

Inauguration Tickets... Continued from page 1



The United States Capitol. Credit: www.inaugural.senate.gov

in the front seat of the White House or the back seat of the airplane or bus, we will find a way to see and make history," wrote "Trisha" on a Nov. 8 blog about the swearing-in on www.aolblackvoices.com.

Only a few days after Obama trounced erstwhile rival Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., to win the 2008 presidential contest, demand for tickets have already exceeded supply. Though free, inauguration tickets are limited in number—240,000—and distributed through members of Congress about a week before the event.

The day after the election, District Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton said she set up a special telephone line and e-mail address to take requests, but her office was inundated with so many calls that it stymied other urgent non-inauguration related calls

and she had to stop taking names.

Norton said she is worried this foreshadows even worse conditions to come.

"I share the excitement and enthusiasm of my constituents, but I am concerned that even the few who obtain tickets will not be able to get through the crowds at the Mall," Norton said in a statement. "The only people sure to get a view of the parade and the swearing-in are the people who watch it on television in the comfort of their homes."

Officials say with people determined to participate—whether they have tickets or not—they expect the crowds to surpass the 1.2 million that attended President Lyndon Johnson's swearing-in in 1965. Norton, a member of the Homeland Security Committee, said she

plans to meet next week with security officials to discuss the ramifications.

"An entirely new game plan will be needed to cope with an inauguration like none the country has ever seen," Norton said.

Already, officials have had to deal with fraudulent Web sites and others exploiting people's desperation by selling them "free" tickets.

"Any Web site or ticket broker claiming that they have inaugural tickets is simply not telling the truth," said Howard Gantman, staff director for the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies. "We urge the public to view any offers of tickets for sale with great skepticism...An entirely new game plan will be needed to cope with an inauguration like none the country has ever seen."

Most remain hopeful—even adamant—about participating in the days-long celebration. People have already booked airline and bus tickets, even before inauguration tickets became available. And hotel rooms are filling up quickly.

William Hanbury, president of Destination DC, the District's convention and tourism arm, told The Washington Post, the area's 95,000 hotel rooms are filling up faster than for previous inaugurations. "There are still a lot of rooms available, but people need to be doing transactions now if they are serious about coming," Hanbury said, adding that people may soon have to resort to "innovative accommodations."

"The church group from Atlanta, the high school from Chicago -- they're all trying to find places to stay. You're going to have people sleeping in church basements and high school cafeterias," Hanbury predicted.

The unprecedented interest in the 56th inauguration is a testament to the man and his message but also the historic overtones.

Celebrated under the theme, "A New Birth of Freedom," Obama's inauguration commemorates the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. And for African-Americans, especially, the day is equally auspicious since it falls on the day after Dr. Martin Luther King Day.

The Rev. Al Sharpton, civil rights leader and president of the National Action Network, said he plans to move his annual King Day celebration from New York to Washington and to stick around to celebrate Obama.

"We're going to have tens of thousands of people there," Sharpton told the New York Daily News. "It's going to be a four-day civil rights weekend."

The Eagle Has Landed



Col. Bobby W. Jones

Recently promoted Colonel Bobby Wayne Jones is the fourth of seven children born to the late Arlee and Earnestine Jones. He grew up in Altheimer, AR and graduated as salutatorian from Altheimer High School in 1979.

He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR in 1984 and doctorate of medicine from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in 1990. He completed an internship and residency in internal medicine at the Dwight David Eisenhower Army Medical Center at Fort Gordon, Augusta, GA.

Subsequent assignments included Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC., and Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. Operational assignments

included brigade surgeon and flight surgeon duties for the famous "Rock of the Marne" Division. Deployments include the National Training Center, Joint Readiness Training Center, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo.

His next assignment was with the 67th combat Support Hospital in Wurzburg, Germany. He is a board certified internist and currently assigned as the Director of the Tuttle Army Health Clinic on Hunter Army Airfield, Savannah, GA.

Col. Jones maintains life memberships in the Arkansas Alumni Association, Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and the King-Tisdale Cottage Foundation. In 2006, he was one of ten African-American alumni selected by the University of Arkansas to receive the inaugural Silas Hunt Legacy Award. He is a member of the Thankful Missionary Baptist Church in Savannah, GA where he serves as a Sunday School Teacher and Co-Director of the Youth and Teen Ministry. He delivered his initial sermon in August of 2006 and will be ordained in December of this year. He is married to the former Corine Ackerson and they have one son, Bradley.

Junior League... Continued from page 10

Sale was the busiest ever, breaking records for both ticket and floor sales.

"The proceeds from this year's event will fund projects in 2009," Edenfield explained. "The funds from last year's event were allocated to community partners such as Habitat for Humanity, Oatland Island Education Center, Coastal Children's Advocacy Center and Union Mission, as well as going towards the League's Kid Who Care

Scholarship Program."

"We are immensely appreciative of the support this community has shown to the League and our endeavors," Edenfield noted. "This event could not have been a success without the efforts of hundreds of League members and community partners, particularly our platinum sponsors, Publix Super Markets Charities, Levy Jewelers and SunTrust."

The funds raised from the 2008 Thrift Sale will go towards community funding that furthers the goal of advocacy for women and children in need throughout the Low Country, Coastal Empire and Golden Isles. Non-profit organizations whose missions align with this goal are encouraged to apply to the Junior League for funding consideration. Applications for 2009 Community Assistance Funding will be accepted through Nov. 15. For information, call the Junior League of Savannah Headquarters at (912) 790-1002 or visit www.jrleaguesavannah.org.

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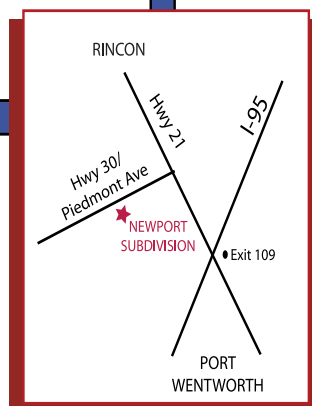
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