REREAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 8:35 p.m. for the purpose of receiving in joint session the President of the United States.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS
Pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution 69 to Receive a Message from the President

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 8 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Ms. Kathleen Joyce, announced the President of the United States.

The Senate the seats reserved for them.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Hersey Kyota, the Ambassador of the Republic of Palau.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Chief of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The members of the Cabinet of the United States entered the Hall of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for him.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Chief Justice of the United States and the Supreme Court entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

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The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the First Lady.

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The Speaker, in the Chair, declared the House in recess until 10 o'clock a.m. on Monday, March 6, 2023.
Italy, as well as countries like the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, and many others, even Switzerland, that are inflicting pain on Russia and supporting the people of Ukraine. Putin is now isolated from the world more than he has ever been. And tonight, I am announcing that Putin’s war on Ukraine will never extinguish their love of freedom, their fight for freedom—military assistance, economic assistance, humanitarian assistance.

And tonight, I am announcing that we will join our allies in closing off American airspace to all Russian flights, further isolating Russia and adding an additional squeeze on their economy.

He has no idea what is coming. The ruble has already lost 30 percent of its value. The Russian stock market has lost 40 percent of its value, and trading remains suspended. The Russian economy is reeling, and Putin alone is the one to blame.

Together with our allies, we are providing support to the Ukrainians in their fight for freedom—military assistance, economic assistance, humanitarian assistance.

We are giving more than a billion dollars of direct assistance to Ukraine, and we will continue to aid the Ukrainian people as they defend their country and help ease their suffering.

But let me be clear. Our forces are not engaged and will not engage in the conflict with Russian forces in Ukraine. Our forces are not going to Europe to fight Ukraine but to defend our NATO allies in the event that Putin decides to keep moving west.

For that purpose, we have mobilized American ground forces, air squadrons, ship deployments to protect NATO countries, including Poland, Romania, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia.

And as I have made clear, the United States and our allies will defend every inch of territory that is NATO territory with the full force of our collective power—every single inch.

And we are clear-eyed. The Ukrainians are fighting back with pure courage. The next few days, weeks, and months will be hard on them.

Putin has unleashed violence and chaos. But while he may make gains on the battlefield, he will pay a continuing high price over the long run. And the Ukrainian people, the proud, proud people, pound for pound are ready to fight with every inch of energy they have. They have known 30 years of independence, have repeatedly shown how they will defend every inch of territory that is NATO territory with the full force of our collective power—every single inch.

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Look, it is going to transform America and put us on a path to win the economic competition of the 21st century that we face with the rest of the world, particularly China.

I have told Xi Jinping, it has never been so important to better it than the American people. We will create good jobs for millions of Americans, modernizing roads, airports, ports, and waterways all across America, and we will do it to withstand the devastating effects of climate change and promoting environmental justice.

We will build a national network of 500,000 electric vehicle charging stations, begin to replace the poisonous lead pipes so every child, every American has clean water to drink at home and at school. We are going to provide affordable high-speed internet for every American—rural, suburban, urban, and Tribal communities.

Four thousand projects have already been announced. Many of you have announced projects in your districts. Tonight, I am announcing that this year, we will start fixing over 65,000 miles of highway and 1,500 bridges in disrepair.

Folks, when we use taxpayer dollars to rebuild America, we are going to do it by buying American. Buy American products, support American jobs.

The Federal Government spends about $600 billion a year to keep this country safe and secure. There has been a law on the books for almost a century to make sure taxpayers' dollars support American jobs and businesses. Every administration, Democrat or Republican, says they will do it, but we are actually doing it. We will buy American to make sure everything from the deck of an aircraft carrier to the steel on highway guard rails is made in America from beginning to end, all of it.

But, folks, to compete for the jobs of the future, we also need a level playing field with our competitors. That is why I support the bipartisan Innovation Act sitting right now on my desk. It would have gone overseas.

That is what is happening. Ford is investing $11 billion in electric vehicles, creating 11,000 jobs across the country.

GM is making the largest investment in its history, $7 billion to build electric vehicles in Michigan. All told, 369,000 new manufacturing jobs were created in America last year alone.

Powered by people I have met like JoJo Burgers and generations of workers in automobile unions from Pittsburgh, who is here with us tonight. Where are you, JoJo? There you go. Thanks, Buddy.

As Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown says, “It is time to bury the label ‘Rust Belt.’” It is time to see what used to be called the Rust Belt become the home of a significant resurgence of manufacturing.

With all the bright spots in our economy, record job growth and higher wages, many families are struggling to keep up with their bills. Inflation is robbing them of the gains they might otherwise feel. I get it. That is why my top priority is getting prices under control.

...Look, our economy soared back faster than almost anyone predicted, but the pandemic meant that businesses had a hard time hiring enough people because of the pandemic to keep up production in their factories. So you didn’t see your faucets run dry, but you did see goods that went into buildings because they were out, the factory was closed.

The pandemic also disrupted the global supply chain. When factories close, it takes longer to make goods and get them from the warehouses to the stores, and prices go up. Look at cars last year. One-third of all the inflation was because of automobile sales. There weren’t enough semiconductors to make all the cars that people wanted to buy. And guess what? Prices went up. Especially used vehicles as well.

And that is where it is, the American company that helped build Silicon Valley, is going to build a $20 billion semiconductor mega site, up to eight state-of-the-art factories in one place, 10,000 new cars. In those factories, the average job is about $135,000 a year, some of the most sophisticated manufacturing in the world, companies make the size of a fingerprint that power the world and our everyday lives, from smartphones, technology of the internet, technology that is yet to be invented. But that is just the beginning.

Intel’s CEO, Pat Gelsinger, who is here tonight—I don’t know where Pat is. There you go. Pat, stand up. Pat said he told me they are ready to increase their investment from $20 billion to $100 billion. That would be the biggest investment in manufacturing in American history. All they are waiting for is for you to pass this bill. So let’s not wait any longer. Send it to my desk, I will sign it, and we will really take off in a big way.

Folks, Intel is not alone. There is something happening in America. Just look around, and you will see an amazing story, the rebirth of pride that comes from stamping products “made in America,” the revitalization of American manufacturing. Companies are choosing to build new factories here, when just a few years ago, they would have gone overseas.

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And so we have a choice. One way to fight inflation is to drive down wages and make Americans poorer. I think I have a better idea to fight inflation. Lower your costs, not your wages. Folks, that means make more cars and semiconductors in America.

More infrastructure and innovation in America.

More goods moving faster and cheaper in America.

More jobs where you can earn a good living in America.

Instead of relying on foreign supply chains, let’s Make it in America.

Look, economists call this increasing the productive capacity of our economy. I call it building a better America.

My plan to fight inflation will lower your costs and lower the deficit. Seventeen Nobel laureates in economics say my plan will ease long-term inflationary pressures. Top business leaders, and I believe most Americans, support the plan.

And here is the plan: First, cut the cost of prescription drugs. We pay more for the same drug produced by the same company in America than any other country in the world.

Just look at insulin. One in ten Americans has diabetes. In Virginia I met a 13-year-old boy, the handsome young man standing up there, Joshua Davis. He and his dad both have type 1 diabetes, which means they need insulin every single day. Insulin costs about $10 a vial to make. That is what it costs the pharmaceutical company. But drug companies charge families like Joshua and his dad up to 30 times that amount.

I spoke with Joshua’s mom. Imagine what it is like to look at your child who needs insulin to stay healthy and have no idea how in God’s name you are going to be able to pay for it. What it does to your family, but what it does to your dignity, your ability to look your child in the eye, to be the parent that expects yourself to be, I really mean it. Think about that. That is what I think about.

Joshua is here tonight, but yesterday was his birthday. Happy birthday, Buddy, by the way. For Joshua, and for the 200,000 other young people with type 1 diabetes, let’s cap the cost of insulin at $35 a month so everyone can afford it.

And drug companies will do, very, very well, their profit margin. And let’s set the price for VA drugs.

Look, the American Rescue Plan is helping millions of families on Affordable Care Act plans to save them $2,400 a year on their healthcare premiums. Let’s close the coverage gap and make these savings permanent.

Second, let’s cut energy costs for families an average of $500 a year by combating climate change.

Let’s provide investments and tax credits to weatherize your homes and businesses to be energy efficient, and...
you get a tax credit for it. Double America’s clean energy production in solar, wind, and so much more. Lower the price of electric vehicles, saving another $80 a month that you are not going to have to pay at the pump.

