

# AARP Bulletin

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## INAUGURAL ODDITIES

*By David Frank*

The military's involvement in the inauguration goes back to the beginning—April 30, 1789, when members of local militia units and Revolutionary War veterans escorted George Washington to the first inauguration ceremony at Federal Hall in New York. Today more than 5,000 service members from all branches of the

armed forces, including the reserves and the National Guard, support and take part in Inauguration Day activities—service bands, color guards, salute batteries and honor cordons, plus those providing security and operational functions.

Commander Jonathan Blyth, deputy director of public affairs of the coordinating Joint Task Force—National Capital Region 58th Presidential Inauguration, says, “There is no greater honor for us in the military than to show the world we render honor to the next commander in chief.”