Ball Play, 1844

Colloseum, Rome, Italy, c. 1890

Courtesy of Library of Congress, Colosseum, Rome, Italy
Times haven’t changed much, after all., 1919

Courtesy of University of Iowa Digital Library, Darling, Jay N. “Times haven’t changed much, afte all.” 1919
U of Md & Lehigh, Lacrosse, 1925

Nationals Park baseball stadium Washington D.C., 2008

Courtesy of Library of Congress, Highsmith, Carol M, photographer
THE

ROMAN HISTORY

OF

AMMIANUS MARCELLINUS,

DURING THE REIGNS OF

THE EMPERORS CONSTANTIUS, JULIAN, JOVIANUS,
VALENTINIAN, AND VALENS.

TRANSLATED BY

C. D. YONGE, B.A.

WITH A GENERAL INDEX.

LONDON:
HENRY G. BOHN, YORK STREET, COVENT GARDEN.
M.DCC.LXII.
end, and was continued to the death of Valens, A.D. 378, a period of 282 years. And there is probably no work as to the intrinsic value of which there is so little difference of opinion. Gibbon bears repeated testimony to his accuracy, fidelity, and impartiality, and quotes him extensively. In losing his aid after A.D. 378, he says, “It is not without sincere regret that I must now take leave of an accurate and faithful guide, who has composed the history of his own times without indulging the prejudices and passions which usually affect the mind of a contemporary.” Professor Ramsay (in Smith’s Dictionary of Greek and Roman Biography) says, “We are indebted to him for a knowledge of many important facts not elsewhere recorded, and for much valuable insight into the modes of thought and the general tone of public feeling prevalent in his day. Nearly all the statements admitted appear to be founded upon his own observations, or upon the information derived from trustworthy eye-witnesses. A considerable number of dissertations and digressions are introduced, many of them highly interesting and valuable. Such are his notices of the institutions and manners of the Saracens (xiv. 4), of the Scythians and Sarmatians (xvii. 12), of the Huns and Alani (xxxi. 2), of the Egyptians and their country (xxii. 6, 14-16), and his geographical discussions upon Gaul (xv. 9), the Pontus (xxii. 8), and Thrace (xxvii. 4). Less legitimate and less judicious are his geological speculations upon earthquakes (xvii. 7), his astronomical inquiries into eclipses (xx. 3), comets (xxv. 10), and the regulation of the calendar (xxvi. 1); his medical researches into the origin of epidemics (xix. 4); his zoological theory on the destruction of lions by mosquitos (xviii. 7), and his horticultural essay on the impregnation of palms (xxiv. 3). In addition to industry in research and honesty of purpose, he was gifted with a large measure of strong common sense, which enabled him in many points to rise superior to the prejudices of his day, and with a clear-sighted independence.
of spirit which prevented him from being dazzled or overawed by the brilliancy and the terrors which enveloped the imperial throne. But although sufficiently acute in detecting and exposing the follies of others, and especially in ridiculing the absurdities of popular superstition, Ammianus did not entirely escape the contagion. The general and deep-seated belief in magic spells, omens, prodigies, and oracles, which appears to have gained additional strength upon the first introduction of Christianity, evidently exercised no small influence over his mind. The old legends and doctrines of the pagan creed, and the subtle mysticism which philosophers pretended to discover lurking below, when mixed up with the pure and simple but startling tenets of the new faith, formed a confused mass which few intellects could reduce to order and harmony."

The vices of our author's style, and his ambitious affectation of ornament, are condemned by most critics; but some of the points which strike a modern reader as defects evidently arise from the alteration which the Latin language had already undergone since the days of Livy. His great value, however, consists in the facts he has made known to us, and is quite independent of the style or language in which he has conveyed that knowledge, of which without him we should have been nearly destitute.

The present translation has been made from Wagner and Erfurdt's edition, published at Leipzig in 1808, and their division of chapters into short paragraphs has been followed.

Feb. 1862.
One may add to this, that he includes under this head a debtor who is only so through the engagements into which he has entered to avoid a prosecution, as if he were a real debtor, and that he never lets him go till he has obtained the discharge of the debt.

