



AmericasFoundationMT
Presents

President George Washington's



Second Inaugural Address
(1789)

Introduction

In the election of 1792 George Washington was again unanimously elected to the Office of President of the United States of America. Though he had a great reluctance to once again take on the burdens of the office, he saw it as a duty owed to the nation rather than a personal accomplishment or as an opportunity to fulfill any specific political agenda. On March 4th, 1793 George Washington became the first person to take the oath of office and be inaugurated to the Office of President for a second time. Precisely at noon that he entered the Senate chamber in Philadelphia and gave the shortest Inaugural Addresses in U.S. history at just 135 words. In these few words George Washington chose to focus on the oath itself and asked Congress that if he should “in any instance, violate, willingly or knowingly, the injunction thereof” that they hold him accountable both morally and legally and that he should incur the “Constitutional punishment” or impeachment.

Fellow-Citizens:

I am again called upon by the voice of my Country to execute the functions of its Chief Magistrate. When the occasion proper for it shall arrive, I shall endeavour to express the high sense I entertain of this distinguished honor, and of the confidence which has been reposed in me by the people of United America.

Previous to the execution of any official act of the President, the Constitution requires an Oath of Office. This Oath I am now about to take, and in your presence, 56 that if it shall be found during my administration of the Government I have in any instance violated willingly, knowingly, the injunction thereof, I may (besides incurring Constitutional punishment) be subject to the upbraidings of all who are now witnesses of the present solemn Ceremony.