



THE 2009 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

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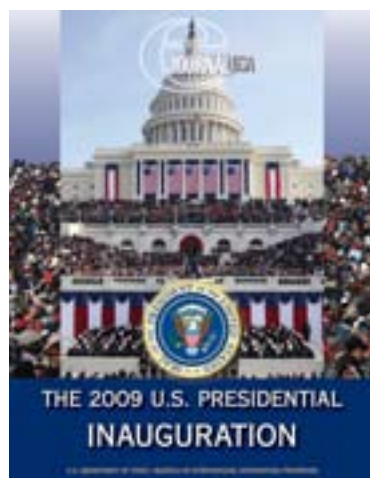
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Executive Editor Jonathan Margolis

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Editor, *eJournal USA*
IIP/PUBJ
U.S. Department of State
301 4th St. S.W.
Washington, DC 20547
United States of America

E-mail: eJournalUSA@state.gov

About This Issue



President Barack Obama delivers his inaugural address after having been sworn in on January 20, 2009.

Historic. Momentous. Unbelievable. Exciting. Poignant. Joyous.

These are just some of the words used to describe the inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States on January 20, 2009. But perhaps the most important adjective to describe this transfer of power is “peaceful.” We Americans take for granted that the transition from one president to the next will be peaceful and amicable, but it is important to remember that such is not the case in much of the world.

We are pleased to present these images and words from that special event as a memento to our audiences around the globe.

— *The Editors*



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THE 2009 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

Special Edition—January 2009

- 3 Inaugural Address**
BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
- 7 Photo Gallery — A Day of Celebration**
- 13 President Barack Obama — A Biographical Sketch**
- 16 Photo Gallery — Celebration Around the World**
- 20 Vice President Joe Biden — A Biographical Sketch**

Inaugural Address

President Barack Obama



President Barack Obama delivers his inaugural address from the west front of the U.S. Capitol.

*Tuesday, January 20, 2009
Washington, D.C.*

As Delivered

I stand here today humbled by the task before us, grateful for the trust you've bestowed, mindful of the sacrifices borne by our ancestors. I thank President Bush for his service to our nation, as well as the generosity and cooperation he has shown throughout this transition.

Forty-four Americans have now taken the presidential oath. The words have been spoken during rising tides of prosperity and the still waters of peace. Yet, every so often the oath is taken amidst gathering clouds and raging storms. At these moments, America has carried on not simply because of the skill or vision of those in high office, but because We the People have remained faithful to the ideals of our forbearers, and true to our founding documents.

So it has been. So it must be with this generation of Americans.

That we are in the midst of crisis is now well understood. Our nation is at war, against a far-reaching network

of violence and hatred. Our economy is badly weakened, a consequence of greed and irresponsibility on the part of some, but also our collective failure to make hard choices and prepare the nation for a new age. Homes have been lost; jobs shed; businesses shuttered. Our health care is too costly; our schools fail too many; and each day brings further evidence that the ways we use energy strengthen our adversaries and threaten our planet.

These are the indicators of crisis, subject to data and statistics. Less measurable but no less profound is a sapping of confidence across our land — a nagging fear that America's decline is inevitable, and the next generation must lower its sights.

Today I say to you that the challenges we face are real. They are serious and they are many. They will not be met easily or in a short span of time. But know this, America — they will be met.

On this day, we gather because we have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord.

On this day, we come to proclaim an end to the petty grievances and false promises, the recriminations and worn out dogmas, that for far too long have strangled our politics.

We remain a young nation, but in the words of Scripture, the time has come to set aside childish things. The time has come to reaffirm our enduring spirit; to choose our better history; to carry forward that precious gift, that noble idea, passed on from generation to generation: the God-given promise that all are equal, all are free, and all deserve a chance to pursue their full measure of happiness.