26. On the other side, a wife, who, as the old proverb has it, hammers on the same anvil day and night, to compel her husband to make his will, and then the husband is equally urgent that his wife shall do the same. And men learned in the law are procured on each side, the one in the bedchamber, and his opponent in the dining-room, to draw up counter-documents. And under their employ are placed ambiguous interpreters of the contracts of their victims, who, on the one side, promise with great liberality high offices, and the funerals of wealthy matrons; and from these they proceed to the obsequies of the husbands, giving hints that everything necessary ought to be prepared; and as Cicero says, "Nor in the affairs of men do they understand anything good, except what is profitable; and they love these friends most (as they would prefer sheep) from whom they expect to derive the greatest advantage."

27. And when they borrow anything, they are so humble and cringing, you would think you were at a comedy, and seeing Micon or Laches; when they are constrained to repay what they have borrowed, they become so turgid and bombastic that you would take them for those descendants of Hercules, Cresphontes and Temenus. This is enough to say of the senatorial order.

28. And let us come to the idle and lazy common people, among whom some, who have not even got shoes, boast of high-sounding names; calling themselves Cimero, Statiri, Semiquae, Serapina, or Cicimbricus, or Gluturiorus, Trulla, Lucanianus, Pordaca, or Salsula, with numbers of other similar appellations. These men spend their whole lives in drinking, and gambling, and brothels, and pleasures, and public spectacles; and to them the Circus Maximus is their temple, their

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1 This passage, again, seems hopelessly mutilated.
2 Cicero, de Amicitia, c. xxi.
3 These are not in reality noble names, but names derived from low occupations. Trulla is a dish; Salsula belonging to pickles, &c.
home, their public assembly; in fact, their whole hope and desire.  

29. And you may see in the forum, and roads, and streets, and places of meeting, knots of people collected, quarrelling violently with one another, and objecting to one another, and splitting themselves into violent parties.

30. Among whom those who have lived long, having influence by reason of their age, their gray hairs and wrinkles, are continually crying out that the republic cannot stand, if in the contest which is about to take place, the skilful charioteer, whom some individual backs, is not foremost in the race, and does not dextrously shave the turning-post with the trace-horses.

31. And when there is so much ruinous carelessness, when the wished-for day of the equestrian games dawns, before the sun has visibly risen, they all rush out with headlong haste, as if with their speed they would outstrip the very chariots which are going to race; while as to the event of the contest they are all torn asunder by opposite wishes, and the greater part of them, through their anxiety, pass sleepless nights.

32. From hence, if you go to some cheap theatre, the actors on the stage are driven off by hisses, if they have not taken the precaution to conciliate the lowest of the people by gifts of money. And if there should be no noise, then, in imitation of the people in the Tauric Chersonese, they raise an outcry that the strangers ought to be expelled (on whose assistance they have always relied for their principal support), using foul and ridiculous expressions; such as are greatly at variance with the pursuits and inclinations of that populace of old, whose many facetious and elegant expressions are recorded by tradition and by history.

33. For these clever gentlemen have now devised a new method of expressing applause, which is, at every spectacle to cry out to those who appear at the end, whether they are couriers, huntsmen, or charioteers—in short, to the whole body of actors, and to the magistrates, whether of great or small importance, and even to nations, “It is to

1 Compare Juvenal’s description of the circumspect in his time:—

"Atque duas tantum res arexirius optat
Panem et Circenses."
YOU MAY know some of the faces on this “BUXTON WONDERs” Ball team Picture. So reading from left to right: 

TOP ROW—Zuck Lindsey, John Steele, Jim Brooks, Buck Williams, Charlie Beadle, Andy Stovall. 


BRIEF HISTORY OF THIS TEAM ON OTHER SIDE
Olympiad is Opened at the Coast, 1932
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas Jackie Robinson was the first four sport letterman at the University of California at Los Angeles;

Whereas on April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson was the first African-American to cross the color barrier and play for a major league baseball team;

Whereas Jackie Robinson, whose career began in the Negro Leagues, went on to be named Rookie of the Year and

House Resolution Honoring the Lifetime Achievements of Jackie Robinson, 1997 Page 2

subsequently led the Brooklyn Dodgers to six National League pennants and a World Series championship;

Whereas Jackie Robinson’s inspiring career earned him recognition as the first African-American to win a batting title, lead the league in stolen bases, play in an All-Star game, win a Most Valuable Player award, play in the World Series and be elected to baseball’s Hall of Fame;

