

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS BEFORE A JOINT SESSION
OF CONGRESS

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS BEFORE A JOINT SESSION OF
CONGRESS



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To the Congress of the United States:

Speaker Johnson, Vice President Vance, the First Lady of the United States, members of the United States Congress, and my fellow citizens:

America is back! Six weeks ago, I stood beneath the dome of this Capitol and proclaimed the dawn of the Golden Age of America. From that moment on, it has been nothing but swift and unrelenting action to usher in the greatest and most successful era in the history of our country.

We have accomplished more in 43 days than most administrations accomplish in 4 years or 8 years—and we are just getting started.

I return to this chamber tonight to report that America's MOMENTUM is back. Our SPIRIT is back. Our pride is back. Our confidence is back. And the American Dream is surging—bigger and better than ever before. The American Dream is unstoppable, and our country is on the verge of a comeback the likes of which the world has never witnessed, and perhaps will never witness again.

The presidential election of November 5th was a mandate like has not been seen in many decades. We won all 7 swing states, giving us an Electoral College victory of 312 votes. We won the popular vote by millions, and won counties in our country 2,700 to 525—on a map it reads almost completely red for Republican.

Now, for the first time in modern history, more Americans believe that our country is headed in the right direction than the wrong direction—an astonishing record 27-point swing since Election Day alone. Likewise, small business optimism saw its single largest one-month gain ever recorded—a 41 point jump.

Over the past 6 weeks, I have signed nearly 100 Executive Orders and taken more than 400 Executive Actions to restore common sense, safety, optimism, and wealth all across our wonderful land. The People elected me to do the job, and I am doing it. In fact, it has been stated by many that the first month of our presidency is the most successful in the history of our nation. What makes it even more impressive is that number two on the list is the late, great George Washington.

Within hours of taking the oath of office, I declared a National Emergency on our Southern Border, and I deployed the U.S. Military and Border Patrol to repel the invasion of our country. As a result, illegal border crossings last month were by far the lowest ever recorded! They heard my words, and they chose not to come. In comparison, under Joe Biden, the worst president in American History, there were hundreds of thousands of illegals crossing a month, and virtually ALL of them, including murderers, drug dealers, gang members, and people from mental institutions and insane asylums were released into our Country.

This is my fifth such speech to Congress—and once again, I look at the Democrats in front of me, and I realize that there is absolutely nothing I can say to make them happy, or to make them stand, smile, or applaud. I could find a cure to the most devastating disease, a disease that would wipe out entire nations, or announce the answers to the greatest economy in history, or the stoppage of crime to the lowest levels ever recorded, and these people sitting right here will not clap, will not stand, and certainly will not cheer for these astronomical achievements. It's very sad, and it shouldn't be this way. Democrats sitting before me, for just this one night, why not join us in celebrating so many incredible wins for America? And for the good of our nation, let's work together, and truly Make America Great Again!

Every day, my administration is fighting to deliver the change America needs, and the future Americans deserve. This is a time for big dreams, and bold action.

Upon taking office, I imposed an immediate freeze on all Federal hiring, a freeze on all new Federal regulations, and a freeze on all foreign aid.

I terminated the ridiculous Green New Scam, I withdrew from the unfair Paris Climate Accord, I withdrew from the corrupt World Health Organization, and I withdrew from the anti-American U.N. Human Rights Council. We ended all of Biden's environmental restrictions that were making our country far less safe, and totally unaffordable. And importantly, we ended the last administration's insane Electric Vehicle Mandate, saving our autoworkers and companies from economic ruination.

To unshackle our economy, I have directed that for every 1 new regulation, 10 old regulations must be eliminated, just like I did in my very successful first term, when we set records on ending unnecessary rules and regulations.

We ordered all Federal workers to return to the office—they will either show up for work, in person, or be removed from their job.

We have ended weaponized government, where as an example, a sitting president is allowed to viciously prosecute his political opponent—how did that work out? And I have stopped all government censorship, and brought back free speech in America.

I also signed an order making English the official language of the United States.

I renamed the Gulf of Mexico the Gulf of America, and we are restoring the name of a great president, William McKinley, to Mount McKinley in beautiful Alaska.

We have ended the tyranny of so-called “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion” policies across the entire Federal government and private sector. Our country will be “woke” no longer. We believe that whether you are a doctor, an accountant, a lawyer, or an air traffic controller, you should be hired and promoted based on skill and competence, not race or gender. You should be hired based on merit—and the Supreme Court, in a brave and very powerful decision, has allowed us to do so.