The third thing we can do to change the standard of living for hardworking folks is cut the cost of childcare. If you live in a major city in America, you pay up to $14,000 a year for childcare per child. I was a single dad for 5 years, raising my kids. And, I had a lot of help, though. I had a mom, a dad, a brother, and a sister that really helped. But middle-class and working folks shouldn’t have to pay more than 7 percent of their income to care for their young children.

My plan would cut the cost of childcare in half for most families and help parents, including millions of women who left the workforce during the pandemic, support those who can’t afford childcare, to be able to get back to work, generating economic growth.

My plan doesn’t stop there. It also includes home- and long-term care. More affordable housing. Pre-K for 3- and 4-year-olds. All of these will lower costs for families.

Under my plan—let me say this again—nobody earning less than $40,000 a year will pay an additional penny in new taxes. Not a single penny. I may be wrong, but my guess is if we took a secret ballot on this floor that we would all agree that the present tax system ain’t fair. We have to fix it.

I am not looking to punish anybody, but let’s make corporations and wealthy Americans start paying their fair share. Last year, like CHRIS COONS and TOM CARPER and my distinguished Congresswoman, we come from the land of corporate America. There are more tax-avoided corporations incorporated in Delaware than every other State in America combined, and I still won 36 years in a row. The point is, even they understand that they should pay their fair share.

Last year 55 of the Fortune 500 companies earned $40 billion in profit and paid zero in Federal taxes. Look, it is not fair. That is why I proposed a 15 percent minimum tax rate for corporations.

We got more than 130 countries to agree on a global minimum tax rate, so companies can’t get out of paying their taxes at home by shipping jobs and factories overseas. That will raise billions of dollars.

That is why I propose closing loopholes for the very wealthy who pay a lower tax rate than a teacher and a firefighter.

So that is my plan, but we have to go into more detail later. We will grow the economy, lower the costs to families.

So what are we waiting for? Let’s get this done. We all know we have to make changes.

Folks, while you are at it, confirm my nominee for the Federal Reserve, which plays a critical role in fighting inflation.

My plan will not only lower costs and give families a fair shot, it will lower the deficit.

The previous administration not only ballooned the deficit with those tax cuts for the very wealthy and corporations, it undermined the watchdogs, the job of those to keep the pandemic relief funds from being wasted.

Remember, we had those debates about whether or not those watchdogs should be there. Every single penny of it. How much money was being spent, and was it going to the right place? Under my administration, the watchdogs are back.

And we are going to go after the criminals who stole billions of relief money meant for small businesses and millions of Americans. And, tonight, I am announcing that the Justice Department will soon name a chief prosecutor for pandemic fraud.

Look, I think we all agree—thank you—for the end of this year, the deficit will be down to less than half of what it was before I took office, the only President ever to cut the deficit by more than $1 trillion in a single year.

Lowering your costs also means demanding more competition. I am a capitalist, but capitalism without competition is not capitalism. Capitalism without competition is exploitation.

It drives up prices. When corporations don’t have to compete, their profits go up. Your prices go up when they don’t have to compete. Small businesses and family farmers and ranchers go under. I need not tell some of my Republican friends from those States. Guess what? You have four basic meatpacking facilities. That is it. You play with them or you don’t get to play at all, and you pay a hell of a lot more, a hell of a lot more, because there are only four.

We see what is happening with ocean carriers moving goods in and out of America. During the pandemic, about half a dozen or less foreign-owned companies stay protected with the Department of Transportation, it undermined the watchdogs, it undermined the job of those to keep the pandemic relief funds from being wasted.

Under the new guidelines, most Americans and most of the country can no longer need control our lives. I know some are talking about living with COVID–19, but tonight, I say that we never will just accept living with COVID–19. We more than ever need to seize the moment, as we do other diseases. And because this virus mutates and spreads, we have to stay on guard.

Here are four commonsense steps as we move forward safely, in my view.

First, stay protected with vaccines and treatments. We know how incredibly effective vaccines are. If you are vaccinated and boosted, you have the highest degree of protection. We will never give up on vaccinating more Americans.

Now, I know parents with kids under 5 are eager to see vaccines authorized for their children. Scientists are working hard to get that done, and we will be ready with plenty of vaccines if and when they do.

