

One Last Note...

My Date with the President



In my lifetime, I have never heard one President cover everything I believe in during a 10-minute speech.

— Anonymous Spectator to
Presidential Inaugural Ceremony 2013

Obama was the draw at the moment and rightfully so.

The mood across Washington D.C. on Inauguration Day 2013 was jovial. As we excitedly rode the Metro, everyone we came into contact with (locals and visitors) was looking forward to being a part of history – many for the second time. We took our places on the Capitol's west lawn by 10:30 a.m. and soon watched our country's leaders make their entrance on the jumbotron. Enthusiasm heightened as the President's motorcade approached, and folks just lost it.

I must say that I've never attended an event where so many people sharing one space were so completely in sync. One million plus people stood in near silence to hear our President take the oath of office and then speak, soaking up every gesture and word as if he were talking to each of us one-on-one. The technology (cameras, tablets, and smartphones) was only outnumbered by American flags being waved in the air. The pomp and circumstance of the event, the traditional 21-gun salute, the live music (whether lip-synched or not) was just awe-inspiring to witness and take in. And with a subtle nod to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, which appropriately shared the day, even the activist groups scattered about and perched in trees (yes, you read that right) peacefully protesting their causes.

While I realize that history is being made every single day somewhere, witnessing it unfold in this way was an unforgettable feeling, and I was blessed to be able to share it with a few of my favorite people.

That sentiment provides a great segue to highlight our Health themed issue! One of many historical victories during President Obama's first term occurred when the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (H.R. 3590) was signed into law on March 23, 2010. Projected to expand health care coverage to 31 million uninsured Americans, "Obamacare" will give many more Americans access to Southern Regional Medical Center and its fabulous team of health care professionals, many of whom are profiled in this and every issue of *We Are Clayton*.

Yet as the country continues making history, our county is at a crossroads. Clayton County residents have been cast in the unique role of finding ways to work together to help move this county forward. What part will you play in creating that history?

Looking forward to seeing you in the Education issue, where Clayton County Public Schools will be the star of the show!

Kimberly Allen,

Editor

We Are Clayton



Andréa Bryant (MOM)

Kimberly Allen

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WHILE WATCHING PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA GET SWORN in on television back in 2009, my bestie Tammy and I regretted the fact that we were seeing history unfold from our respective couches instead of being active participants. We vowed to attend the next inaugural ceremony if he got reelected to a second term — no excuses.

Fast forward to November 2012 – the day after the general election we immediately booked hotel and flights, determined to fulfill the promise we made nearly four years earlier. As we began sharing our plans others were inspired to attend, including my mom and two friends from college, Carmella and Arlene.

Upon arrival in Washington, D.C., one could feel the electricity in the air, and it wasn't just about the inauguration for me. I got the same vibe during Mother's Day weekend 2012 when Mom and I did all the touristy stuff. Despite our country's imperfect history, there is no way one can visit D.C. without feeling some semblance of patriotism and pride. A trip to our nation's capital should be experienced by every American, in my opinion. But for most, President