

# PARTY:

Several at the reception mention the historic context of the inauguration.

FROM A1

tions has generated.

He said that was not just about Obama. "It's about the possibilities of the future."

Among the others who attended were Oklahoma Attorney General Drew Edmondson, Tulsa Mayor Kathy Taylor and state lawmakers.

Two Republicans, U.S. Reps. Mary Fallin and Tom Cole, helped make it a bipartisan affair.

And it quickly turned non-partisan with the arrival of Judge Robert Henry of Oklahoma City, the chief judge of the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Taylor noted that Obama's inauguration would come one day after the country observed the day set aside to honor the slain civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. "It's a historic moment," she said, adding that both the country and Oklahoma can look forward to real change.

State Rep. Jabar Shumate, D-Tulsa, said he believed that Obama's election and inauguration captures the same sentiment Tulsans are generating with the work in the city's Greenwood District.

David Phillips of Tulsa said nothing is more fulfilling than being able to witness the kind of history Tuesday's swearing-in will produce.

Fallin, as one of the elected Republicans in the room, said the evening captured the right approach to set aside partisan issues and for all to come to-



Gov. Brad Henry (center) talks with the Rev. Ron Willis (middle left) and Tracy Traylor (middle right) during the Oklahoma State Society's pre-inaugural party Sunday night at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian. KEVIN WOLF/Associated Press

gether to celebrate the historic moment as a country.

For some, the change clearly will be more dramatic.

Muskogee Mayor John Tyler Hammons, who was 19 when he was elected last year and when he attended last summer's GOP convention, remarked that George W. Bush represented the presidency for someone his age.

"When Bush took office, I was in the sixth grade," he said.

Meg Sokolosky, 18, of Owasso, who attends Cascia Hall in Tulsa, is spending her "career exploration" in Washington during the inauguration week.

Accompanied by her mother, Mary, she agreed that being so close to such history was an unusual experience.

"No matter what party, I think it is great for our country," she said.

The hosts included a number of officials as well as the Oklahoma State Society. It was not sponsored by the inaugural committee.

The Oklahoma State Society periodically organizes receptions attended by elected officials, congressional aides and others with ties to the state.

For the inauguration, society President Ryan Jackson said, the organization cast a wide net to invite members of other groups such as alumni organizations of Oklahoma universities.

By early January, Jackson said, the event had generated more than 400 responses.

Boren said that number picked up considerably in recent days.

He connected Oklahoma's rich American Indian heritage to having the reception at the museum.

In a program unrelated to the reception, the museum featured daily performances of music, dancing and storytelling as part of the inaugural events.

It also opened a photo exhibition focusing on the 1905 inaugural parade of President Theodore Roosevelt and the six chiefs who participated.

They were Buckskin Charlie of the Ute tribe, American Horse of the Oglala Sioux, Quannah Parker of the Comanche, Geronimo of the Chiricahua Apache, Hollow Horn Bear of the Brule Sioux, and Little Plume of the Piegan Blackfeet.

In addition to adding "color to the show," the museum said, the six leaders actively sought Roosevelt's attention to their concerns.

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# OBAMA:

Day starts with wreath-laying at Arlington National Cemetery.

FROM A1

in the cold, gray afternoon of mid-January.

It was the high point of a full day of pre-inaugural events that included a wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery and a morning church service where children recalled the life of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

Obama's motorcade drew ever-larger crowds as the day wore on and he and his wife, Michelle, and their children, Sasha and Malia, crisscrossed the city.

"Just another typical Sunday," deadpanned the Rev. Derrick Harkins, pastor at the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church, where the soon-to-be first family prayed.

Of course it was anything but — a run-up in fact to the first inauguration of an African-American president in a nation founded by slave-owners.

Obama's aides said he was readying an inaugural address that would stress twin themes of responsibility and accountability, and they predicted he would devote his first week in office to economic recovery, setting in motion a 16-month troop withdrawal from Iraq and decreeing a code of ethics for his administration.

With the economy weak and growing weaker, banks in trouble and joblessness rising, Obama's team was careful to warn against any expectation that he would be a miracle worker once in office. "I think it's fair to say that it's going to take not months but years to really turn this around," said David Axelrod, a political strategist expected to have White House space mere paces from the Oval Office.

Obama said as much. "I won't pretend that meeting any one of these challenges will be easy. It will take more than a month or a year, and it will likely take many," he said.