We have removed the poison of Critical Race Theory from our public schools. And I signed an order making it the official policy of the United States Government that there are only two genders, male and female.

I also signed an Executive Order to ban men from women's sports. 3 years ago, Payton McNabb was an all-star high school athlete preparing for a future in college sports. But when her girls' volleyball match was invaded by a male, he smashed the ball in Payton's face, causing traumatic brain injury, partially paralyzing her right side, and ending her athletic career. Payton is here tonight in the gallery—and Payton, from now on, schools will kick the men off the girls' teams, or they will lose all Federal funding. And if you really want to see numbers, just take a look at what happened in women's boxing, weight lifting, track and field, swimming, or cycling, where a male recently finished a long-distance race 5 hours and 14 minutes ahead of the women. It's demeaning for women, and it's bad for our country.

What I have just described is only a small fraction of the Common-Sense revolution that is now, because of us, sweeping the world. Common Sense has become a Common Theme—and we will never go back.

Among my very highest priorities is to rescue our economy and get dramatic and immediate relief to working families. As you know, we inherited, from the last administration, an economic catastrophe and an inflation nightmare. Their policies drove up energy prices, pushed up the cost of groceries, and drove the necessities of life out of reach for millions of Americans. We suffered the worst inflation in 48 years, but perhaps even in the history of our country. As President, I am fighting every day to reverse this damage and Make America affordable Again.

Joe Biden especially let the price of eggs get out of control—and we are working hard to get it back down.

A major focus of our fight to defeat inflation is rapidly reducing the cost of energy. The previous administration cut the number of new oil and gas leases by 95%, slowed pipeline construction to a halt, and closed more than 100 power plants. We have never seen anything like it.

That is why on my first day in office, I declared a National Energy Emergency.

We have more liquid gold under our feet than any nation on earth, by far, and I have fully authorized a very powerful program. It's called Drill, Baby, Drill.

My administration is also working on a gigantic natural gas pipeline in Alaska, among the largest in the world, where Japan, South Korea, and other nations want to be our partner—with trillions of dollars being spent by them. It will truly be spectacular.

Later this week, I will also take historic action to dramatically expand production of critical minerals and rare earths here in USA.

To further quench the fires of inflation, we will not only be reducing the cost of energy, but will be ending the flagrant waste of taxpayer dollars. To that end, I have created the brand-new Department of Government Efficiency—headed by Elon Musk, who is in the gallery tonight.

Just listen to some of the appalling waste we have already identified: \$22 billion dollars from H.H.S. to provide free housing and cars for illegal aliens. \$45 million dollars for Diversity Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) scholarships in Burma. \$40 million dollars to im-

prove the “social and economic inclusion of sedentary migrants.” \$8 million dollars to promote “L.G.B.T.Q.I. Plus” in the African nation of Lesotho, which nobody ever heard of. \$60 million dollars for Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Colombian Empowerment in Central America. \$8 million dollars for making mice transgender. \$32 million dollars for a left-wing propaganda operation in Moldova. \$10 million dollars for male circumcision in Mozambique. \$20 million dollars for the Arab Sesame Street programming in the Middle East. \$1.9 billion dollars to a recently-created “decarbonization of homes” committee of Stacey Abrams. A \$3.5 million dollar consulting contract for “larval fish monitoring.” \$1.5 million dollars for “voter confidence” in Liberia. \$14 million dollars for “social cohesion” in Mali. \$59 million dollars for illegal alien hotel rooms in New York City. \$250,000 to increase “Vegan Local Climate Action Innovation” in Zambia. \$42 million dollars for “social and behavior change” in Uganda. \$14 million dollars for “improving public procurement” in Serbia. \$47 million dollars for “improving learning outcomes in Asia.” And \$101 million dollars for DEI contracts at the Department of Education.

Under the Trump Administration, all of these scams, and many more, have been found out, exposed, and swiftly terminated. We have taken back the money, and reduced our debt to fight inflation. This is just the beginning—the Government Accountability Office has estimated annual fraud of over \$500 billion dollars, and we are going to stop it. When people criticize us, they never talk about where the money is going to, they only claim it’s supposedly a violation of the Constitution, which it’s not. But they don’t mean that, they don’t care about our Constitution. They only care about the money. The whole thing is a scam.