We are also ready with antiviral treatments. If you get COVID–19, the Pfizer pill reduces your chances of ending up in a hospital by 90 percent. It is the first pill ever approved for anyone in the world. Pfizer is working overtime to get us a million pills this month and more than double that next month.

And now we are launching the Test to Treat initiative so people can get tested at a pharmacy and, if they prove positive, receive the antiviral pills on the spot at no cost.
Folks, if you are immunocompromised or have some other vulnerability, we have treatments and free high-quality masks. We are leaving no one behind or ignoring anyone’s needs as we move forward.

On testing, we have made hundreds of millions of tests available, and you can order them for free to your doorstep. And we have already ordered free tests. If you already ordered free tests, tonight, I am announcing you can order another group of tests. Go to covidtests.gov starting next week, and you can get more tests.

Second, we must prepare for new variants. Over the past year, we have gotten much better at detecting new variants. If necessary, we will be able to develop new vaccines within 100 days instead of maybe months or years.

And, if Congress provides the funds we need, we will have new stockpiles of tests, masks, and pills ready, if needed. I can’t promise a new variant won’t come, but I can promise you we will do everything in our power if it does.

Third, we can end the shutdown of schools and businesses. We have the tools we need.

It is time for America to get back to work and fill our great downtowns again with people. People working from home can feel safe and begin to return to their offices.

We are doing that here in the Federal Government. The vast majority of Federal workers will once again work in person.

Our schools are open. Let’s keep it that way. Our kids need to be in school.

And with 75 percent of adult Americans fully vaccinated and hospitalizations down by 77 percent, most Americans can receive their masks, stay in the classroom, and move forward safely.

We achieved this because we provided free vaccines, treatments, tests, and masks.

Of course, continuing this costs money. So it will not surprise you, I will be back to see you all, and I am going to soon send a request to Congress. The vast majority of Americans have used these tools and may want to again, may need them again, so I expect Congress—I hope you will pass that quickly.

Fourth, we will continue vaccinating the world. We have sent 475 million vaccine doses to 112 countries, more than any nation on Earth. We won’t stop because you can’t build a wall high enough to keep out a pandemic. The vaccine can stop the spread of this disease.

You know, we have lost so much to COVID-19—thousands with one another and, worst of all, millions of loss of life. We use this moment to reset. Let’s stop looking at COVID-19 as a partisan dividing line and see it for what it is: a god-awful disease. Let’s stop seeing each other as enemies and start seeing each other as fellow Americans.

Look, we can’t change how divided we have been. It is a long time coming. But we can change how to move forward—on COVID-19 and other issues that we must face together.

I recently visited the New York City Police Department days after the funerals of Officer Wilbert Mora and his partner, Officer Jason Rivera. They were responding to a 911 call when a man shot and killed them with a stolen gun. Officer Mora was 27 years old; Officer Rivera was 22 years old—both Dominican Americans who grew up in the same streets that they later chose to patrol as police officers.

I spoke with their families, and I told them that we are forever in debt for their sacrifices, and we will carry on their mission to restore the trust and safety every community deserves.

Like some of you that have been around for a while, I have worked with you on these issues for a long time. I know what works: investing in crime prevention and community policing—cops who walk the beat, who know the neighborhood, and who can restore trust and safety.

Let’s not abandon our streets or choose between safety and equal justice. Let’s come together and protect our communities, restore trust, and hold law enforcement accountable.

That is why the Justice Department has required body cameras, banned choke holds, and restricted no-knock warrants for its officers.

That is why the American Rescue Plan provided $350 billion that cities, States, and counties can use to hire more police and invest in more proven strategies, like community violence interruption—trusted messengers breaking the cycle of violence and trauma and giving young people some hope.

We should all agree: The answer is not to defund the police. It is to fund the police. Fund them. Fund them with resources and training, resources and training they need to protect our communities.

I ask Democrats and Republicans alike to pass my budget and keep our neighborhoods safe. And I will do everything in my power to crack down on gun trafficking and ghost guns that you can buy online, assemble at home—no serial numbers, can’t be traced.

I asked Congress to pass proven measures to reduce gun violence, pass universal background checks. Why should anyone on the terrorist list be able to purchase a weapon? Why?