Whereas after retiring from baseball Jackie Robinson was active in the civil rights movement and founded the first bank owned by African-Americans in New York City;

Whereas his legacy continues to uplift the Nation through the Jackie Robinson Foundation that has provided 425 scholarships to needy students;

Whereas Jackie Robinson’s courage, dignity, and example taught the Nation that what matters most is not the color of a man’s skin but rather the content of his character;

Whereas Jackie Robinson, in his career, consistently demonstrated that how you play the game is more important than the final score;

Whereas Jackie Robinson’s life and heritage help make the American dream more accessible to all; and

Whereas April 15, 1997, marks the 50th anniversary of Jackie Robinson’s entrance into major league baseball: Now, therefore, be it

1 Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the achievements and contributions of Jackie Robinson be honored and celebrated; that his dedication and sacrifice be recognized; and that his contribu-
Honoring the Lifetime Achievements of Jackie Robinson.

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1. Tions to African-Americans and to the Nation be remem-
2. bered.

Passed the House of Representatives April 16, 1997.

Attest:

Clerk.

January 28, 2014

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE
S521

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report, which was ordered to lie on the table:

To the Congress of the United States:
Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, my fellow Americans:

Today in America, a teacher spent extra time with a student who needed it, and did her part to lift America’s graduation rate to its highest level in more than three decades.

An entrepreneur flipped the lights in her tech startup and did her part to add to the more than eight million new jobs our businesses have created over the past 4 years.

An autoworker fine-tuned some of the best, most fuel-efficient cars in the world, and he helped America wean itself off foreign oil.

A farmer prepared for the spring after the strong and wet 2013-14 stretch of farm exports in our history. A rural doctor gave a young child the first prescription to treat asthma that his mother could afford. A man took the bus home from the graveyard shift, bone-tired but the scenes of his big dreams for his son. And in tight-knit communities across America, fathers and mothers will tuck in their kids, put an arm around their shoulders, remember fallen comrades, and give thanks for being home from a war that, after 12 long years, is finally coming to an end.

Tonight, this chamber speaks with one voice for the people we represent: it is you, our citizens, who make the state of our Union strong.

Thank you for your efforts:

The lowest unemployment rate in over 5 years. A rebounding housing market. A manufacturing sector that’s adding jobs for the first time since the 1990s. More oil produced at home than we buy from the rest of the world—the first time that’s happened in nearly 20 years.

The deficits—cut by more than half. And for the first time in over a decade, businesses and leaders around the world have declared that China is no longer the world’s number one place to invest. America is.

That’s why I believe this can be a breakthrough year for America. After 5 years of grit and determined effort, the United States is better-positioned for the 21st century than any other nation on Earth.

The question for everyone in this chamber, running through every decision we make this year, is whether we are going to help or hinder this progress. For several years now, our town has been consumed by a ram- coronous argument over the proper size of the Federal Government. It’s an important debate—one that dates back to our very founding. But when that debate prevents us from carrying out even the most basic functions of our democracy—when our differences shut down government or threaten the full faith and credit of our sovereign town—then we are not doing right by the American people.

As President, I’m committed to making Washington work better, and rebuilding the trust of the people who sent us here. I believe most of you are, too.

Last month, thanks to the work of Democrats and Republicans, this Congress finally produced a budget that undoes some of last year’s severe cuts to priorities like education. Nobody got everything they wanted, and we can and should do more to invest in this country’s future while bringing down our deficit in a balanced way. But the budget compromise should leave us freer to focus on creating new jobs, not creating new crises.

In the coming months, let’s see where else we can make progress together. Let’s make this a year of action. That’s what most Americans want—for all of us in this chamber to focus on their lives, their hopes, their aspirations. And what I believe unites the people of this Nation, regardless of race or region or party, young or old, rich or poor, is the simple, profound belief in opportunity for all—the notion that if you work hard and take responsibility, you can get ahead.

Let’s face it: that belief has suffered some serious blows. Over more than three decades, even before the Great Recession hit, massive shifts in technological and global competition had eliminated a lot of good, middle-class jobs, and weakened the economic foundations that families depend on.

Many United States issues have been the subject of attention from the media, citizens and officials. However, in my opinion the environment issues in the US have not had their share of the spotlight. Small measures, whether involving policy or simple public action, can make a real difference for the better. One of these measures is increased regulation of the fracking industry.

Hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” is the process of gathering oil by forcing highly pressurized fluid into oil or gas formations, so that the oil or gas flows to the surface. The use of fracking has increased from 0% in 2000 to 20% in 2010 in the United States, where there are many natural gas deposits, especially where the environment is protected. Fracking endangers plants, live-stocks, and most importantly, human beings. Fracking reduces air quality, and makes water supplies unpredictable.

Many environmentalists have voiced concern about the dangers of fracking. As a result, there has been an increase in regulations aimed at protecting the environment from the dangers of fracking. However, there are still many concerns about the safety of fracking.

Many states have implemented regulations to protect the environment from the dangers of fracking. However, there are still many concerns about the safety of fracking.
Today, after 4 years of economic growth, corporate profits and stock prices have rarely been higher, and those at the top have never done better. But average wages have barely budged. Inequality has deepened. Upward mobility has stalled. The sad, hard fact is that even in the midst of recovery, too many Americans are working more than ever just to get by—let alone get ahead. And too many still aren’t working at all.

Our job is to reverse these trends. It won’t happen right away, and we won’t agree on everything. But what I offer tonight is a set of concrete, practical proposals that we can agree on, strengthen the middle class, and build new ladders of opportunity into the middle class. Some require Congressional action, others are easier to work on with all of you. But America does not stand still—and neither will I. So wherever and whenever I can take steps without legislation to expand opportunity for more American families, that’s what I’ll do.

As usual, our First Lady sets a good example. Michelle’s Let’s Move partnership, nonprofits, and local leaders have helped bring down childhood obesity rates for the first time in 30 years—an achievement that will mean a longer and healthier life for our children. We’re expanding health care costs for decades to come. The Joining Forces alliance that Michelle and Jill Biden launched has already encouraged employers to hire or train nearly 400,000 veterans and military spouses. Taking a page from that playbook, the White House just organized a College Opportunity Summit where already, 150 universities, businesses, and nonprofits have made concrete commitments to reduce inequality in access to higher education—and help every working kid go to college and succeed when they get to campus. Across the country, we’re partnering with communities and state legislatures on issues from homelessness to marriage equality.

The point is, there are millions of Americans outside Washington who are tired of stale political arguments, and are moving this country forward. They believe, and I believe, that here in America, our success should depend not on accident of birth, but the strength of our work ethic and the scope of our dreams. That’s what drew our forebears here. It’s how the daughter of a factory worker is CEO of America’s largest automaker; how the son of a barkeeper is Speaker of the House; how the son of a single mom can be President of the greatest nation on Earth. Opportunity is who we are. And the defining project of our generation is to restore that promise.

We know where to start: the best measure of opportunity is access to a stable job. With the economy picking up speed, companies say they intend to hire more people this year. And over half of big manufacturers say they’re the leading cause of insourcing jobs from abroad.

So let’s make that decision easier for more companies. Both Democrats and Republicans have argued that our tax code is rigged to make it easier for wasterly, complicated loopholes that punish businesses investing here, and reward companies that keep profits abroad. Let’s flip that equation. Let’s work together to close those loopholes, end those incentives to ship jobs overseas, and lower tax rates for businesses that create jobs here at home.

Moreover, we can take the money we save with this transition to tax reform to create jobs rebuilding our roads, upgrading our ports, unblocking our communities—because in the global economy, first-class jobs gravitate to first-class infrastructure. We’ll need Congress to protect more than three million jobs by finishing transportation and waterways bills this summer. But I will act on my own to slash bureaucracy and streamline the permitting process for key projects, so we can get more construction workers on the job as fast as possible.

We also have the chance, right now, to beat eher one out of the race for the next wave of high-tech manufacturing jobs. My Administration has launched two hubs for high-tech manufacturing in Raleigh and Youngstown, where we’ve connected businesses to research universities that can help America lead the world in advanced technologies. Tonight, I’m announcing we’ll launch six more this year. Bipartisan bills in both chambers could double the number of these hubs and the jobs they create. So get those bills to my desk and put more Americans back to work.

