

# 白宮慶祝衛塞節 美國史上第一次

## The White House Celebrates Vesak for the First Time in US History

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白宮官方照片，卡麥隆·史密斯攝影

Official White House Photo by Cameron Smith.

「衛塞節」是將佛誕日、佛成道日、佛涅槃日同一天紀念的節日。白宮於2021年5月26日（農曆四月十五）舉行了「衛塞節」點燈慶典，這是美國有史以來，第一次在白宮慶祝衛塞節，對全美約四百萬佛教徒而言，是一則喜訊。

白宮也公布了拜登總統的賀詞如下：

「（第一夫人）吉兒和本人要向全美以及全世界的佛教徒，在衛塞節這天致上最溫馨的祝福。衛塞節是紀念佛陀誕生、悟道、以及入涅槃的日子。在這個已逾二千五百年的節日裡舉行點燈儀式，提醒我們佛陀教導的慈悲、謙下、無私，這些教化一直持續至今。在今天這個日子，我們也要紀念美國佛教徒的諸多貢獻。在我們共同努力，邁向更光明的未來之際，美國佛教徒使我們的社區更充實，也讓我們的國家更豐富。」

美國「第二先生」——副總統賀錦麗（卡瑪拉·哈里斯）的丈夫任德龍（道格

Vesak is a Buddhist festival commemorating the birth, enlightenment, and passing into nirvana of Shakyamuni Buddha. On May 26, 2021 (the fifteenth day of the fourth lunar month in 2021), the White House celebrated Vesak for the first time which was welcome news for the roughly four million buddhists in the United States.

The White House also released an official statement by President Biden, “Jill and I extend our warmest wishes to Buddhists in the United States and around the world as they celebrate Vesak, a day honoring the birth, enlightenment, and passing of the Buddha. The ceremonial lighting of a lamp, the symbol of this holiday that has been celebrated for over 2,500 years, reminds us of Buddhism’s teachings of compassion, humility, and selflessness that endure today. On this day, we also commemorate the many contributions of Buddhists in America who enrich our communities and our country as we all work together toward brighter days ahead.

The Vesak celebration at the White House was attended by the Second Gentleman, Mr. Douglas Emhoff, husband of the Vice President Kamala Harris. He lit the candles for the ceremony.

拉斯·埃姆霍夫) 參加了當天白宮的「衛塞節」慶祝儀式，並由他點燃蠟燭。

美國副總統賀錦麗則於5月26日推文：「今天美國和全世界的佛教徒慶祝衛塞節，紀念佛陀誕生、成道、入涅槃。衛塞節象徵著慈悲、團結、互相關懷。這些教化在今天這個日子最為重要。道格和我向每個慶祝衛塞節的人，祝福大家過節快樂。」

美國國務卿布林肯也在同一天推文寫道：「在衛塞節這天，我們慶祝全球佛教徒社區無價的貢獻，啟發我們所有人都要慈悲、和平、尊重人類的尊嚴。」

2016年，當時的美國總統歐巴馬曾於衛塞節當天發表賀詞，但並未在白宮舉行任何慶祝儀式。1999年，聯合國大會通過54/115號決議案，名稱為「聯合國總部與各地辦事處對於衛塞節的國際承認」，並舉行紀念衛塞節的國際活動。今年白宮慶祝衛塞節，可視為佛教在西方發展的里程碑。❀



白宮官方照片，卡麥隆·史密斯攝影

Official White House Photo by Cameron Smith.

Vice President Kamala Harris tweeted on May 26: “Today buddhists in the US and across the World honor Buddha’s birth, enlightenment and passing with the celebration of Vesak — a symbol of compassion, unity and care for each other. These lessons couldn’t be more important today. Doug and I wish a Happy Vesak to all who celebrate!”

Secretary of State Antony Blinken also tweeted on the same day: “On #Vesak Day,

we celebrate the invaluable contributions of Buddhist communities the world over, inspiring us all to compassion, peace, and respect for human dignity.”

President Obama released a statement in 2016 to honor Vesak but no ceremony was held at the White House. In 1999, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 54/115, entitled “International recognition of the Day of Vesak at United Nations Headquarters and other United Nations offices.” International events were held honoring Vesak at UN Headquarters and other UN offices. The White House’s celebration of Vesak this year marks a milestone for the development of Buddhism in the West. ❀



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