Folks, ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines that hold up to 100 rounds. You think the deer are wearing Kevlar vests?

Look, repeal the liability shield that makes gun manufacturers the only industry in America that can’t be sued, the only one. Imagine had we done that with the tobacco manufacturers. These laws don’t infringe on the Second Amendment. They save lives.

The most fundamental right in America is the right to vote and have it counted. And, look, it is under assault. In State after State, new laws have been passed, not only to suppress the vote—we have been there before—but to subvert the entire election. We can’t let this happen.

Tonight, I call on the Senate to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. And while you are at it, pass the DISCLOSE Act so Americans know who is funding our elections.

Tonight, I would like to honor someone who has dedicated his life to serve this country, Justice Breyer—an Army veteran, constitutional scholar, retiring Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Justice Breyer, thank you for your service. Thank you, thank you, thank you. I mean it. Get up. Stand, let them see you.

And we all know, no matter what your ideology, we all know one of the most serious constitutional responsibilities a President has is nominating someone to serve on the United States Supreme Court, as I did 4 days ago. I have nominated Ketanji Brown Jackson, one of our Nation’s top legal minds who will continue Justice Breyer’s legacy of excellence.

A former top litigator in private practice, a former Federal public defender, a family of public school educators and police officers, she is a consensus-builder. Since she has been nominated, she has received a broad range of support, including the Fraternal Order of Police and former judges appointed by Democrats and Republicans.

Folks, if we are to advance liberty and justice, we need to secure our border and fix the immigration system. And as you might guess, I think we can do both.

At our border, we have installed new technologies, like cutting-edge scanners to better detect drug smuggling. We have set up joint patrols with Mexico and Guatemala to catch more human traffickers.

We are putting in place dedicated immigration judges in a significant, larger number so families fleeing persecution and violence can have their cases heard faster, and those who are not legitimately here can be sent back.

We are securing commitments and supporting partners in South and Central America to host more refugees and secure their own borders. We can do all this while keeping lit the torch of liberty that has led generations of immigrants to this land—my forebears and many of yours.

Provide a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers and those with temporary status, farmworkers and essential workers. Repeal or fix laws that businesses have to hire the workers they need, and families don’t wait decades to reunite.

It is not only the right thing to do. It is the economically smart thing to do.

That is why immigration reform is supported by everyone from labor unions to religious leaders to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Let’s get it done once and for all.
Folks, advancing liberty and justice also requires protecting the rights of women. The constitutional right affirmed by Roe v. Wade, standing precedent for half a century, is under attack as never before.

If we want to go forward, not backward, we must protect access to healthcare, preserve a woman’s right to choose, and continue to advance maternal healthcare in America.

And, folks, for our LGBTQ+ Americans, let’s finally get the bipartisan Equality Act to my desk. The onslaught of State laws targeting transgender Americans and their families, it is simply wrong.

I said last year, especially to our younger transgender Americans, I will always have your back as your President so you can be yourself and reach your God-given potential.

Folks, as I have just demonstrated, while it often appears we do not agree, we do more than this. We acknowledge. I signed 80 bipartisan bills into law last year, from preventing government shutdowns, to protecting Asian Americans from still-too-common hate crimes, to reforming military justice. And soon, we will strengthen the Violence Against Women Act that I first wrote three decades ago.

It is important for us to show the Nation we can come together and do big things. Tonight, I am offering a unity agenda for the Nation. Four big things we can do together.

First, beat the opioid epidemic. There is so much we can do. Increase funding for prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery. Get rid of outdated rules that stop doctors from prescribing treatments. Stop the flow of illicit drugs by working with State and local law enforcement to go after traffickers. If you are suffering from addiction, know you are not alone. Believe in recovery, and I promise the 23 million Americans in recovery.

Second, let’s take on mental health, especially among our children whose lives and education have been turned upside down. The American Rescue Plan gave schools money to hire teachers and help students to make up for lost learning. The American Rescue Plan gave schools money to hire teachers and help students to make up for lost learning.

Third, we are launching the Cancer Moonshot. Last month I announced the Cancer Moonshot that President Obama asked me to lead 6 years ago. Our goal is to cut the cancer death rate by at least 50 percent over the next 25 years—and I think we can do better than that. Eliminate more cancers from death sentences into treatable diseases, and more support for patients and their families.