Let’s do more to help the entrepeneurs that give American job creators to make new jobs in America. Over the past 5 years, my Administration has made more loans to small business owners than any other. And when 98% of our exporters are small businesses, new trade partnerships with Europe and the Asia-Pacific will help them create more jobs. We need to work together on tools like bipartisanship trade promotion authority to protect our workers, protect our environment, and open new markets to new goods stamped “Made in the U.S.A.” and Europe aren’t standing on the sidelines. Neither should we.

We know that the nation that goes all-in on innovation today will own the global economy tomorrow. This is an edge America cannot surrender. Federally-funded research helped lead to the ideas and inventions behind Google and smartphones. That’s why Congress should undo the damage done by last year’s cuts to basic research so we can unleash the next great American discovery—whether it’s medicines that stay ahead of drug-resistant bacteria, or paper-thin materials that’s stronger than steel.

Let’s pass a patent reform bill that makes our businesses stay focused on innovation, not costly, needlessly litigation.

Now, one of the biggest factors in bringing more jobs back is our commit-
ment to American energy. The all-of-the-above energy strategy I announced a few years ago is working, and today, America is closer to energy independ-ence than we’ve been in decades.

One of the reasons why is natural gas—if extracted safely, it’s the bridge fuel that can power our economy with less of the carbon pollution that causes climate change. Businesses plan to invest almost $200 billion in new facilities that use natural gas. I’ll cut red tape to help States get those facilities built, and this Congress can help by putting people to work building fueling stations that shift more cars and trucks from fossil fuel to American natural gas. My Administration will keep working with the industry to sus-tain production and job growth while strengthening environmental protections for our water, and our communities. And while we’re at it, I’ll use my authority to protect more of our pristine Federal lands for future generations.

It’s not just oil and natural gas production that’s booming; we’re also mov- ing a global leader in solar, too. Every 4 minutes, another American home or business goes solar; every panel mounted into place by a worker whose job can’t be outsourced. Let’s continue to pursue the American industries that shift away from $4 billion a year in subsidies to fossil fuel industries that don’t need it, so that we can invest more in fuels of the future that do.

And even as we’ve increased energy production, we’ve partnered with busi-
nesses, builders, and local communities to reduce the energy we consume. When we rescued our automakers, for example, we worked with them to set higher fuel efficiency standards for our cars. In the coming months, I’ll build on that success by setting new standards for our trucks, so we can keep driving down oil imports and what we pay at the pump.

Taken together, our energy policy is creating jobs and leading to a cleaner, safer planet. Over the past 8 years, the United States has reduced our total carbon pollution more than any other nation on Earth. But we have to act with more urgency—because a chang-
ing climate is already harming western communities struggling with drought, and coastal cities dealing with floods. That’s why I directed my Administra-
tion to work with States, utilities, and others to set new standards on the amount of carbon pollution our power plants are allowed to dump into the air. The shift to a cleaner energy econ-
omy won’t happen overnight, but it will require tough choices along the way. But the debate is settled. Climate change is a fact. And when our chil-
dren’s children look us in the eye and ask if we did all we could to leave them a safer, more stable world, with new sources of energy, I want us to be able to say yes, we did.

Finally, if we are serious about eco-
omic growth, it is time to heed the call of business leaders, faith leaders, and law enforcement—
January 28, 2014

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

and fix our broken immigration system. Republicans and Democrats in the Senate have acted. I know that members of both parties want to do the same. Independent economists say immigration reform will grow our economy and shrink our deficits by almost $1 trillion in the next two decades. And for good reason: When people come here to fulfill their dreams—to study, invent, and contribute to our culture—they make our country a more attractive place for businesses to locate and create jobs for everyone. So let’s get immigration reform done this year.

The problem I’ve outlined so far can speed up growth and create more jobs. But in this rapidly-changing economy, we have to make sure that every American has the skills to fill those jobs.

The good news is, we know how to do it. Two years ago, as the auto industry came roaring back, Andrea Bush opened up a manufacturing firm in Detroit. She knew that Ford needed parts for the best-selling truck in America, and she knew how to make them. She just needed the workforce. So she dialed up what we call an American Job Center—places where folks can walk in to get the help or training they need to find a new job, or better job. She was flooded with new workers. And today, Detroit Manufacturing Systems has more than 700 employees. With Andrea and her employees experienced is how it should be for every employer—and every job seeker. So tonight, I’ve asked Vice President Biden to lead a across-the-board reform of America’s training programs to make sure they have one mission: Train America’s workers with the skills employers need, and match them to good jobs that need to be filled right now. That means new on-the-job training, and more apprenticeships that set a young worker on an upward trajectory for life. It means connecting communities to companies that can help design training to fill their specific needs. And if Congress wants to help, you can concentrate funding on proven programs that connect more ready-to-work Americans with ready-to-be-filled jobs.

