



U.S. CAPITOL
Visitor Center

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Capitol Visitor Center Welcomes One Millionth Visitor to U.S. Capitol

WASHINGTON, DC – Terrie S. Rouse, CEO for Visitor Services at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, announced that the Capitol Visitor Center today welcomed its one millionth visitor to the U.S. Capitol.

“Since we opened on December 2, we’ve worked hard to provide a welcoming entryway to the U.S. Capitol for the many visitors from around the world who come to see the legislative branch of our government at work,” said Rouse. “We hope that these visitors have left the Capitol feeling more informed about Congress and the history of the Capitol and more involved in their government.”

The Visitor Center’s one million visitors compares to 467,800 visitors during the same five-month period one year ago. That translates to a 114 percent increase in the number of people visiting the Capitol. It is expected that this robust pace of visitation will continue.

The peak day since opening was Monday, April 20, when 19,500 visitors visited the Capitol. According to the House and Senate Sergeants at Arms, in years past, that number of visitors could have resulted in a four-hour wait outside. Currently, the average wait for visitors to enter the Visitor Center is six to ten minutes.

During the 12 days of the Cherry Blossom Festival that the Visitor Center was open (March 28 through April 11), the Capitol Visitor Center welcomed 187,000 people -- an average of 15,500 visitors a day.

As the largest expansion of the U.S. Capitol, the Visitor Center provides numerous amenities to visitors, including a 16,500 foot Exhibition Hall. In April, 50 different documents were put on display in the Exhibition Hall. The items new to the Visitor Center include the patent drawing of Orville and Wilbur Wright’s Flying Machine; Abraham Lincoln’s original notes for legislation he drafted as a congressman to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia; and President Franklin Roosevelt’s June 8, 1934 message to Congress announcing a program for Social Security.

Visitors may book tours in advance online at www.visitthecapitol.gov or through the offices of their Senators or Representative. Additionally, same-day passes are available each day at the Information Desks in Emancipation Hall on the lower level of the Visitor Center.

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