To get there, I call on Congress to fund what I called ARPA-H, Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health. It is patterned after DARPA, the Defense Department project that led to the internet, GPS, and so much more that make our forces safer and able to wage war with more clarity.

ARPA-H will have a singular purpose, to drive breakthroughs in cancer, Alzheimer’s, diabetes, and more. A unity agenda for the Nation. We can do these things. It is within our power. I don’t see a partisan edge to any one of these four things.

My fellow Americans, tonight we have gathered in this sacred space, the citadel of our democracy. In this Capital, generation after generation, Americans have debated questions amid great strife and have done great things. We fought for freedom, expanded liberty, defeated totalitarianism and terror.

We built the strongest, freest, and most prosperous Nation the world has ever known. Now is the hour, our moment of responsibility, and our test of resolve and conscience, of history itself. It is in this moment that our character of this generation is formed, our purpose is found, our future is forged.

Well, I know this Nation, we will meet the test, protect freedom and liberty, expand fairness and opportunity, and we will save democracy. As hard as those times have been, I am more optimistic about America today than I have been my whole life because I see the future that is within our grasp because I know there is simply nothing beyond our capacity.

As Frances Haugen—who is here tonight with us—has shown, we must hold social media platforms accountable for the national experiment they are conducting on our children for profit. Thank you for the courage you showed.

It is time to strengthen privacy protections, ban targeted advertising to children, demand tech companies stop collecting personal data on our children. Let’s get all Americans the mental health services they need, more people they can turn to for help, and full parity between physical and mental healthcare if we treat it that way in our insurance.

The third piece of that agenda is support our veterans. Veterans are the backbone and the spine of this country. They are the bravest of us. I have always believed that we have a sacred obligation to equip all those we send to war and care for them and their family when they come home.

My first priority is providing assistance in job training, housing, and now helping lower-income veterans get VA care debt-free. Our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan have faced many dangers. One was stationed at bases and breathing in toxic smoke from burn pits. Many of you have been there. I have been in and out of Iraq and Afghanistan over 40 times. These burn pits incinerate waste, the waste of war—medical, hazardous material, jet fuel, and so much more.

When they return, many of the world’s fittest and best-trained warriors in the world are never the same—headaches, numbness, dizziness, and a cancer that would put them in a flag-draped coffin. I know. One of those soldiers was my son, Major Beau Biden.

I don’t know for sure if the burn pit that he lived near—that his hooch was near in Iraq, and earlier than that in Kosovo—was the cause of his brain cancer, or the diseases of so many of our troops, but I am committed to finding out everything we can.

And I am committed to military families like Danielle Robinson from Ohio, the widow of Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson. He was born a soldier, Army National Guard, combat medic in Kosovo and Iraq. He was stationed near Baghdad just yards from burn pits the size of football fields.

Danielle is here with us tonight. They loved going to Ohio State football games with their daughter, but cancer from prolonged exposure to burn pits ravaged Heath’s lungs and body. Danielle says Heath was a fighter to the very end. He didn’t know how to stop fighting, and neither did she.

Through her pain she found purpose to demand that we do better. Tonight, Danielle, we are going to do better. The VA is pioneering new ways of linking addiction to job training, housing, and now helping lower-income veterans get VA care debt-free. Our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan have faced many dangers. One was stationed at bases and breathing in toxic smoke from burn pits. Many of you have been there. I have been in and out of Iraq and Afghanistan over 40 times. These burn pits incinerate waste, the waste of war—medical, hazardous material, jet fuel, and so much more.

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Through her pain she found purpose to demand that we do better. Tonight, Danielle, we are going to do better. The VA is pioneering new ways of linking toxic exposure to diseases and is already helping more veterans get benefits. Tonight, I am announcing we are expanding eligibility to veterans suffering from nine respiratory cancers.

I am also calling on Congress to pass a law to make sure veterans devastated by toxic exposure in Iraq and Afghanistan finally get the benefits and comprehensive healthcare they deserve.

Fourth, and last, let’s end cancer as we know it. This is personal. This is personal to Jill and me, KAMALA, and so many of you. So many of you have lost someone you loved: husband, wife, son, daughter, mom, dad.