He stood alone at the base of the steps before the statue of a seated Lincoln, looking out at a crowd every bit as large as the one King addressed a generation earlier

in one of the defining moments of the civil rights era.

An even larger audience is forecast for the inauguration outside the Capitol on Tuesday, with estimates running into the millions. Agencies in charge of logistics and security said they would enforce a ban on personal auto traffic across the Potomac River bridges from Virginia into Washington and seal off a large portion of the downtown area. Access to buildings along the Inaugural parade route down Pennsylvania Avenue was limited to those who gained Secret Service approval in advance.

Obama's day began at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National cemetery, where he and Vice President-elect Joseph Biden laid a wreath in memory of fallen heroes. The two men placed their hands over their hearts as a uniformed bugler played taps in a serious opening to a festive day.

The scene was quite different at the church a few miles away, where the congregation erupted in applause when Obama and his family walked to their seats.

"Understand that God has prepared you, and God has placed you, and God will not forsake you," Harkins told the incoming president.

Children sang and spoke selected readings that recalled King, who was killed in 1968.

"Martin Luther King walked so that Barack Obama could run," said one boy. "Barack Obama ran so that all children could fly," added another, standing a few feet away from the first African-American ever elected president.

At the Lincoln Memorial a few hours later, King's son, Martin Luther King III, had a brief speaking role.

For the most part, the program was a festival of music, the songs chosen to make their points. Mary J. Blige sang, "Lean on Me," Springsteen performed "The Rising," and Obama mouthed the words as 89-year-old Pete Seeger pitched in with "This Land Is Your Land."

Many in the crowd sang along with Beyonce's soulful finale, "America the Beautiful."

In film clips at earlier moments, Obama was cast as heir to Franklin Delano Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy and even Lincoln, who the president-elect said was "the man who in so many ways made this day possible."



People march south on Cincinnati Avenue to attend the Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Service held at Boston Avenue United Methodist Church on Sunday. SHERRY BROWN/Tulsa World

# MLK:

A local rabbi parallels the suffering of enslaved blacks with that of Jews.

FROM A1

terfaith flavor.

The aura of Barack Obama, just days away from becoming America's first black president, was palpable throughout the service.

Speaker Rabbi Marc Fitzerman, B'nai Emunah Congregation, paralleled the discrimination and suffering of enslaved blacks with that of his own people, the Jews, and said that deliverance, in both cases, must come from the subjugated people.

Of watching Obama's early success in Iowa last year, he said, "I sat in stunned and motionless quiet, looking at the face of one black man, projected against a great sea of white, and then began to weep aloud; to weep convulsively; to weep cathartically, that I had lived to see this gorgeous vision of a world come suddenly alive again."

"I am absolutely confident that we will cross the river, that we will arrive at our own

## Local inaugural events

**The Greenwood Cultural Center**, 322 N. Greenwood Ave., will be the epicenter of the local festivities for those who want to make Tuesday a social event as well as an historic one. A free program from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. will feature two big screens broadcasting live coverage from Washington through a direct interactive link to the District of Columbia courtesy of Rollerson Productions. There also will be live entertainment, food, drink and Obama-related souvenirs available.

**Rudisill Regional Library**, 1520 N. Hartford Ave., is holding a free program from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. In addition to showing a live feed of

the inauguration activities, prizes will be awarded in an "Obama-Rama Presidential Trivia" contest, with questions based on books, magazines and newspapers from the library's collection. Beverages will be provided by the Friends of the Rudisill Regional Library. For more, call the library at 596-7280.

**Circle Cinema**, 12 S. Lewis Ave., will broadcast the Inauguration Day events with doors opening at 10 a.m. Admission is free, with the usual concession fare ready for purchase.

**Sadie's Coffeehouse**, 567 E. 36th St. North, is inviting people "to spend and remember a history-making day with friends and family" during Obama's swearing-in and address.

reading from the Quran by Zaheer Arastu, principal of Peace Academy; speeches by student MLK award winners; music by the MLK Mass Choir and several soloists; a talk by the Rev. Willard Jones of Cornerstone Baptist Church; and presentation of the "Keeping the Dream Alive" award to the Rev. Stephen McKee of Trinity Episcopal Church.

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## MLK parade route



## MLK parade

Tulsa's Martin Luther King Jr. commemorative parade will begin at 10 a.m. Monday at Pine Street and Greenwood Avenue, and march south through the Greenwood business district.

A rally with award presentations will follow in the OSU-Tulsa Main Hall commons area, 700 N. Greenwood Ave.

## Inside

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