In reaffirming the greatness of our nation, we understand that greatness is never a given. It must be earned. Our journey has never been one of short-cuts or settling for less. It has not been the path for the faint-hearted—for those who prefer leisure over work, or seek only the pleasures of riches and fame. Rather, it has been the risk-takers, the doers, the makers of things — some celebrated but more often men and women obscure in their labor, who have carried us up the long, rugged path towards prosperity and freedom.

For us, they packed up their few worldly possessions and traveled across oceans in search of a new life.

For us, they toiled in sweatshops and settled the West; endured the lash of the whip and plowed the hard earth.



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Singers Beyoncé (left) and Bono perform during the inaugural concert in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., on January 17, 2009.

For us, they fought and died, in places like Concord and Gettysburg; Normandy and Khe Sahn.

Time and again these men and women struggled and sacrificed and worked till their hands were raw so that we might live a better life. They saw America as bigger than the sum of our individual ambitions; greater than all the differences of birth or wealth or faction.

This is the journey we continue today. We remain the most prosperous, powerful nation on Earth. Our workers are no less productive than when this crisis began. Our minds are no less inventive, our goods and services no less needed than they were last week or last month or last year. Our capacity remains undiminished. But our time of standing pat, of protecting narrow interests and putting off unpleasant decisions — that time has surely passed. Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of remaking America.

For everywhere we look, there is work to be done. The state of the economy calls for action, bold and swift, and we will act — not only to create new jobs, but to lay a new foundation for growth. We will build the roads and bridges, the electric grids and digital lines that feed our commerce and bind us together. We will restore science to its rightful place, and wield technology's wonders to raise health care's quality and lower its cost. We will harness the

sun and the winds and the soil to fuel our cars and run our factories. And we will transform our schools and colleges and universities to meet the demands of a new age. All this we can do. All this we will do.

Now, there are some who question the scale of our ambitions — who suggest that our system cannot tolerate too many big plans. Their memories are short. For they have forgotten what this country has already done; what free men and women can achieve when imagination is joined to common purpose, and necessity to courage.

What the cynics fail to understand is that the ground has shifted beneath them — that the stale political arguments that have consumed us for so long no longer apply. The question we ask today is not whether our government is too big or too small, but whether it works—whether it helps families find jobs at a decent wage, care they can afford, a retirement that is dignified. Where the answer is yes, we intend to move forward. Where the answer is no, programs will end. And those of us who manage the public's dollars will be held to account — to spend wisely, reform bad habits, and do our business in the light of day — because only then can we restore the vital trust between a people and their government.

Nor is the question before us whether the market is a force for good or ill. Its power to generate wealth and



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Then-President-elect Barack Obama addresses the crowd at the inaugural concert at the Lincoln Memorial.

expand freedom is unmatched, but this crisis has reminded us that without a watchful eye, the market can spin out of control — that a nation cannot prosper long when it favors only the prosperous. 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. Our Founding Fathers...Our Founding Fathers faced with perils we can scarcely imagine, drafted a charter to assure the rule of law and the rights of man, a charter expanded by the blood of generations. Those ideals still light the world, and we will not give them up for expedience's sake. And so to all other peoples and governments who are watching today, from the grandest capitals to the small village where my father was born: know that America is a friend of each nation and every man, woman, and child who seeks a future of peace and dignity, and we are ready to lead once more.

Recall that earlier generations faced down fascism and communism not just with missiles and tanks, but with sturdy alliances and enduring convictions. They understood that our power alone cannot protect us, nor does it

entitle us to do as we please. Instead, they knew that our power grows through its prudent use; our security emanates from the justness of our cause, the force of our example, the tempering qualities of humility and restraint.

We are the keepers of this legacy. Guided by these principles once more, we can meet those new threats that demand even greater effort — even greater cooperation and understanding between nations. We will begin to responsibly leave Iraq to its people, and forge a hard-earned peace in Afghanistan. With old friends and former foes, we will work tirelessly to lessen the nuclear threat, and roll back the specter of a warming planet. We will not apologize for our way of life, nor will we waver in its defense, and for those who seek to advance their aims by inducing terror and slaughtering innocents, we say to you now that our spirit is stronger and cannot be broken; you cannot outlast us, and we will defeat you.

