safeguards, the entire National Mall, which has held millions of citizens during previous inaugurations, shut down on the day of the ceremony to make sure that no one, not even well-wishers, could attend the formalities.

Current U.S. issues, including the coronavirus pandemic, racism towards communities of color, global warming, and much more were discussed by Biden during his inaugural speech. Biden offered general solutions for each of these issues but did come back to the idea of "unity" many times as a catalyst to make real change. Biden later added that "The dream for justice for all will be deferred no longer!"

Former President Donald J. Trump broke national tradition by refusing to attend the ceremony, claiming that "[Biden] won because the Election was Rigged [sic]." Despite the absence of the previous Commander in Chief, Trump's Vice President Mike Pence did attend the ceremony with his wife, opting to skip out on Trump's own farewell event that took place at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland.

In addition to Pence, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy also skipped out on Trump's farewell event. Both McConnell and McCarthy attended church with President Biden before the inauguration began.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, almost no civilians were allowed into the ceremonial grounds. However, roughly three million attended the online video ceremony on YouTube while another hundred or so attended the inauguration in-person at the West Front of the Capitol building.

Among the celebrities admitted into the ceremony were Jennifer Lopez, Garth Brooks, and Lady Gaga, all of whom performed. On top of these famous American musicians, many former presidents followed national tradition by coming to the ceremony. Among those included Barack Obama, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush.

(Sources: CNN, Independent, NY Times, Boston Times, NBC News, NPR, ABC News, Fox News, Biden Inaugural Committee)



NEW YEAR, NEW PRESIDENT: The First and Second Families wave to onlookers.

House of Reps. impeach Trump for the second time

by Maddie Dewhirst

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The House of Representatives impeached President Donald Trump on Jan. 13 for inciting the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol, making him the first president in U.S. history to be impeached twice.

The House voted 232 to 197 to charge Trump with "high crimes and misdemeanors." Specifically, the Article of Impeachment stated Trump "threatened the integrity of the democratic system, interfered with the peaceful transition of power, and imperiled a coequal branch of government."

Congress previously impeached Trump in December of 2019 for conditioning military aid for Ukraine on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky opening an investigation into Joe Biden, then a frontrunner in the Democratic primary. Trump was then only the third president against whom Congress has passed articles of impeachment — the others holding this ignominious title being Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton. The Senate acquitted Trump in February 2020.

Advocating for the President's impeachment, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi declared that Trump "is a clear and present danger to the nation that we all love." House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy claimed impeachment would only "further fan the flames of partisan division," calling instead for the censure of Trump. Notably, McCarthy did not whip votes in oppo-



SECOND TIME'S THE CHARM: Pelosi displays the signed article of impeachment.

sition to impeachment, instead telling members of the GOP to vote their conscience.

Ten Republicans ultimately broke ranks with the rest of their colleagues to join the Democrats voting in favor of impeachment, the most members who have ever voted against a president of the same party. Representative Liz Cheney, the number three Republican in the House, was a surprise vote for impeachment. Because of her

position in the party, she also likely provided a cover for more Republicans to join in supporting the Article. Zero Democrats voted against impeachment.

There are reports of Republicans who wanted to vote in favor of impeachment, but felt their safety would be at risk if they did. Republican Representative Peter Meijer, who voted for impeachment, stated that he bought body armor out of fear for his and his family's safety. However, many Republican Representatives remained stalwart supporters of Trump, including Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene, a QAnon adherent, who remarked that she would introduce Articles of Impeachment against Biden his first full day in office.

The decision to impeach Trump came after Vice President Mike Pence declined to invoke the 25th Amendment. Invoking it would have required a majority of Trump's cabinet to declare him unfit to hold office, making Pence the acting president. The 25th Amendment has only ever been voluntarily invoked by presidents before undergoing medical procedures.

Then-Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell refused to recall the Senate before Jan. 19, one day before President Joe Biden was sworn in. Biden emphasized that a Senate trial should not interfere with his agenda, so it remains unclear when the House will send the Article of Impeachment to the Senate.

