



NEWS

Inauguration an Empire Statement

By **Gerry Shields**

January 21, 2013 | 5:00am

Today's schedule of events

11:30 a.m.

- Public swearing-in ceremony for **President Obama** and **Vice President Joe Biden** begins at Capitol; 250,000 ticketed guests in attendance.
- Staten Island's PS 22 Chorus performs "God Bless the USA."
- **Sen. Charles Schumer** delivers opening remarks.
- Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir performs.

Noon

- Justice **Sonia Sotomayor** publicly administers oath of office to Biden.
- Chief Justice **John Roberts** publicly administers oath of office to Obama.
- Obama delivers inaugural address.
- **Beyoncé** sings National Anthem.

2:35 p.m.

- Inaugural parade begins. Obama, Biden and their families participate in the parade, then gather on a viewing stand constructed across from the White House.

- **Queens Iraq war veteran Capt. James Van Thach** marches in the parade with his service dog, Liz. In 2006, Van Thach was wounded in an IED attack, but returned to duty. He returned home after a February 2007 al Qaeda rocket attack that caused brain damage, impairing his sight.

6 p.m.

- Obama attends the Commander-in-Chief's Ball for active-duty members of military, reserves, wounded warriors and Medal of Honor recipients. Featured entertainers include **Brad Paisley, Jennifer Hudson** and **Marc Anthony**.

6:30 p.m.

- Obama and **First Lady Michelle Obama** attend Inaugural Ball at the Washington, DC, Convention Center, where **Stevie Wonder, Katy Perry, Alicia Keys, fun.** and **Usher** will perform.



Photo:

The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir prepares for the Presidential inauguration on the steps of the US Capitol. (Brian Zak)
WASHINGTON — It may be a Washington inauguration, but it's going to have a real New York flavor.

Because Sen. Charles Schumer is chairman of the inauguration committee putting on the event, the ceremony and following luncheon are filled with Empire State food, music and dignitaries.

OOPS! BUMBLE BIDEN SAYS *HE'S* THE PREZ

Richard Olsen-Harbich is the wine maker for Bedell Cellars of Long Island, who are providing the 2009 merlot to be used at the luncheon.

“It means an incredible amount for the region as a whole,” said Olsen-Harbich. “And it shows that merlot is really cool again because the coolest guy on the planet will be drinking it.”

The PS 22 Chorus of Staten Island will follow the Marine Band with its musical selection at the ceremony, an unforgettable treat for the 65 fifth-graders, said chorus director Gregg Breinberg.

“It’s the big show indeed,” Breinberg said. “We’re anticipating one of the best events the chorus has ever been involved in. The kids are going to have a place in history.”

Derek Grout and his family at the Golden Harvest farm in Kinderhook shipped 120 pounds of apples from their operation to go into apple cobbler being served for dessert.

“I voted for Obama so it’s icing,” Grout said. “I’m thrilled.”

Carol Cymbala will join in the excitement when she brings her army of 300 singers of the Grammy Award-winning Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir to perform at the ceremony.

“I never thought it would happen in my lifetime, and it’s here,” Cymbala said.

Luncheon participants will be serenaded for an hour by the Eastman String Quartet from the University of Rochester.

Additional reporting by Tara Palmeri

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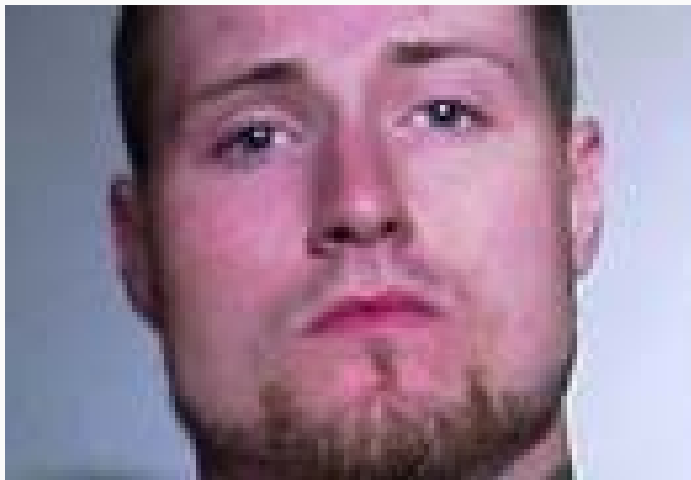
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