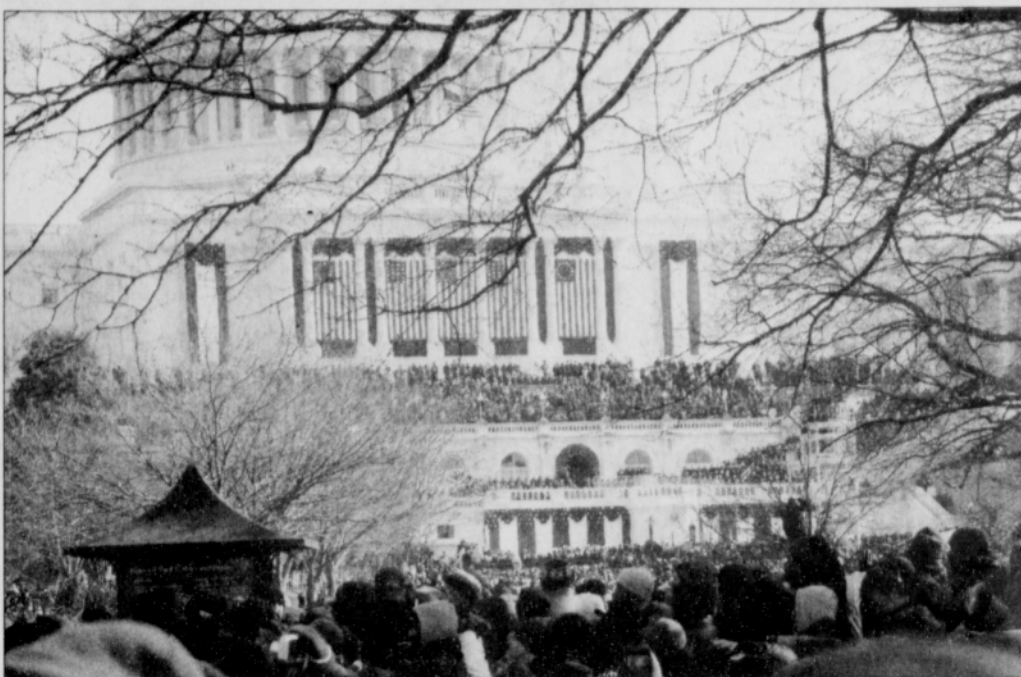


BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Portland resident and former NAACP Portland chapter president Skip Osborne took this picture of the view he had of President Barack Obama's historic inauguration.

History in the Making

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had to be in Washington, D.C. to witness the fulfillment of a promise.

I can't say pulling all the travel pieces together was an easy task, but like anything you want, you have to work hard for it to mean something. After nine weeks of thoughtful prayer, I was rewarded with a selection to attend the Swearing-in Ceremony of President-elect Barack Obama.

The invitation meant that not only would I be one of the 420,000 ticketed invitees, but I would be in the seated section (15 yellow) up close and personal, with some 1.5 million people behind me.

Although my stay in the D.C. area was short, it was packed full. On Monday, Jan. 19, the holiday set aside to honor Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., I took the Metro-rail from Upper Marlboro, Md. into D.C. to attend the annual National Action Network's celebration of Dr. King's birthday, which was moved to the Capitol to coincide with the inauguration.

The theme of this function was education, and the speakers were prominent mayors and dignitaries from across America speaking to their successes and failures surrounding education in their communities, including the "inequality" in America's educational system.

There was discussion on the disproportionate number of black youth in the prison system as compared to the school system at large, and how 43 percent of non-white students fail to complete high school.

Both, the outgoing Education Secretary Margaret Spellings and the incoming Education Secretary Arne Duncan spoke. Sen. John McCain was present and I had the opportunity to meet and speak with David Gergen, one of the political analysts for CNN.

On Inauguration Day, my plan had been to rise and be on my way to the Capitol by 4 a.m., instead I left my hotel about 7:45 a.m. and after transferring from two trains, I arrived at the Capitol about 8:20 a.m.

By 9 am and after five security check points, I was inside the yellow section looking for a seat (there were no reserved seats) and was set to enjoy the wonder that was about to unfold.

I originally was in my section 15, but then I decided to go forward to take some photos and a woman stopped me and asked if I was by myself and offered me a seat next to her in the second row of section 1. I accepted of course, smiling and thanking my Higher Power.

Looking backward and to the sides, there were people standing as far as the eye could

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"Memories of our lives, of our works and our deeds will continue in others."

—Rosa Parks

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