



Driver Rampage Kills Woman

Witnesses, police believe destruction was intentional

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Wells Picked for Wilson High Renaming

District to name school for civil rights icon

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Committed to Cultural Diversity



Vice President Kamala Harris is congratulated with a fist bump from President-Elect Joe Biden just moments before his own swearing-in as the 46th president of the United States during Inauguration ceremonies, Wednesday, Jan. 20, at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. (AP photo)

Biden-Harris Era Begins

First female and Black vice president makes history

(AP) — Vice President Kamala Harris broke the barrier that has kept men at the top ranks of American power for more than two centuries when she took the oath to hold the nation's second-highest office last week.

Harris was sworn as the first female vice president — and the first Black woman and person of South Asian descent to hold the position — in front of the U.S. Capitol by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor on Jan. 20.

The moment was steeped in history and significance in more ways than one. She was escorted to the podium by Capitol Police Officer Eugene Goodman, the officer who single-handedly took on a mob of Trump supporters as they tried to breach the Senate floor during the Capitol insurrection that sought to overturn the election results. Harris was wearing clothes from two young, emerging Black designers — a deep purple dress and coat.

After taking the oath of office, a beaming Harris hugged her husband, Douglas Emhoff, and gave President Joe Biden a first bump.

Her rise is historic in any context, another moment when a stubborn boundary falls away, expanding the idea of what's possible in American politics. But it's particularly meaningful because Harris is taking office at a moment

of deep consequence, with Americans grappling over the role of institutional racism and confronting a pandemic that has disproportionately devastated Black and brown communities.

Harris — the child of immigrants, a stepmother of two and the wife of a Jewish man — “carries an intersectional story of so many Americans who are never seen and heard.”

Harris, 56, moves into the vice presidency just four years after she first came to Washington as a senator from California, where she'd served as attorney general and as San Francisco's district attorney. After Harris' own presidential bid fizzled, her rise continued when Biden chose her as his running mate last August. Harris had been a close friend of Beau Biden, the elder son of Joe Biden and a former Delaware attorney general who died in 2015 of cancer.

The inauguration activities included nods to her history-making role and her personal story.

Harris used two Bibles to take the oath, one that belonged to Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, the

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Young Poet Inspires the World



American poet Amanda Gorman reads her poem during the 59th Presidential Inauguration, Jan. 20 at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. (AP photo)

'Maya Angelou is cheering and so am I' — tweets Oprah Winfrey

(AP) — The president of a historically Black university in Maryland was so captivated by inaugural poet Amanda Gorman's poem during President Joe Biden's inauguration that he offered her a job -- on Twitter.

Morgan State University President David Wilson joined the many people lauding Gorman, 22, Wednesday after her recital of “The Hill We Climb,” a poem that summoned images dire and triumphant and echoed the oratory of John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. among others before the global audience.

“Ms. Gorman, I need you as our Poet-in-Residence at the National Treasury, @MorganStateU,” Wilson tweeted. “Outstanding!!!! Consider this a job offer!”

The 22-year-old Gorman began by asking “Where can we find light/In this never-ending shade?” and used her own poetry and life story as an answer. The poem's very title, “The Hill We Climb,” suggested both labor and transcendence.

*“We did not feel prepared to be the heirs
Of such a terrifying hour.
But within it we've found the power
To author a new chapter,
To offer hope and laughter to ourselves.”*

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