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Salute freedom today, expand it, Wilder tells 30,000 at inaugural

'Son of Virginia' sees hard tasks

By Michael Hardy
and Jeff E. Schapiro
Times-Dispatch staff writer

Proclaiming himself a "son of Virginia," Lawrence Douglas Wilder was sworn in yesterday as the nation's first elected black governor, promising to expand for others the freedom that had been denied his slave forebears.

"As we salute the idea of freedom today, let us pledge to extend that same freedom to others tomorrow," said Wilder, 58, becoming the 68th governor of Virginia during an emotional ceremony on the shadow-draped north side of the state Capitol.

"Let us fulfill the perfect promise of freedom and liberty left as a legacy for us by those who founded this commonwealth," Wilder said in a 15-minute address before the estimated 30,000 people who crowded onto Capitol Square for the historic inauguration.

"And let us likewise be thankful that, while our country gave birth to a freedom long denied and delayed for all who loved freedom, the belief in these dreams held by those forebears was passed from generation to generation, and spawned the seeds that propagated the will and the desire to achieve."

Wilder, elected in November by the closest margin ever in a Virginia

Inside

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- "There is a beginning, middle and end. This is the end" of the Ballies years. Page A-10.

- Numb feet didn't bother the 30,000 in Capitol Square. Page A-6.

- All's polite now, but the lieutenant governor and attorney general look like opponents four years from now. Page A-10.

governor's race, follows as chief executive segregationists and slave owners, visionaries and revolutionaries.

Yesterday's ceremonies drew political and government leaders from around the nation and the world, including the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, the two-time presidential candidate who antagonized Wilder following the election by trying to take credit for his victory. Wilder has been viewed as an alternative to Jackson on the national political stage.

In a symbolic meeting of the old Virginia and the new, Wilder was administered the 49-word oath of of-

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Staff photo by Lindy Keast Rodman

TAKING THE OATH — L. Douglas Wilder was sworn in as governor yesterday by retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr. Daughter Loren, other members of his family and a crowd estimated at 30,000 looked on and cheered as Wilder, a grandson of slaves, became the first black elected governor.

Change constant in stream of time

CHARLES
MCDOWELL

The truth is that governors' inaugurations in Virginia are pretty much the same every four years. The ritual has not changed fundamentally in the modern era — the rented formal clothes on the good old boys from the General Assembly, the solemn oath, the sudden panic of the Capitol Square pigeons at the firing of the 19-gun salute.

But if the ritual doesn't change, the times do. The inauguration of Gov. L. Douglas Wilder made that point yesterday as it has not been made in all the history of the state, or any state.

Another governor of Virginia had said in his inaugural speech, "Every generation speaks of changing times, but change is constant in the stream

of time."

That was Albertis S. Harrison in 1962. He was at the Capitol yesterday, smiling.

The governor before him was the late J. Lindsay Almond Jr. His inaugural speech 32 years ago helps now in gauging the stream of time.

"I call upon the General Assembly to stand firm with unwavering unity of purpose and high resolve against every assault upon the sovereign integrity of this commonwealth. Against these massive assaults we must marshal a massive resistance," Almond thundered.

He also said in that speech: "I cannot conceive such a thing as a little integration any more than I can conceive a small avalanche or a modest holocaust."

Just a year later, Virginia's "massive resistance" to racial integration of the public schools began to collapse (and Almond dismayed the diehards by accepting the inevitable).

On Jan. 19, 1959 — Robert E. Lee's

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Silent amen marks 'a point in history'

Commentary

By Michael Paul Williams
Times-Dispatch staff writer

We came in droves to Thomas Jefferson's Capitol, to celebrate and to be a part of history. On this sun-kissed January day, the chilly air held an abundance of joy, pride and hope as we witnessed a dream realized.

As L. Douglas Wilder, the nation's first elected black governor, spoke of the equality of men during his inauguration speech, Johnnie Jones of Fort Washington, Md., nodded his head in silent amen.

"I thank God for being alive to witness something we've waited for 100 years or more," Jones, 53, said. Jones and the thousands of other blacks at the inauguration recognized a new epoch when they saw one.

"I felt I was at a point in history and that really means something," said Robin Mercer-Snead of Chesapeake.

