

**ADDRESS IN COMMEMORATION OF THE  
INAUGURATION OF GEORGE  
WASHINGTON AS FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE  
UNITED STATES DELIVERED BEFORE THE  
TWO HOUSES OF CONGRESS DECEMBER  
11, 1889, PP. 3-36 (NOT COMPLETE)**

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# **MELVILLE WESTON FULLER**

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A D D R E S S

IN COMMEMORATION OF

THE INAUGURATION

OF

GEORGE WASHINGTON

AS

FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

TWO HOUSES OF CONGRESS

DECEMBER 11, 1889

BY

MELVILLE WESTON FULLER, LL.D.

Chief-Justice of the United States



WASHINGTON

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

1890

## P R E F A C E .

By the sundry civil appropriation bill of March 2, 1889, it was enacted as follows:

"SEC. 4. That in order that the centennial anniversary of the inauguration of the first President of the United States, George Washington, may be duly commemorated, Tuesday, the thirtieth day of April, anno Domini eighteen hundred and eighty-nine, is hereby declared to be a national holiday throughout the United States. And in further commemoration of this historic event, the two houses of Congress shall assemble in the Hall of the House of Representatives on the second Wednesday of December, anno Domini eighteen hundred and eighty-nine, when suitable ceremonies shall be had under the direction of a joint committee composed of five Senators and five Representatives, members of the Fifty-first Congress, who shall be appointed by the presiding officers of the respective houses. And said joint committee shall have power to sit during the recess of Congress; and it shall be its duty to make arrangements for the celebration in the Hall of the House of Representatives on the second Wednesday of December next, and may invite to be present thereat such officers of the United States and of the respective States of the Union, and (through the Secretary of State) representatives of foreign Governments. The committee shall invite the Chief-Justice of the United States to deliver a suitable address on the occasion. And for the purpose of defraying the expenses of said joint committee and of carrying out the arrangements which it may make, three thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary." 25 Stat., 980, c. 411, § 4.

*Notes, 29 J 11-30-35*

This joint committee, as organized, consisted of Mr. HISCOCK of New York, Mr. SHERMAN of Ohio, Mr. HOAR of Massachusetts, Mr. VOORHEES of Indiana, and Mr. ECSTIS of Louisiana, on the part of the Senate; and of Mr. BAYNE of Pennsylvania, Mr. HITT of Illinois, Mr. CARTER of Montana, Mr. CULBERSON of Texas, and Mr. CUMMINGS of New York, on the part of the House of Representatives.

It agreed upon and issued the following as the order of arrangements at the Capitol:

The Capitol will be closed on the morning of the 17th to all except the members and officers of Congress. Invited guests will be admitted by tickets.

At 11 o'clock the east door leading to the Rotunda will be opened to those holding tickets of admission to the floor of the House and its galleries.

The floor of the House of Representatives will be opened for the admission of Senators and Representatives, and to those having tickets of admission thereto, who will be conducted to the seats assigned to them.

The President and ex-Presidents of the United States will be seated in front and on the right of the Presiding Officer.

The Justices of the Supreme Court will occupy seats next to the President, in front and on the right of the Presiding Officer.

The Cabinet Officers, the Hon. George Bancroft, the General of the Army (retired), the Admiral of the Navy, the Major-General commanding the Army, and the officers of the Army and Navy who, by name, have received the thanks of Congress, will occupy seats directly in rear of the President and Supreme Court.

The Chief-Justice and Judges of the Court of Claims and the Chief-Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia will occupy seats directly in rear of the Cabinet.

The Diplomatic Corps will occupy seats in front and on the left of the Presiding Officer.

International American Congress and Marine Conference will occupy seats in rear of the Diplomatic Corps. Cards of admission will be delivered to the Secretary of State.

Ex-Vice-Presidents and Senators will occupy seats in rear of the Judiciary.

Representatives will occupy seats behind the Senators and representatives of foreign Governments.

Commissioners of the District, Governors of States and Territories, and guests invited to the floor, will occupy seats behind the Representatives.

The Executive Gallery will be reserved exclusively for the families of the Supreme Court, the families of the Cabinet, and the invited guests of the President.

The Diplomatic Gallery will be reserved exclusively for the families of the members of the Diplomatic Corps. Cards of admission will be delivered to the Secretary of State.

The Reporters' Gallery will be reserved exclusively for the use of the reporters of the press. Tickets thereto will be delivered to the Press Committee.

The Official Reporters of the Senate and of the House will occupy the Reporters' desk, in front of the Clerk's table.

The Marine Band will occupy the south corridor in rear of the Presiding Officer.

