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**Page, U.S. House of Representatives**

**President Truman's Inauguration: Part One**

Albert R. Anness recalls Congressman Edward G. Breen of Ohio spontaneously inviting him to attend President Truman's inauguration.

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A fellow Page, House Page, Jim Richards, and I briefly occupied what would have arguably been considered among the best seats at Truman's inauguration. The operative word in this scenario is "briefly," as our up-close and personal presence at this historic milestone in our country's glorious history was soon, very soon, cut short by our boss, "Fishbait" Miller, Doorkeeper of the U.S. House of Representatives. I cannot remember how it came that I found myself in the Rotunda, and I got confused on this. Maybe it wasn't the Rotunda, maybe it was the rotunda on the House side of the Capitol building, standing next to the Secret Service man guarding the entrance to President Truman's inaugural platform. An even bigger mystery is how fellow House Page Jim Richardson came to be standing next to me, but there we were. And as luck would have it, the last Congressman to pass through the door and on to President Truman's inaugural platform was my Congressman, Edward G. Breen of the 3rd Congressional District of Ohio. After greeting me, Congressman Breen proceeded to invite me—Jim and me—to come along and watch President Truman's inauguration. I explained that our passes did not extend to the inaugural platform. Congressman Breen, while patiently waiting to pass through the huge double ornate doors, casually turned to the Secret Service man and informed him that we were official House Pages. Unhesitatingly, and without uttering a single syllable, the Secret Service man, with a mere wave of the hand, gave permission for us to join the Members on the inaugural platform. Albeit, our stay on it was brief, but the undeniable fact remains that Jim and I were the only Pages—House, Senate, or Supreme Court—who, on that day, gained admission onto President Truman's inaugural platform, and I think that's a great distinction!