We are also identifying shocking levels of incompetence and probable fraud in the Social Security program our seniors rely on. Believe it or not, Government databases list 4.7 million Social Security numbers from people aged 100 to 109 years old. 3.6 million from ages 110 to 119. 3.47 million from ages 120 to 129. 3.9 million from ages 130 to 139. 3.5 million from ages 140 to 149. 1.3 million from ages 150 to 159. And over 130,000 over age 160. Including 1,039 people between the ages of 220 to 229. One person between the age of 240 to 249. And one person at 360 years of age.

By slashing all of the fraud, waste, and theft we can find, we will defeat inflation, bring down mortgage rates, lower car payments and grocery prices, protect our seniors, and put more money in the pockets of American families. And in the near future, I want to do what has not been done in 24 years: balance the Federal budget.

With that goal in mind, we have developed in great detail what we are calling the Gold Card, which goes on sale very soon. For \$5 million dollars, we will allow the most successful, job-creating people from all over the world to buy a path to U.S. citizenship. So while we take out the criminals, killers, traffickers, and child predators, who were allowed to enter our country under the open border policy of the Biden Administration, we will now bring in brilliant, hardworking, job-creating people.

Americans have given us a mandate for bold and profound change. For nearly 100 years, the Federal bureaucracy has grown until it has crushed our freedoms, ballooned our deficits, and held

back America's potential in every possible way. The nation founded by pioneers and risk-takers now drowns under millions of pages of regulations and debt. Approvals that should take 10 days instead take 10 years. Meanwhile, we have hundreds of thousands of Federal Workers who have not been showing up to work. My Administration will reclaim power from this unaccountable bureaucracy, and we will restore true democracy to America again. Any Federal bureaucrat who resists this change will be removed from office. We are draining the swamp. The days of rule by unelected bureaucrats are over.

The next phase of our plan to deliver the greatest economy in history is for this Congress to pass tax cuts for everybody. We are seeking permanent income tax cuts across the board. And to get urgently needed relief to Americans hit especially hard by inflation, I am calling for no tax on tips. No tax on overtime. And no tax on Social Security benefits for our great seniors. I also want to make interest payments on car loans tax deductible—but only if the car is made in America. That, along with our other policies, will allow our auto industry to boom. In fact, already, numerous car companies have announced that they will be building massive automobile plants in America, with Honda just announcing a new plant in Indiana, one of the largest in the world. This has taken place since our great Election victory on November 5th, a date which will hopefully go down as one of the most important in the history of our country.

In addition, as part of our tax cuts, we want to cut taxes on domestic production and manufacturing. This will reward businesses that build in America, hire American workers, and stamp their products with those beautiful words, Made in the USA. And just as we did before, we will provide 100% expensing—it will be retroactive to January 20th, 2025, and it was one of the reasons why our tax cuts were so successful in the first term.

If you don't make your product in America, however, under the Trump Administration, you will pay a TARIFF, and in some cases, a rather large one. Other countries have used tariffs against us for decades, now it is our turn to start using them against those other countries. On average, the EU, China, Brazil, India, and countless other nations charge us tariffs many times higher than ours. India charges us auto tariffs higher than 100%. China's average tariff on our products is twice what we charge them, and South Korea's average tariff is 4 times higher. This system is not fair to the United States, and never was, so on April 2nd, reciprocal tariffs kick in.

Whatever they tariff us, we tariff them. Whatever they tax us, we tax them. If they do non-monetary tariffs to keep us out of their market, then we do non-monetary barriers to keep them out of our market. We will take in trillions of dollars, and create jobs like we have never seen before. We have been ripped off for decades by nearly every country on earth, both friend and foe alike. We are not going to allow that to happen anymore. Much has been said about Mexico and Canada, but we have large deficits with them. They are in effect receiving subsides of hundreds of billions of dollars, and the United States will not be doing that any longer.

Thanks to the America First policies we are putting into place, we have had \$1.7 trillion dollars of new investment in America in

the past few weeks: SoftBank announced \$200 billion, OpenAI and Oracle announced \$500 billion, Apple announced \$500 billion, and just yesterday, Taiwan Semiconductor, the biggest in the world by far, announced \$165 billion dollars to build the most powerful chips on earth, right here in the USA.