I’m also convinced we can help Americans return to the workforce faster by reforming unemployment insurance so that it is more effective in today’s economy. But first, this Congress needs to restore the unemployment insurance you just let expire for 1.6 million people.

Let me tell you why.

Misty DeMars is a mother of two young kids. She’s been steadily employed since she was a teenager. She put herself through college. She’s never collected unemployment benefits. In May, she and her husband used their life savings to buy their first home. A week later, her job at a call center claimed the job she loved. Last month, when their unemployment insurance was about to run out, she sat down and wrote me a letter—the kind I get every day. “We are the face of the unemployment crisis,” she wrote. “I am not dependent on the government. Our country depends on people like us who build careers, contribute to society... care about our neighbors... I am confident that in time I will find a job... I will pay my taxes, and I will raise our children in their own home in the community we love. Please give us this chance.”

Congress, give these hardworking, responsible Americans that chance. They want our help, but more important, this country needs them in the game. That’s why I’ve been asking CEOs to give more long-term unemployed workers a fair shot at that new job and new chance to support their families; this week, many will come to the White House to make that commitment real. Tonight, I ask every business leader in America to join us and to do the same—because we are stronger when America fields a full team.

Of course, it’s not enough to train today’s workforce. We also have to prepare tomorrow’s workforce, by guaranteeing every child access to a world-class education. Entenwe Rodriquez couldn’t speak a word of English when he moved to New York City at age nine. But last month, thanks to the support of great teachers and an innovative tutoring program, he led a march of his classmates—through a crowd of cheering parents and neighbors—from their high school to the post office, where they mailed off their college applications. And this son of a factory worker found out he’s going to college this fall.

Five years ago, we set out to change the odds for all our kids. We worked with lenders to reform student loans, and today, more young people are earning college degrees than ever before. Race to the Top, with the help of governors from both parties, has helped States raise expectations and performance. As a result, our Nation’s principal schools from Tennessee to Washington, D.C. are making big strides in preparing students with skills for the new economy—problem solving, critical thinking, science, technology, engineering, and math. Some of this change is hard. It requires everything from more challenging curricula and more demanding parents to better support for teachers and new ways to measure how well our kids think, not how well they can fill in a bubble on a test. But it’s worth it—and it’s working.

The problem is we’re still not reaching enough kids, and we’re not reaching them in time. That has to change. Research shows that one of the best investments we can make in a child’s life is high-quality early education. Last year, I asked this Congress to help states make high-quality pre-K available to every four-year-old. As a parent as well as a President, I repeat that request tonight. But in the meantime, 30 states have raised the Pre-K funding on their own. They know we can’t wait. So just as we worked with States to reform our schools, this year, we’ll invest in new partnerships with States and communities across the country to make that commitment real for our youngest children. And as Congress decides what it’s going to do, I’m going to pull together a coalition of elected officials, business leaders, and philanthropists willing to help more kids access the high-quality early education they deserve. And I’m reaching out to some of America’s leading foundations and corporations on a new initiative to help ensure that every child is ready to learn by the kindergarten year.

The bottom line is, Michelle and I want every child to have the same chance this country gave us. But we know our opportunity agenda won’t be complete—and too many young people entering the workforce today will see the American Dream as an empty promise. So, as long as we do nothing to make sure our economy honors the dignity of work, and hard work pays off for every single American.

Today, women make up about half our workforce. But they still make 77 cents for every dollar a man earns. That is wrong, and in 2014, it’s an embarrassment. A woman deserves equal pay for equal work. She deserves the right to have a baby without sacrificing her job. A mother deserves a day off to care for a sick child or sick parent without running into hardship—and you know what, a father does, too. It’s time to do away with workplace policies that belong in a “Mad Men” episode. This year, let’s all come together—Congress, the White House, and businesses from Wall Street to Main Street—to ensure every woman the opportunity she deserves. Because I firmly believe when women succeed, America succeeds.