For we know that our patchwork heritage is a strength, not a weakness. We are a nation of Christians and Muslims, Jews and Hindus — and non-believers. We are shaped by every language and culture, drawn from every end of this Earth; and because we have tasted the bitter swill of civil war and segregation, and emerged from that dark chapter stronger and more united, we cannot help but believe that the old hatreds shall someday pass; that the lines of tribe shall soon dissolve; that as the world grows smaller, our

common humanity shall reveal itself; and that America must play its role in ushering in a new era of peace.

To the Muslim world, we seek a new way forward, based on mutual interest and mutual respect. To those leaders around the globe who seek to sow conflict, or blame their society's ills on the West — know that your people will judge you on what you can build, not what you destroy. To those who cling to power through corruption and deceit and the silencing of dissent, know that you are on the wrong side of history; but that we will extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist.

To the people of poor nations, we pledge to work alongside you to make your farms flourish and let clean waters flow; to nourish starved bodies and feed hungry minds. And to those nations like ours that enjoy relative plenty, we say we can no longer afford indifference to suffering outside our borders; nor can we consume the world's resources without regard to effect. For the world has changed, and we must change with it.

As we consider the road that unfolds before us, we remember with humble gratitude those brave Americans who, at this very hour, patrol far-off deserts and distant mountains. They have something to tell us, just as the fallen heroes who lie in Arlington whisper through the ages. We honor them not only because they are the guardians of our liberty, but because they embody the spirit of service; a willingness to find meaning in something greater than themselves. And yet, at this moment — a moment that will define a generation — it is precisely this spirit that must inhabit us all.

For as much as government can do and must do, it is ultimately the faith and determination of the American people upon which this nation relies. It is the kindness to take in a stranger when the levees break, the selflessness of workers who would rather cut their hours than see a friend lose their job which sees us through our darkest hours. It is the firefighter's courage to storm a stairway filled with smoke, but also a parent's willingness to nurture a child, that finally decides our fate.

Our challenges may be new. The instruments with which we meet them may be new. But those values upon which our success depends—honesty and hard work, courage and fair play, tolerance and curiosity, loyalty and patriotism

— these things are old. These things are true. They have been the quiet force of progress throughout our history. What is demanded then is a return to these truths. What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility — a recognition, on the part of every American, that we have duties to ourselves, our nation, and the world, duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character, than giving our all to a difficult task.

This is the price and the promise of citizenship.

This is the source of our confidence — the knowledge that God calls on us to shape an uncertain destiny.

This is the meaning of our liberty and our creed — 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.

So let us mark this day with remembrance, of who we are and how far we have traveled. In the year of America's birth, in the coldest of months, a small band of patriots huddled by dying campfires on the shores of an icy river. The capital was abandoned. The enemy was advancing. The snow was stained with blood. At a moment when the outcome of our revolution was most in doubt, the father of our nation ordered these words be read to the people:

“Let it be told to the future world...that in the depth of winter, when nothing but hope and virtue could survive...that the city and the country, alarmed at one common danger, came forth to meet [it].”

America, in the face of our common dangers, in this winter of our hardship, let us remember these timeless words. With hope and virtue, let us brave once more the icy currents, and endure what storms may come. Let it be said by our children's children that when we were tested we refused to let this journey end, that we did not turn back nor did we falter; and with eyes fixed on the horizon and God's grace upon us, we carried forth that great gift of freedom and delivered it safely to future generations.

A Day of Celebration



A crowd in Park City, Utah, joins the celebration of Barack Obama's presidential inauguration.

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“On this day, we gather because we have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord.”

President Barack Obama



© AP Images



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Above: Some of the crowd for the inauguration stand and sit on a statue next to the reflecting pool in front of the Capitol.