Our new trade policy will also be great for the American farmer—who will now be selling into our home market, because nobody is going to be able to compete with you. Tariffs will go on agricultural product coming into America on April 2nd. Have fun farmers, I love you too! And I have also imposed a 25% tariff on foreign aluminum, copper, lumber, and steel—because if we don’t have steel, and lots of other things, we don’t have a military, and frankly, we don’t have a country.

Here today is a proud American steelworker from Decatur, Alabama. Jeff Denard has been working at the same steel plant for 27 years, in a job that has allowed him to serve as the captain of his local volunteer fire department, raise 7 children with his wife Nicole, and over the years, provide a loving home to more than 40 foster children.

Stories like Jeff’s remind us that tariffs are not just about protecting American jobs—they’re about protecting the soul of our country. Tariffs are about Making America rich again and Making America Great Again. Jeff, thank you.

I also want to recognize another person who has devoted herself to the foster care community—our magnificent First Lady. Melania’s work has yielded incredible results, helping prepare our nation’s future leaders as they enter the workforce. Our First Lady is joined by two impressive young women: Haley Ferguson, who benefitted from the First Lady’s Fostering the Future Initiative, and is poised to complete her education and become a teacher; and Elliston Berry, who became a victim of an illicit Deepfake image produced by a peer. With Elliston’s help, the Senate just passed the “Take It Down Act,” to criminalize the publication of such images online—and once it passes the House, I look forward to signing that bill into law.

But if we truly care about protecting America’s children, no step is more crucial than securing America’s borders. Over the past 4 years, 21 million people poured into the United States—many of them were murderers, drug dealers, gang members, and other criminals from the streets of dangerous cities all throughout the world. Because of Joe Biden’s insane and very dangerous open border policies, they are now strongly embedded in our country, but we are getting them out.

Last year, a brilliant 22-year-old nursing student named Laken Riley, the best in her class, went out for a jog on the campus of the University of Georgia. That morning, Laken was viciously attacked, assaulted, beaten, brutalized, and horrifically murdered. Laken was stolen from us by a savage illegal alien gang member who was arrested while trespassing across Biden’s open southern border, and then set loose into the United States under the heartless policies of that failed administration. He had then been arrested and released in a Democrat-run Sanctuary City, before ending the life of this beautiful angel.

With us this evening are Laken's beloved mother, Allyson, and her sister Lauren. Last year, I told Laken's grieving parents that we would ensure their daughter would not have died in vain. That is why the very first bill I signed into law as our 47th president mandates the detention of all dangerous criminal aliens who threaten public safety. It is called the Laken Riley Act. Allyson and Lauren, America will never, ever forget our beautiful Laken Hope Riley.

Since taking office, my administration has launched the most sweeping border and immigration crackdown in American history—and we quickly achieved the lowest numbers of illegal border crossers ever recorded.

The media and our friends in the Democrat Party kept saying we needed new legislation to secure the border—but it turned out that all we really needed was a new president.

Joe Biden didn't just open our borders, he flew illegal aliens over them to overwhelm our schools, hospitals, and communities throughout the country. Entire towns like Aurora, Colorado and Springfield, Ohio, buckled under the weight of the migrant occupation and corruption. Now, just as I promised in my inaugural address, we are achieving the Great Liberation of America.

But there still is much work to be done. Here tonight is a woman I have gotten to know, Alexis Nungaray from Houston. Last June, Alexis's 12-year-old daughter, her precious Jocelyn, walked to a nearby convenience store. She was kidnapped, tied up, assaulted for two hours under a bridge, and horrifically murdered. Arrested and charged with this heinous crime are two illegal alien monsters from Venezuela released into America by the last administration.

The death of this beautiful 12-year-old girl and the agony of her mother and family touched our entire nation, greatly. Alexis, I promised you that we would always remember your daughter, and earlier tonight I signed an order keeping my word to you. One thing I have learned about Jocelyn is that she loved animals, and loved nature. Across Galveston Bay from where Jocelyn lived in Houston, you will find a National Wildlife Refuge—a pristine, peaceful 34,000-acre sanctuary for all God's creatures on the edge of the Gulf of America. Alexis, moments ago, I formally renamed that refuge in loving memory of your daughter, Jocelyn Nungaray. Mr. Vice President, please present the order.