The Diplomatic Corps, International American Congress, and Marine Conference and other foreign guests will assemble in the Marble Room of the Senate; the Judiciary at the Supreme Court Room; the President, ex-Presidents, the Cabinet, and the ex-Vice-Presidents will meet at the President's Room at 12.30 p. m.

The House being in session, and notification to that effect having been given to the Senate, the Vice-President and the Senate in a body, preceded by the President, ex-Presidents, ex-Vice-Presidents, the Cabinet, the Judiciary, the Diplomatic Corps, International American Congress, and Marine Conference will proceed to the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Vice-President will occupy the Speaker's chair, and will preside.

The Speaker of the House will occupy a seat at the left of the Vice-President.

The other officers of the Senate and of the House will occupy seats on the floor at the right and the left of the Presiding Officer.

The Architect of the Capitol, the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate, the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Doorkeeper of the House are charged with the execution of these arrangements.

Accordingly, on the 11th of December, at 10 o'clock p. m., the President of the United States, with the members of his Cabinet and the Chief-Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and occupied the seats reserved for them in front and on the right of the Presiding Officer.

Next the members of the Senate, following the Vice-President and their Secretary, preceded by their Sergeant-at-Arms, entered the Hall and took the seats reserved for them on the right and left of the main aisle.

The Vice-President occupied the Speaker's chair, the Speaker of the House sitting at his left.

The Major-General commanding the Army, the Diplomatic Corps, the International American Congress, and Marine Conference, and the other persons designated in the order of exercises, were seated in accordance with the arrangements of the joint committee.

The Vice-President announced the object of the meeting, and, after prayer by the Chaplain of the Senate, said "an oration will now be delivered by Melville W. Fuller, Chief-Justice of the United States."

At the close of the address a benediction was said by the Chaplain of the House of Representatives. The President of the United States, with the members of his Cabinet, the Supreme Court, the Senate, and the invited guests then retired from the Hall, while the Marine Band played "Washington's Grand March."



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## ADDRESS.

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Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives: By the terms of that section of the act of Congress under which we have assembled in further commemoration of the historic event of the inauguration of the first President of the United States, George Washington, the 30th of April, A. D. 1889, was declared a national holiday, and in the noble city where that event took place its centennial anniversary has been celebrated with a magnificence of speech and song, of multitudinous assembly, and of naval, military, and civic display, accompanied by every manifestation of deep love of country, of profound devotion to its institutions, and of intense appreciation of the virtues and services of that illustrious man whose assumption of the Chief Magistracy gave the assurance of the successful setting in motion of the new Government.

Nothing on the occasion of that celebration could be more full of encouragement and hope than the testimony so overwhelmingly given that Washington still remained first in the hearts of his countrymen, and that the example afforded by his career was still cherished as furnishing that guide of public conduct which had kept and would keep the nation upon the path of glory for itself and of happiness for its people.

The majestic story of that life—whether told in the pages of Marshall or Sparks, of Irving or Bancroft, or through the eloquent utterances of Ames or Webster, or Everett or Winthrop, or the matchless poetry of Lowell, or the verse of Byron—never grows old.

We love to hear again what the great Frederick and Napoleon, what Erskine and Fox and Brougham and Talleyrand and Fontanes and Guizot said of him, and how crape enshrouded the standards of France, and the flags upon the victorious ships of England fell fluttering to half-mast at the tidings of his death.

The passage of the century has not in the slightest degree impaired the irresistible charm; and whatever doubts or fears assail us in the turmoil of our impetuous national life, that story comes to console and to strengthen, like the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.

Washington had become first in war, not so much by reason of victories over the enemy, though he had won such, or of success in strategy, though that had been his, as of the triumphs of a constancy which no reverse, no hardship, no incompetency, no treachery could shake or overcome.

And because the people comprehended the greatness of their leader and recognized in him an entire absence of personal ambition, an absolute obedience to convictions of duty, an unaffected love of country, of themselves, and of mankind, he had become first in the hearts of his countrymen.

Because thus first, he was to become first in peace, by bringing to the charge of the practical working of the system he had participated in creating, on behalf of the people whose independence he had achieved, the same serene judgment, the same sagacity, the same patience, the same sense of duty, the same far-sighted comprehension of the end to be attained that had marked his career from its beginning.

From the time he assumed command he had given up all idea of accommodation, and believed that there was no middle ground between subjugation and complete independence, and that independence the independence of a nation.

He had demanded national action in respect of the Army; he had urged, but a few weeks after Bunker Hill, the creation of a Federal court with jurisdiction co-extensive with