Left: A view of the crowd witnessing the swearing-in ceremony of Barack Obama as 44th President of the United States.

Below: Joe Biden, with his wife, Jill, at his side, takes the oath of office as vice president from Justice John Paul Stevens.



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Barack Obama takes the oath of office from Chief Justice John Roberts, as Michelle Obama holds the Bible used by President Abraham Lincoln at his first inauguration in 1861.

"This is the meaning of our liberty and our creed—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."

President Barack Obama



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Above: President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama, and their children, Malia (right) and Sasha, wave from the podium after Barack Obama is sworn in as 44th President of the United States.

Left: President and Mrs. Obama wave to the crowds while walking part of the inaugural parade route from the Capitol to the White House along Pennsylvania Avenue.

Below: Some inaugural souvenirs.



© AP Images



Courtesy of Tim Brown



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Above: Members of the marching band from Barack Obama's high school, Punahou Secondary School in Honolulu, Hawaii, march in the inaugural parade after the swearing-in ceremony in Washington, D.C. on January 20, 2009.

Below: Representatives of the Crow Nation of Montana participate in President Obama's inaugural parade.



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"For we know that our patchwork heritage is a strength, not a weakness."

President Barack Obama



© AP Images

Above: Drummers in the Florida A&M University Marching Band perform in the inaugural parade.

Right: President and Mrs. Barack Obama dance at the Commander in Chief Inaugural Ball at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C.



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Left: In the early morning of January 21, 2009, the presidential limousine is parked in front of the south portico of the White House after President and Mrs. Obama returned from the inaugural balls.

© AP Images



President Barack Obama

A Biographical Sketch

Barack Obama, the 44th president of the United States, brings a life story unlike that of any previous U.S. leader. The biracial son of a Kenyan father and a white mother from the American heartland, Obama shot to national prominence with a well-received keynote speech at the Democratic National Convention in 2004, in which he said:

There's not a liberal America and a conservative America — there's the United States of America. There's not a black America and white America and Latino America and Asian America; there's the United States of America. ... We are one people, all of us pledging allegiance to the Stars and Stripes, all of us defending the United States of America.

Obama was elected to the U.S. Senate from the state of Illinois that year. Just four years later, he clinched the



Courtesy of www.barackobama.com

President Barack Obama

Democratic nomination for the White House and won the presidential election against Republican candidate Senator John McCain.

THE EARLY YEARS

Barack Obama's parents came from vastly different backgrounds. His mother, Ann Dunham, was born and raised in small-town Kansas. After her family moved to the Hawaiian Islands, she met Barack Obama Sr., a Kenyan scholarship student enrolled at the University of Hawaii. The two married in 1959, and on August 4, 1961, Barack Obama Jr. was born in Honolulu. Two years later, the senior Obama left his young family, first for graduate study at Harvard and then for a job as a government economist back in Kenya. Ann and Barack Sr. divorced, and the young Obama met his father again only once, at age 10.

When Obama was six years old, his mother remarried, this time to an Indonesian oil executive. The family moved to Indonesia, and Obama spent four years attending school in the capital city of Jakarta. He eventually returned to Hawaii and went to secondary school there while living with his maternal grandparents.

Obama left Hawaii to attend Occidental College in Los Angeles for two years. He later moved to New York City and earned a bachelor of arts degree from Columbia University in 1983.

CALLED TO PUBLIC SERVICE

Obama began his career as a financial writer with an international consulting firm in New York, but left that job in 1985 and headed to Chicago. There, he worked as a community organizer for a coalition of local churches to help rebuild communities devastated by the closure of local steel plants.

After three years of this work, Obama decided to attend Harvard Law School, where he distinguished himself by being elected the first African-American president of the prestigious *Harvard Law Review* and graduating *magna cum laude* in 1991.