All three savages charged with Jocelyn and Laken's murders were members of the Venezuelan prison gang known as Tren de Aragua. Two weeks ago, I officially designated this gang, along with MS-13 and the bloodthirsty Mexican drug cartels, as Foreign Terrorist Organizations. They are now officially in the same category as ISIS. Countless thousands of these terrorists were welcomed into the U.S. by the last administration. But now, every last one will be rounded up and forcibly removed from our country.

With us this evening is a warrior on the front lines of that battle: Border Patrol Agent Roberto Ortiz. In January, Roberto and another agent were patrolling by the Rio Grande near an area known as "cartel island," when heavily armed gunmen started shooting. Roberto saw that his partner was totally exposed, and he leapt into action, returning fire, and providing crucial seconds for his fellow

agent to seek safety. Agent Ortiz, we salute your courage in the line of fire.

The territory to the immediate South of our border is now dominated entirely by criminal cartels that murder, rape, torture, and exercise total control—posing a grave threat to our national security. The Cartels are waging war on America, and it is time for America to wage war on the cartels.

5 nights ago, Mexican Authorities, because of the tariffs being imposed on them, handed over to us 29 of the biggest cartel leaders in their country—it has never happened before. But we need Mexico and Canada to do much more—they have to stop the fentanyl and drugs pouring into our country.

I have sent Congress a detailed funding request laying out exactly how we will eliminate these threats, protect our Homeland, and complete the largest deportation operation in American history, larger even than current recordholder Dwight D. Eisenhower—a moderate man but someone who believed very strongly in borders. Americans expect Congress to send me this funding without delay, so I can sign it into law.

As we reclaim our sovereignty, we must also bring back LAW and ORDER to our cities and towns.

In recent years, our justice system has been turned upside down by Radical Left lunatics. Many jurisdictions virtually ceased enforcing the law against dangerous repeat offenders, while weaponizing law enforcement against political opponents, like me.

My administration has acted swiftly and decisively to restore fair, equal, and impartial justice under the Constitutional Rule of Law—starting at the FBI and DOJ.

We are also once again giving our police officers the support, protection, and respect they so dearly deserve. This also includes our great fire departments throughout the country, who are likewise under siege.

One year ago this month, 31-year-old New York Police Officer Jonathan Diller was gunned down at a traffic stop on Long Island. The vicious criminal charged with his murder had 21 prior arrests. The thug in the seat next to him had 14 prior arrests and went by the name “Killer.” I attended Officer Diller’s funeral, and met his one-year-old son Ryan and his 29 year-old widow Stephanie—and she is here tonight. Stephanie, we are going to make sure Ryan knows his dad was a Hero—and we are going to get these cold-blooded killers and repeat offenders off our streets, and fast.

I have already signed an Executive Order requiring a mandatory death penalty for anyone who murders a police officer—and tonight I am asking Congress to pass that policy into permanent law. I am also asking for a new Crime Bill getting tough on repeat offenders, while enhancing protections for America’s police officers—so they can do their jobs without fear of their lives being destroyed.

Joining us in the Gallery tonight is a young man who truly loves our police. His name is D.J. Daniel, he is 13 years old, and he has always dreamed of becoming an officer. But in 2018, D.J. was diagnosed with brain cancer—the doctors gave him 5 months to live. That was more than 6 years ago. Since that time, D.J. and his dad have been on a quest to make his dream come true. D.J. has been sworn in as an honorary law enforcement officer a number of

times. And tonight, D.J., we're going to do you the biggest honor of them all. I am asking our new Secret Service Director, Sean Curran, to officially make you an agent of the United States Secret Service. Sean, please present D.J. with his badge. Thank you, D.J.

D.J.'s doctors believe his cancer likely came from a chemical he was exposed to when he was younger. Since 1975, rates of child cancer have increased more than 40%. Reversing this trend is one of the top priorities for our new Presidential Commission to Make America Healthy Again, chaired by our new Secretary of Health and Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Our goal is to get toxins out of our environment, poisons out of our food supply, and keep our children healthy and strong. As an example, not long ago, 1 in ten thousand children had autism. Now it's 1 in 36. Something is wrong, and we are going to find out what it is.

My administration is also working to protect our children from toxic ideologies in our schools. A few years ago, January Littlejohn and her husband discovered that their daughter's school had secretly "socially transitioned" their 13-year-old girl. Teachers and administrators conspired to deceive January and her husband, while encouraging her daughter to use a new name and "they/them" pronouns—all without telling January, who is here tonight, and is now a courageous advocate against this child abuse.