Mrs. Mercer-Snead, 27, couldn't see Wilder from a spot near the Capitol's black wrought-iron fence. That didn't matter.

"Those people who were at the reflecting pool and heard Martin Luther King speak were probably way in the back just like we were," she said.

She called it appropriate that Wilder's inauguration occurred two days before the national holiday that honors Dr. King. It seems, she said,

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Staff photo by Clement Britt

TRIUMPHANT TRIO — Gov. L. Douglas Wilder shares the inaugural rostrum with his running mates, Lt. Gov. Donald S. Terry. The weather in Capitol Square did nothing to chill the emotion of the moment.

Inauguration

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Today's Index

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The weather

Mostly sunny and milder today with highs in the mid-40s. Increased cloudiness tonight; lows

in the lower 30s. Cloudy tomorrow with highs in the lower 50s. Data, page A-2.

Tomorrow's features

Metro ... Think you've heard it all about the inauguration? You haven't. Columnist Ray McAllister finds some of what you missed in the three days of hoopla — and offers a different perspective on it all.

Business ... Alex Armour has spent a lifetime at Davonport & Co., a Richmond-based brokerage that will honor the stockbroker for 70 years of work. And Armour, 64, has no intention of retiring.

Virginia's State Newspaper

Gorbachev: Rival parties possible

VILNIUS, U.S.S.R. (AP) — President Mikhail S. Gorbachev said yesterday that he no longer objects to legalization of other political parties in the Soviet Union, where the Communist Party has held a monopoly on power for 72 years.

"I see no tragedy in a multiparty system if — and I can tell you this straightforwardsly — it arises as a result of a normal historical process and answers the needs of society," he told Lithuania's Communist Party.

It was a surprising reversal by Gorbachev, who had remained opposed to the idea of rival parties even as pro-democracy movements forced an end to one-party rule elsewhere in Eastern Europe.

Police routinely have broken up demonstrations by the Democratic Union, until recently the only organization trying to establish itself as an opposition party.

A reason for Gorbachev's change could be that multiparty systems already exist in Lithuania and Latvia. The party ideology chief in the third Baltic republic, Estonia, has said that the same is inevitable there.

Lithuania was the first to legalize other parties and its Communists will face them in February elections for the republic's Supreme Soviet.

Violence in Azerbaijan, page A-13

Gorbachev has been seeking to persuade the Lithuanian Communist Party to reverse its decision to break with the central one. His three-day visit ended with the Lithuanians refusing to budge.

The president concluded yesterday's party meeting with the statement, "We have laid a good foundation for continuing the dialogue." He then returned to Moscow.

Gorbachev pleaded for unity in the party and the nation but faced pro-independence demonstrators at every stop and clearly had no significant effect on public opinion. Lithuanians strongly support independence for the republic, which was taken over in 1940.

The Communist ideology chief, Vadim A. Medvedev, said after the meeting that elaboration on Gorbachev's statement on multiple parties will be in an article by Gorbachev due to appear in the press, possibly as early as today.

Communists have held exclusive power in the Soviet Union since a

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UPHEAVAL - Emphasis, tactics shift at ACLU



IN THE '90s

A special report in Business examines the forces that most certainly will deliver plenty of changes and challenges throughout Virginia. Executives, trade unions and consumer advocates will discover quickly that they need new rules, new viewpoints and new dreams. From change comes many things — turmoil, failure, success and opportunities.

The report begins on D-1

• New York Times Service

DETROIT — After years of telling officials what they cannot do to keep guns and other weapons out of the city's troubled schools, the American Civil Liberties Union in Detroit last week adopted a completely different tack: It presented its own plan to tighten school discipline and security.

To the surprise of local educators and law enforcement agencies, the civil liberties group outlined a broad strategy to address school violence, including tougher enforcement of truancy rules, the creation of a "secret witness" program to collect anonymous tips, and searches of individual lockers when there is "reasonable suspicion" to believe that a student is carrying a weapon.

While officials of the ACLU said the plan's elements were consistent with their efforts to defend and expand the array of constitutionally protected liberties, their broader strategy underscores a shift in the way the nation's oldest mainstream civil liberties group is now seeking to further its agenda.

Confronted with a federal judiciary it regards as less and less recep-

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