Obama returned to his adopted hometown of Chicago, where he practiced civil rights law, taught constitutional law at the University of Chicago, worked on voter registration



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in Chicago to help Democratic candidates. In 1992 he married Michelle Robinson, another Harvard Law graduate. Barack and Michelle Obama have two daughters, Malia, 10, and Sasha, 7.

Obama made his first run at elective office in 1996, winning a seat in the Illinois State Senate. His legislative accomplishments over the next eight years in the state senate included campaign finance reform, tax cuts for the working poor, and improvements to the state's criminal justice system.

THE NATIONAL STAGE

After an unsuccessful run for the U.S. Congress in 2000, Obama ran for the U.S. Senate in 2004. He easily captured the Democratic nomination, winning a greater share of the vote — 53 percent — than his six opponents combined.

Left: The young Barack Obama with his mother, Ann Dunham, around 1963. **Below:** Barack Obama celebrates earning his secondary school diploma with his grandparents, Madelyn Payne and Stanley Armour Dunham, in Hawaii in 1979.



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His speech at the 2004 Democratic National Convention, with its soaring, polished language on the need to transcend partisan divisions and its call for a “politics of hope” rather than a politics of cynicism, catapulted Obama into the national media spotlight. He went on to win handily in the Senate race that autumn, capturing an overwhelming 70 percent of the popular vote.

RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT

The long Democratic primary election campaign of 2008, with elections or caucuses in all 50 U.S. states, was historic in several ways. African-American and women candidates had run for the presidency before, but this time the two front-runners were a woman and an African American.

The Obama camp's innovative strategy of targeting states that used caucuses rather than primaries to select delegates and focusing on smaller states that traditionally voted Republican in the general election paid off; he clinched the Democratic Party nomination and went on to defeat Republican John McCain for the presidency.

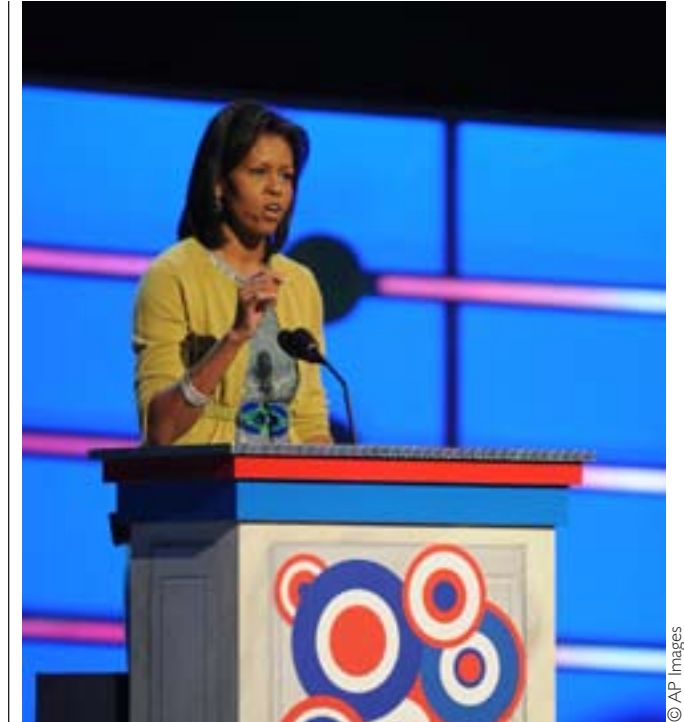
AN OBAMA PRESIDENCY

Barack Obama is among the youngest U.S. presidents. Born toward the end of the 1946-1964 baby-boom generation, he is the first president to have come of age in the 1980s. The atmosphere in which he grew up was markedly different from the socially tumultuous 1960s that shaped the outlook of earlier baby boomers.

The New Yorker magazine's Larissa MacFarquhar offered one theory on Obama's noticeable appeal across traditional political lines. “Obama's voting record is one of the most liberal in the Senate,” she observed, “but he has always appealed to Republicans, perhaps because he speaks about liberal goals in conservative language.”

