

We saw that same desire to be free in Tunisia, where the will of the people proved more powerful than the writ of a dictator. And tonight, let us be clear: the United States of America stands with the people of Tunisia, and supports the democratic aspirations of all people.

We must never forget that the things we've struggled for, and fought for, live in the hearts of people everywhere. And we must always remember that the Americans who have borne the greatest burden in this struggle are the men and women who serve our country.

Tonight, let us speak with one voice in reaffirming that our Nation is united in support of our troops and their families. Let us serve them as well as they have served us—by giving them the equipment they need; by providing them with the care and benefits they have earned; and by enlisting our veterans in the great task of building our own Nation.

Our troops come from every corner of this country—they are black, white, Latino, Asian, and Native American. They are Christian and Hindu, Jewish and Muslim. And, yes, we know that some of them are gay. Starting this year, no American will be forbidden from serving the country they love because of who they love. And with that change, I call on all of our college campuses to open their doors to our military recruiters and the ROTC. It is time to leave behind the divisive battles of the past. It is time to move forward as one Nation.

We should have no illusions about the work ahead of us. Reforming our schools; changing the way we use energy; reducing our deficit—none of this is easy. All of it will take time. And it will be harder because we will argue about everything. The cost. The details. The letter of every law.

Of course, some countries don't have this problem. If the central government wants a railroad, they get a railroad—no matter how many homes are bulldozed. If they don't want a bad story in the newspaper, it doesn't get written.

And yet, as contentious and frustrating and messy as our democracy can sometimes be, I know there isn't a person here who would trade places with any other Nation on Earth.

We may have differences in policy, but we all believe in the rights enshrined in our Constitution. We may have different opinions, but we believe in the same promise that says this is a place where you can make it if you try. We may have different backgrounds, but we believe in the same dream that says this is a country where anything's possible. No matter who you are. No matter where you come from.

That dream is why I can stand here before you tonight. That dream is why a working class kid from Scranton can stand behind me. That dream is why someone who began by sweeping the floors of his father's Cincinnati bar can preside as Speaker of the House in the greatest Nation on Earth.

That dream—that American Dream—is what drove the Allen Brothers to reinvent their roofing company for a new era. It's what drove those students at Forsyth Tech to learn a new skill and work towards the future. And that dream is the story of a small business owner named Brandon Fisher.

Brandon started a company in Berlin, Pennsylvania, that specializes in a new kind of drilling technology. One day last summer, he saw the news that halfway across the world, 33 men were trapped in a Chilean mine, and no one knew how to save them.

But Brandon thought his company could help. And so he designed a rescue that would come to be known as Plan B. His employees worked around the clock to manufacture the necessary drilling equipment. And Brandon left for Chile.

Along with others, he began drilling a 2,000 foot hole into the ground, working 3 or 4 days at a time with no sleep. Thirty-seven days later, Plan B succeeded, and the miners were rescued. But because he didn't want all of the attention, Brandon wasn't there when the miners emerged. He had already gone home, back to work on this next project.

Later, one of his employees said of the rescue, "We proved that Center Rock is a little company, but we do big things."

We do big things.

From the earliest days of our founding, America has been the story of ordinary people who dare to dream. That's how we win the future.

We are a Nation that says, "I might not have a lot of money, but I have this great idea for a new company. I might not come from a family of college graduates, but I will be the first to get my degree. I might not know those people in trouble, but I think I can help them, and I need to try."

"I'm not sure how we'll reach that better place beyond the horizon, but I know we'll get there. I know we will."

We do big things.

The idea of America endures. Our destiny remains our choice. And tonight, more than two centuries later, it is because of our people that our future is hopeful, our journey goes forward, and the state of our Union is strong.

Thank you, God Bless You, and may God Bless the United States of America.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, January 25, 2011.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING RECESS

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 5, 2011, the Secretary of the Senate, on January 6, 2011, during the recess of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives, announcing that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 1. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional recess or adjourn-

ment of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 5, 2011, the Secretary of the Senate, on January 19, 2011, during the recess of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives, announcing that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 2. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for an event marking the 50th anniversary of the inaugural address of President John F. Kennedy.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:03 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2. An act to repeal the job-killing health care law and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010.

