

Being Biden: A Senate Swearing-In

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN: And that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office upon which you are about to enter, so help you God?

[MALE SPEAKER]: I do.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN: I have no doubt about it. [APPLAUSE]

I'm heading up to Capitol Hill now to swear-in the new members and old members of the United States Senate and, as Vice President, it's one of the great opportunities I have. I loved the United States Senate, it was a collegial place and I had as many friends in the Republican Party as the Democratic Party. Today is a really special day.

[MALE SPEAKER]: Next year's Christmas card.

The Vice President: Thaddeus! Best guy in the United States Senate, right here. I can say that now that he's won, I wouldn't hurt him. Great to see you, Thad.

The Vice President: You doing okay? You say, "Grandpa can I talk to a Democrat?"

I can't think of a greater honor than being sworn-in as a United States Senator. It's especially exciting for the new members, whether they are Republican or Democrat. And to see the looks on their faces, I hope they understand what an incredible opportunity they have, and what a great honor it is to be given the right to serve where only fewer than 2,000 people have ever served.

And what I like most is getting to see their children and their parents, particularly their moms and dads. When I re-enact the swearing-in -- in the Old Senate Chamber, where their whole families are able to be there and stand with them as I re-enact the swearing-in. It's a moment of real joy.

[MALE SPEAKER]: It's his birthday today.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN: Well, happy birthday, man. You have got some killer eyes; those girls are in trouble.

Lorraine, how are you? It's good to see you.

[FEMALE SPEAKER]: I am the mother of 10.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN: My mother would say, "No purgatory for you, dear; straight to heaven!" Straight to heaven.

[MALE SPEAKER]: Hi, I am Joey.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN: Hey Joey, great name man. My dad would say to you, "Good luck, kid."

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN: It has nothing to do with Republican or Democrat. It has to do with having the opportunity to actually join the single most important legislative body in the world, and it is an enormous honor.

I served there for a long time, and I consider it -- I consider myself a Senate man. So it's good to be going back, and it's good to be able to perform this function.