The Washington Post political columnist E.J. Dionne may have summed up perfectly the serendipitous confluence between Obama's candidacy and the American zeitgeist when he wrote:

Yet Change, not experience, was the order of the day. Sweep, not a mastery of detail, was the virtue most valued in campaign oratory. A clean break with the past, not merely a return to better days, was the promise most prized.



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Above: Michelle Obama speaks to the crowd gathered for the “Kids Inaugural: We Are the Future” concert in Washington, D.C., on January 19, 2009.

Below: The Biden and Obama families on their inaugural whistle-stop train trip from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Washington, D.C., on January 17, 2009.



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Celebration Around the World



Children from the school Barack Obama attended while living in Indonesia dance during an inaugural party for him in Jakarta.



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Above: School children in Lucknow, India, wear masks of President Barack Obama as they participate in a procession to mark his inauguration.

Left: "Obama Girls," made up of local residents of the northern Japanese city of Obama, perform a Hawaiian hula to celebrate the inauguration at a gathering at a Buddhist temple.

Below: A street stall in Shanghai, China, sells Obama tee-shirts.



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Above: These *matryoshkas*, traditional Russian nesting dolls made of wood, depict U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev with Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

Below left: Political and business leaders gather in a palazzo in downtown Rome to watch as Barack Obama is sworn in as President of the United States.

Below right: In a ceremony at Paris's Hôtel de Ville (City Hall), where a crowd is watching a big-screen television broadcasting Barack Obama's inauguration, a woman waves the "Betsy Ross Flag," the first flag of the United States.



Above: These Iraqis are watching televised coverage of the inauguration of Barack Obama at a café in central Baghdad, Iraq, on January 20, 2009.

Below: A man sells tire covers carrying the portrait of Barack Obama in Kisumu, Kenya, in preparation for Obama's inauguration.



"And so to all other peoples and governments who are watching today, from the grandest capitals to the small village where my father was born: know that America is a friend of each nation and every man, woman, and child who seeks a future of peace and dignity, and we are ready to lead once more."

President Barack Obama

Vice President Joe Biden

A Biographical Sketch

Joseph Robinette Biden Jr. was born November 20, 1942, in Scranton, Pennsylvania, the first of four siblings. In 1953, the Biden family moved from Pennsylvania to Claymont, Delaware. Joe Biden graduated from the University of Delaware and from Syracuse University Law School, and then served on the New Castle (Delaware) County Council. At age 29, he became one of the youngest people ever elected to the United States Senate.

Just weeks after the election, tragedy struck the Biden family, when Biden's wife and their one-year-old daughter were killed and their two young sons critically injured in an auto accident. Biden was sworn in as senator at his son's hospital bedside, and he began commuting to Washington every day by train, a practice he maintained throughout his career in the Senate.

In 1977, Biden married Jill Jacobs. Jill Biden, who holds a PhD in education, has been an educator for more than two decades in Delaware's schools.

Vice President Biden has three children: Beau, Hunter, and Ashley. Beau serves as Delaware's attorney general and is currently deployed to Iraq as a captain in the 261st Signal Brigade of the Delaware National Guard. Ashley is a social worker, and Hunter is an attorney. The vice president also has five grandchildren.

As a senator from Delaware for 36 years, Biden was a leader on some of America's most important domestic and international challenges. As chairman or ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee for 17 years, Biden was widely recognized for his work on criminal justice issues, including the landmark 1994 Crime Bill and the Violence Against Women Act. As chairman or ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee beginning in 1997, Biden played a pivotal role in shaping U.S. foreign policy. He has been at the forefront of issues and legislation related to terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, post-Cold War Europe, the Middle East, and Southwest Asia.



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Vice President Joe Biden speaks to guests at the Commander in Chief Ball on January 20, 2009.



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Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Jill, walk along Pennsylvania Avenue in the inaugural parade.



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