Women, hold a higher lifetime average of lower-wage jobs—but they’re not the only ones stifled by stagnant wages. America needs more men to earn more than others, and we
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don’t resent those who, by virtue of their efforts, achieve incredible success. But Americans overwhelmingly agree that so one who works full time should ever have to raise a family in poverty.

In the year since I asked this Congress to raise the minimum wage, five States have passed laws to raise theirs. Many businesses have done it on their own. Nick Chute is here tonight with his boss, John Soranno. John’s an owner of Punch Pizza in Minneapolis, and Nick helps make the dough. Only now he makes more of it. John just gave his employees a raise, to ten bucks an hour—a decision that eased their financial stress and boosted their morale.

Tonight, I ask more of America’s business leaders to follow John’s lead and do what you can to raise your employees’ wages. To every mayor, governor, and state legislator in America, I say, you don’t have to wait for Congress to act; Americans will support you if you take this on. And as a chief executive, I intend to lead by example. Profitable corporations like Costco see higher wages as the smart way to boost productivity and reduce turnover. At Walmart, profits rose 20 percent last year. We should too. In the coming weeks, I will issue an Executive Order requiring Federal contractors to pay their federal employees a fair wage of at least $10.10 an hour—because if you cook our troops’ meals or wash their dishes, you shouldn’t have to live in poverty.

Of course, to reach millions more, Congress needs to get on board. Today, the Federal minimum wage is worth about 20 percent less than it was when Ronald Reagan first stood here. Tom Harkin and George Miller have a bill to fix that by lifting the minimum wage to $10.10. This will help families. It will help businesses compete, and it will mean more money to spend. It doesn’t involve any new bureaucratic program. So join the rest of the country. Say yes. Give America a raise.

There are other steps we can take to help families make ends meet, and few are more effective at reducing inequality and helping families pull themselves up through hard work than the Earned Income Tax Credit. Right now, it helps about half of all parents at some point. But I agree with Republicans and Senator Rubio that it doesn’t do enough for single workers who don’t have kids, so let’s work together to strengthen the credit, reward hard work, and help more Americans get ahead.

Let’s do more to help Americans save for retirement. Today, most workers don’t have a pension. A Social Security check often isn’t enough on its own. And while the stock market has doubled over the last 5 years, that doesn’t help folks who don’t have 401ks. That’s why, tomorrow, I will direct the Treasury to create a new way for working Americans to start their own retirement savings: MyRA. It’s a new savings bond that encourages folks to build a nest egg. MyRA guarantees a decent return with no risk of losing what you put in. And if this Congress wants to help, work with me to fix an upside-down tax code that cliques big tax breaks to help the wealthy save, but does little to nothing for middle-class Americans. Offer every American access to an automatic IRA on the job, so they can save at work just like everyone in this Chamber can. And since the most important investment many families make is their home, send me legislation that protects taxpayers from foot- ing the bill for a housing crisis ever again, and keeps the dream of homeownership alive for future generations of Americans.

One last point on financial security. For decades, few things exposed hard- working family’s economic hardship more than a broken health care system. And in case you haven’t heard, we’re in the process of fixing that.

A pre-existing condition is used to mean that someone like Amandta Shelley, a physician assistant and single mom from Arizona, couldn’t get health insurance. But on January 1st, she got covered. On January 3rd, she felt a sharp pain. On January 6th, she had emergency surgery. Just one week earlier, Amanda said, that surgery would’ve meant bankruptcy.

That’s what the Affordable Care Act is all about—the peace of mind that if a misfortune strikes, you don’t have to lose everything.

Already, because of the Affordable Care Act, more than 1 million Americans under age 26 have gained coverage under their parents’ plans.

More than nine million Americans have signed up for private health insurance or Medicaid coverage.

And here’s another number: zero. Because of this law, no American can ever again be dropped or denied coverage for a pre-existing condition like asthma, back pain, or cancer. No woman can ever be charged just because she’s a woman. And we did all this while adding years to Medicare’s finances, keeping Medicare premiums flat, and lowering prescription costs for millions of seniors.