H.R. 292. An act to amend title 44, United States Code, to eliminate the mandatory printing of bills and resolutions for the use of offices of Members of Congress.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 1. Concurrent resolution regarding consent to assemble outside the seat of government.

H. Con. Res. 10. Concurrent resolution providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President.

The message further announced that pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 2001, and the order of the Senate of January 5, 2011, the Speaker appointed the following Members to the House Office Building Commission to serve with himself: Mr. CANTOR of Virginia and Ms. PELOSI of California.

At 2:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 366. An act to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 292. An act to amend title 44, United States Code, to eliminate the mandatory printing of bills and resolutions for the use of offices of Members of Congress; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

MATTERS BEING HELD AT THE DESK

S. Res. 14. A resolution honoring the victims and heroes of the shooting on January 8, 2011 in Tucson, Arizona.

MEASURES HELD OVER/UNDER RULE

The following resolutions were read, and held over, under the rule:

S. Res. 24. A resolution to propose a standing order to govern extended debate.

S. Res. 21. A resolution to amend the Standing Rules of the Senate to provide procedures for extended debate.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-18. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Foreign Participation in Acquisitions in Support of Operations in Afghanistan" ((RIN0750-AG80)(DFARS Case 2009-D012)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 3, 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-19. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of (33) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grades of major general and brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-20. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Foreign Language Skill Proficiency Bonus program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-21. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Corporate Credit Unions, Technical Corrections" (RIN3133-AD58) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 3, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-22. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Home Loan Bank Housing Goals" (RIN2590-AA16) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-23. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Portfolio Holdings" (RIN2590-AA22) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-24. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Minority and Women Inclusion" (RIN2590-AA28) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-25. A communication from the Legal Information Assistant, Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Community Reinvestment Act Regulations (NSP)" (RIN1550-AC42) re-

ceived during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-26. A communication from the Secretary, Division of Investment Management, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Temporary Rule Regarding Principal Trades with Certain Advisory Clients" (RIN3235-AJ96) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-27. A communication from the Secretary, Division of Investment Management, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to Form ADV; Extension of Compliance Date" (RIN3235-A117) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-28. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 12947 with respect to terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-29. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month report on the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13159 relative to the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-30. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Efficiency Program for Consumer Products: Waiver of Federal Preemption of State Regulations Concerning the Water Use or Water Efficiency of Showerheads, Faucets, Water Closets and Urinals" (Docket No. EERE-2010-BT-STD-WAV-0045) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2011; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-31. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the North Slope Science Initiative; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-32. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Nuclear Decommissioning Funds" (RIN1545-BF08) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-33. A communication from the Director of Regulations, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled; Dedicated Accounts and Installment Payments for Certain Past-Due SSI Benefits" (RIN0960-AE59) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-34. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status and effectiveness of information

provided to the states and Medicaid enrollees on coverage of preventive and obesity-related services available to Medicaid Enrollees; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-35. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "HHS Study of Urban Medicare-Dependent Hospitals"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-36. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2010 Actuarial Report on the Financial Outlook for Medicaid"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-37. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "HHS Secretary's Efforts to Improve Children's Health Care Quality in Medicaid and CHIP"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-38. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "High Risk Pool Grant Program for Federal Fiscal Years (FFYs) 2008 and 2009"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-39. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the extension and amendment of the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua Concerning the Imposition of Import Restrictions on Archaeological Material from the Pre-Hispanic Cultures of the Republic of Nicaragua; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-40. A communication from the Inspector General for Tax Administration, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to prisoner tax fraud; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-41. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Visas: Waiver for Ineligible Nonimmigrants under INA 212(d)(3)(A), as Amended; Applicants Ineligible under INA 212(a)(3)(E)(iii)" (22 CFR Part 40) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 3, 2011; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-42. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement for the export of defense articles, to include technical data, and defense services for the development and sales of components for the David's Sling Weapon System to Israel in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-43. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the export of defense articles, to include technical data, and defense services to the United Kingdom and India for the manufacturing and maintenance of AC and DC electrical power generating systems, motors, motor drive systems, and system control units utilized on military aircraft and ground vehicles for users in 92 previously approved countries in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-44. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program for 2010; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.