Stories like this are why shortly after taking office, I signed an Executive Order banning public schools from indoctrinating our children with transgender ideology. I also signed an order to cut off all taxpayer funding to any institution that engages in the sexual mutilation of our youth.

Now, I want Congress to pass a bill permanently banning and criminalizing sex changes on children, and forever ending the lie that any child is trapped in the wrong body. Our message to every child in America is that you are perfect exactly the way God made you.

We are getting wokeness out of our schools—and also out of our military. Our service members won't be activists and ideologues—they will be fighters and warriors. I am pleased to report that in January, the U.S. Army had its single best recruiting month in 15 years—and all of our Armed Services are having among the best recruiting results in modern history.

We are joined tonight by a young man, Jason Hartley, who knows the weight of that call of duty. Jason's father, grandfather, and great-grandfather all wore the uniform. Jason tragically lost his dad, who was also a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy, when he was just a boy, and now he wants to carry on the family legacy of service. Jason is a senior in high school, a 6-letter varsity athlete, a brilliant student with a 4.46 GPA, and his greatest dream is to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Jason, I am pleased to inform you that your application has been accepted—you will soon be joining the Corps of Cadets and the proud ranks of the Long Gray Line.

As Commander-in-Chief, my focus is on building the most powerful military of the future. As a first step, I am asking Congress to fund a state-of-the-art, Golden Dome Missile Defense shield to protect our homeland—all made in the USA. Ronald Reagan wanted to do it long ago, but the technology just wasn't there.

To boost our defense industrial base, we are also going to resurrect the American shipbuilding industry, including commercial shipbuilding. For that purpose, I am announcing tonight that we will create a new Office of Shipbuilding in the White House, and offer special tax incentives to bring this industry home to America, where it belongs.

To further enhance our national security, my administration will be reclaiming the Panama Canal—and we've already started. Just today, a large American company announced they are buying both ports around the Panama Canal. The Canal was built by Americans, for Americans, at tremendous cost of American blood and treasure—38,000 workers died building the canal, the most expensive project ever built in our country's history. It was given away by the Carter administration for \$1 dollar, but that agreement has since been severely violated. We didn't give the Canal to China, we gave it to Panama, and we're taking it back.

I also have a message tonight for the incredible people of Greenland: we strongly support your right to determine your own future, and if you choose, we welcome you into the United States of America. We will keep you safe, we will make you rich, and together we will take Greenland to heights like you have never seen before.

America is once again standing strong against the forces of Radical Islamic Terrorism. Three and a half years ago, ISIS terrorists killed 13 American servicemembers and countless others in the Abbey Gate bombing during the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan, perhaps the most embarrassing moment in the history of our country. Tonight, I am pleased to announce that we have just apprehended the top terrorist responsible for that atrocity, and he is right now on his way here to face the swift sword of American Justice. I want to thank the government of Pakistan for helping arrest this monster. This is a momentous day for those 13 families whose children were murdered, and the many so badly injured on that fateful day in Afghanistan. I spoke to many of them today, and they are all in our hearts tonight.

In the Middle East, we are bringing back our hostages from Gaza. In my first term, we achieved one of the most groundbreaking peace agreements in generations, the Abraham Accords—and now, we are going to build on that foundation to create a more peaceful and prosperous future for the entire region.

I am also working tirelessly to end the savage conflict in Ukraine. Millions of Ukrainians and Russians have been needlessly killed or wounded in this horrific and brutal conflict, with no end in sight. The United States has sent hundreds of billions of dollars to support Ukraine's defense. Meanwhile, Europe has sadly spent more money buying Russian oil and gas than they have spent on defending Ukraine—by far! And Biden has authorized more money in this fight than Europe has spent. Earlier today, I received an important letter from President Zelensky of Ukraine. The letter reads: "Ukraine is ready to come to the negotiating table as soon as possible to bring lasting peace closer. Nobody wants peace more than Ukrainians. My team and I stand ready to work under President Trump's strong leadership to get a peace that lasts. We do really value how much America has done to help Ukraine maintain its sovereignty and independence. Regarding the agreement on

minerals and security, Ukraine is ready to sign it at any time and in any convenient format." I appreciate this letter. Simultaneously we've had serious discussions with Russia, and have received strong signals that they are ready for peace. It is time to stop this madness. It is time to halt the killing. And it is time to end this war.