Cancer is the number two cause of death in America, second only to heart disease. Last month I announced the Cancer Moonshot that President Obama asked me to lead 6 years ago. Our goal is to cut the cancer death rate by at least 50 percent over the next 25 years—and I think we can do better than that. Eliminate more cancers from death sentences into treatable diseases, and more support for patients and their families.

To get there, I call on Congress to fund what I called ARPA-H, Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health. It is patterned after DARPA, the Defense Department project that led to the internet, GPS, and so much more that make our forces safer and able to wage war with more clarity.

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Well, I know this Nation, we will meet the test, protect freedom and liberty, expand fairness and opportunity, and we will save democracy. As hard as those times have been, I am more optimistic about America today than I have been my whole life because I see the future that is within our grasp because I know there is simply nothing beyond our capacity.

We are the only nation on Earth that has always turned every crisis we have faced into an opportunity. We are the only nation that can be defined by a single word: possibilities.

So on this night, in our 245th year as a nation, I have come to report on the state of the Union, and my report is this: The state of the Union is strong because you, the American people, are strong. We are stronger today than we were a year ago, and we will be stronger a year from now than we are today.

Now is our moment to meet and overcome the challenges of our time, and we will as one people, one America—the United States of America.

May God bless you all. May God protect our troops.

Go get him.

(Applause, the Members rising.)
The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The members of the President’s Cabinet;

The Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court;

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

JOINT SESSION DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The Chair declares the joint session of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, at 10 o’clock and 27 minutes p.m., the joint session of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE ON THE STATE OF THE UNION

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I move that the message of the President be referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered printed.

The motion was agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts). Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 10 o’clock and 28 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 2, 2022, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

EC-752. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Transformed Medicaid Statistical Information System (T-MESIS) Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Data Book for 2019, pursuant to Public Law 115-271; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3522. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Bacillus subtilis strain CH000: Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2020-0736; FRL-9098-01-OSCPP] received February 18, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3529. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Approval; Michigan: Base Year Emissions Inventory for the 2018 Sulfur Dioxide Standard [EPA-R08-OAR-2021-0441; FRL-9160-02-R5] received February 18, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3530. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Bacillus subtilis strain CH000: Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2020-0736; FRL-9098-01-OSCPP] received February 18, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3531. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau’s FY 2022 Annual Performance Plan and Report, and Budget Overview, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1115(b); Public Law 111-352, Sec. 3; (124 Stat. 3867); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-3532. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau’s Strategic Plans 2022-2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 306(a); Public Law 103-62, Sec. 3 (as amended by Public Law 111-352, Sec. 2; (124 Stat. 3866); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-3533. A letter from the Director, Equal Employment Opportunity and Inclusion, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration’s FY 2021 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(c)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-3534. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration’s FY 2021 FISMA Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-3535. A letter from the Director, Equal Employment Opportunity and Inclusion, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation’s 2021 No Fear Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(c)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-3536. A letter from the Acting Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation’s 2021 Annual Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 306(a), ch. 967, Sec. 21, 1950, ch. 967, Sec. 217(a) (as amended by Public Law 101-73, Sec. 220(a); (105 Stat. 263) and 31 U.S.C. 1115(b); Public Law 111-352, Sec. 124 (124 Stat. 3867); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. TAKANO: Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. Supplemental report on H.R. 3967. A bill to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes (Rept. 117-249 Pt. 2).

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. OMAR (for herself, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Ms. PRESLEY, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. CLARK of New York, Mr. CARSON, Mr. GOLMAN, Mr. POWELL, Mr. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. LE of California, Mr. TOREtti of New York, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. MENG, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. RUHI, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 677. A bill to establish limitations on the use of no-knock warrants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BASS (for herself, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mrs. LESKO, Ms. LAWRENCES, Ms. O’MARA of California, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. LOUIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. CLARK of New York, Mr. DANNY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. ADAMS, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. COHEN, Ms. MENG, Ms. BLUNT ROCHester, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. TITUS, Mr. NEUZERE, Mr. CARDENAS, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 678. A bill to address the health needs of incarcerated women related to pregnancy and childbirth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CATHBORN (for himself, Mr. BUDD, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. MAst, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. DOnALDS):

H.R. 679. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal in honor of those who led and served during the first Task Force Pineapple