(Sources: NY Times, Washington Post, CNN, The Hill, BBC)

Right-wing terrorists break into U.S. Capitol Building

by Georgia Kaufman and Sidney Bricker

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On Wed., Jan. 6, pro-Trump rioters stormed and broke into the United States Capitol Building, attempting to prevent Congress from finalizing the electoral count; the rioters were protesting the recent presidential election, believing it was "stolen" from President Trump. This series of events forced those who were inside the Capitol to hide or flee from the scene. In multiple tweets on Dec. 19, 27, 30 and Jan. 1, Trump promised a "big protest in D.C. on January 6th" and urged his supporters to attend. In his rally speech delivered before the riot, Trump told his supporters to go to the Capitol and "give our Republicans, the weak ones...the kind of pride and boldness that they need to take back our country."

Some speculate that Trump also encouraged these actions through his "stand back and stand by" message to the Proud Boys at a presidential debate on Tues. Sep. 29, as well as a comment in his speech Jan. 6, moments before the rampage. Trump stated, "All of us here today do not want to see our election victory stolen by emboldened radical left Democrats...That's what they've done and what they're doing. We will never give up. We will never concede, it doesn't happen. You don't concede when there's theft involved."

After the crowd broke into and rampaged through the Capitol building, Trump recorded a message to them, saying, "I know your pain, I know you're hurt. We had an election that was stolen from us. It was a landslide election and everyone knows it, especially the other side. But you have to go home now."

Pramila Jayapal, a House member from Washington, tweeted that she "was one of a dozen Representatives in the gallery above the House floor. [They] pulled out gas masks and had to get down on the ground. [The Representatives] were eventually told that [they] had to quickly exit."

During the riot, some Trump supporters hung a noose outside of the building, chanting "hang Pence" repeatedly while Representatives and the Vice President sheltered inside. Additionally,

Representative Lauren Boebert gave tours of the Capitol Building to a group sometime between Jan. 3 and Jan. 6, according to Representatives Steve Cohen and John Yarmuth. Boebert called the claims slanderous, adding that although she did give a tour on Jan. 2, the people with her were family members. Later, during the riot, Boebert tweeted "The Speaker has been removed from the chambers" referring to Nancy Pelosi, sparking speculation Boebert was attempting to aid the insurrectionists.



IRATE INSURRECTIONISTS: Several rioters climbed walls to get up to the Capitol.

According to Representative Ayanna Pressley's chief of staff, Sarah Groh, the panic buttons in Pressley's office were ripped out prior to the riot. According to Groh, the buttons had been used before in that office. Some members of Congress believe that people working within the Capitol Building may have helped the rioters, and that the disappearance of the buttons could have been an inside job.

As the violence unfolded, Muriel Bowser, Mayor of DC, instated a 6 PM curfew for the city. Casualties of the violence include Ashli Babbitt, whom police shot and killed; Roseanne Boyland, who died after being trampled; and two others whose causes of death have not yet been announced: Benjamin Phillips and Kevin Greeson. According to Robert Contee III, the Chief of the DC police, more than 56 officers were injured. Two pipe bombs were found, one outside of the RNC and one outside of the DNC. Police made 68 arrests during the riot. Contee later resigned as chief of police and his force wrote a letter denouncing his leadership that day.

As of Sat., Jan. 9, nine Trump administration officials have stepped down from their positions in the White House in the wake of the violence, including Betsy DeVos, Trump's Secretary of Education; and Elaine Chao, the Secretary of Transportation.

Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and other social media sites shut down Donald Trump's social media accounts for a minimum limit of 12 hours on the day of the riot, as it was an "incitement of violence." Twitter has now permanently suspended Trump's account. One of the few tweets that was still available on his Twitter account — prior to his expulsion from the app — said, "WE are the Party of Law & Order — respect the Law and our great men and women in Blue." Though Trump insisted that people stop trying to get into the Capitol building in his recorded message, very soon after he posted a series of three tweets that were subsequently deleted by Twitter; these deleted tweets allegedly included praise for the mob and called Vice President Mike Pence a traitor.

After the siege of the Capitol building, the recount of the electoral ballots resumed, and Vice President Mike Pence declared Joseph Biden the next President of the United States. Trump agreed to a peaceful transfer of power moments after the riot on Jan. 6; however, he stated he would not attend the inauguration of the 46th President. On Jan. 13, Congress impeached Trump for the second time during his four-year term as President for inciting the attack on the Capitol.

(Sources: NY Times, CNN)