If you want to end wars, you have to talk to both sides.

Nearly four years ago, amid rising tensions, a history teacher named Marc Fogel was detained in Russia and sentenced to 14 years in a penal colony. The previous administration barely lifted a finger to help. But last summer, I promised his 95-year-old mother Malphine that we would bring her boy safely back home. After 22 days in office, I did just that—and they are here tonight. To Marc and his mom, we are delighted to have you safe and sound.

As fate would have it, Marc Fogel was born in the small rural town of Butler Pennsylvania, where his mother has lived for the past 78 years. I just happened to go there last July 13th for a rally, and that is where I met his mom, right before I walked out on stage. I told her I would not forget her son, and I never did.

Less than 10 minutes later at that same rally, gunfire rang out, and a sick and deranged assassin unloaded 8 bullets from his sniper's perch into a crowd of many thousands of people. My life was saved by a fraction of an inch, but some were not so lucky.

Corey Comperatore was a firefighter, a veteran, a Christian, a husband, a devoted father, and above all, a protector. When the sound of gunshots pierced the air, Corey knew instantly what to do. He threw himself on top of his wife and daughters, and shielded them from the bullets with his own body. Corey was hit, and he was hit hard. He sacrificed his life to save theirs. Two others were also seriously hit, but thankfully they have recovered.

We are joined by Corey's wife, Helen, who was his high school sweetheart, and their two beloved daughters, Allyson and Kaylee. To Helen, Allyson, and Kaylee, Corey is looking down on his three beautiful ladies right now, and he is cheering you on.

Corey was taken from us much too soon—but his destiny was to leave us all with a shining example of the selfless devotion of an American Patriot. It was love like Corey's that built our country—and it is love like Corey's that is going to make our country more majestic than ever before.

I believe that my life was saved that day in Butler for a reason: I was saved by God to Make America Great Again.

From the patriots of Lexington and Concord to the heroes at Gettysburg and Normandy—from the warriors who crossed the Delaware to the trailblazers who climbed the Rockies—and from the legends who soared at Kitty Hawk, to the astronauts who touched the Moon, Americans have always been the people who defied all odds, transcended all dangers, made the most extraordinary sacrifices, and did whatever it took to defend our children, our country, and our freedom. And as we have seen in this chamber tonight, that same strength, faith, love, and spirit is still alive and thriving in the hearts of the American People.

Despite the best efforts of those who would try to censor us, silence us, break us, and destroy us, Americans are today a proud,

free, sovereign, and independent nation, and that, we will always be.

We are a country of doers, dreamers, fighters, and survivors. Our ancestors crossed a vast ocean, strode into the unknown wilderness, and carved their fortunes from the rock and soil of a perilous frontier. They chased our destiny across a boundless continent. They built the railroads, laid the highways, and graced the world with American marvels like the Empire State Building, the mighty Hoover Dam, and the towering Golden Gate Bridge. They lit the world with electricity, broke free of the force of gravity, fired up the engines of American industry, vanquished the communists, fascists, and marxists all over the world, and gave us countless modern wonders sculpted out of iron, glass, and steel.

We stand on the shoulders of these pioneers who won and built the modern age, these workers who poured their sweat into the skylines of our cities, these warriors who shed their blood on fields of battle, and gave everything they had for our rights and our freedom.

Now, it is our time to take up the righteous cause of American Liberty. And it is our turn to take America's destiny into our own hands, and begin the most thrilling days in the history of our country. This will be our greatest era.

With God's help, over the next four years, we are going to lead this nation even higher—and we are going to forge the freest, most advanced, most dynamic, most dominant civilization ever to exist on the face of this earth. We are going to create the highest quality of life, build the safest, wealthiest, healthiest, and most vital communities. We are going to conquer the vast frontiers of science, and we are going to lead humanity into space, and plant the American flag on the planet Mars, and even far beyond.

Through it all, we are going to rediscover the unstoppable power of the American Spirit. And we are going to renew the unlimited promise of the American Dream.

Every single day, we will stand up, and we will fight, fight, fight for the country our citizens believe in, and for the country our people deserve.

My fellow Americans, get ready for an incredible future—because the Golden Age of America has only just begun. It will be like nothing that has ever been seen before!

Thank you, God Bless You, and God Bless America.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *March 4, 2025.*