Now, I don’t expect to convince my Republican friends on the merits of this law. But I know that the American people aren’t interested in refighting old battles. It’s enough if you have specific plans to cut costs, cover more people, and increase choice—tell America what you’d do differently. Let’s see if the numbers add up. But let’s not have another forty-something votes to repeal a law that’s already helping millions of Americans like Amanda. The first forty were plenty. We got it. We owe it to the American people to say what we’re for, not just what we’re against.

And if you want to know the real impact of this law, just talk to Governor Steve Beshear of Kentucky, who’s here tonight. Kentucky’s not the most liberal part of the country, but he’s like a man possessed when it comes to covering his commonwealth’s families. “They are our friends and neighbors,” he said. “They are people we shop and go to church with—farmers, teachers, the tractor-dealer’s clerks—they are people who go to work every morning praying they don’t get stuck. No one deserves to live that way.”

Steve’s right. That’s why, tonight, I ask every American who knows someone without health insurance to help them get covered by March 31st. Moms, get on your kids to sign up. Kids, call your mom and walk her through the application. It will give her some peace of mind—plus, she’ll appreciate hearing from you.

After all, that’s the spirit that has always moved this Nation forward. It’s the spirit of citizenship—of the conviction that through hard work and responsibility, we can pursue our individual dreams, but still come together as one American family to see the next generation can pursue its dreams as well.

Citizenship means standing up for everyone’s right to vote. Last year, part of the Voting Rights Act was weakened. But conservative Republicans and liberal Democrats are working together to strengthen it; and the bipartisan commission I appointed last year has offered reforms so that no one has to wait more than a half hour to vote. Let’s support these efforts. It should be one of our proudest votes, not the size of our bank account, that drives our democracy.

Citizenship means standing up for the lives that gun violence steals from us each day. I have seen the courage of parents, students, pastors, and police officers all over this country who say “we are not afraid,” and I intend to keep trying, with or without Congress, to help stop more tragically. It means sitting innocent Americans in our movie theaters, shopping malls, or schools like Sandy Hook.

Citizenship demands a sense of common cause; participation in the hard work of self-government; an obligation to serve to our communities. And I know this chamber agrees that few Americans give more to their country than our diplomats and the men and women of the United States Armed Forces.

Punish, because of the extraordinary troops and civilians who risk and lay down their lives to keep us free, the United States is more secure. When I took office, nearly 180,000 Americans were serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Today, all our troops are out of Iraq. More than 60,000 of our troops have already come home from Afghanistan. With Afghan forces now in the lead for their own security, our own troops have moved to a support role. Together with our allies, we will complete our mission there by the end of this year, and America’s longest war will finally be over.

After 2014, we will support a unified Afghanistan as it takes responsibility.
January 28, 2014

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for its own future. If the Afghan government signs a security agreement that we have negotiated, a small force of Americans could remain in Afghanistan to advise and support a robust Afghan National Army and police forces. Our focus is to transfer responsibility for training and advising the Afghan forces to the Afghans. The careful planning and execution of this transition will ensure that our troops are not trapped in a quagmire of endless wars in the Middle East.

The United States and our allies are taking the necessary steps to ensure that we do not face a similar situation in the future. We have worked closely with our partners in the region to establish a regional security architecture that can respond to emerging threats. This architecture includes the creation of a joint command center that will coordinate the efforts of all regional partners. The United States is also providing support to these efforts through the provision of training and equipment.

We are also working to ensure that our troops are treated with respect and dignity. We have established a strong partnership with the Afghan government, and we are working closely with them to ensure that our troops are treated with respect and dignity. We have been successful in this effort, and we are committed to continuing our work.

In conclusion, I want to thank our troops for their service and for their sacrifices. They are the best of the best, and they are doing an incredible job. I am proud of them, and I am grateful for their service.

Sincerely,

Barack Obama
President of the United States

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For more information, please visit the official website of the White House at whitehouse.gov.
His comrades found him in a canal, face down, underwater, shrapnel in his brain. For months, he lay in a coma. The next time I met him, in the hospital, he couldn’t speak; he could barely move. Over the years, he’s endured dozens of surgeries and procedures, and hours of grueling rehab every day.

Even now, Cory is still blind in one eye. He still struggles on his left side. But slowly, steadily, with the support of caregivers like his dad Craig, and the community around him, Cory has grown stronger. Day by day, he’s learned to speak again and stand again—and he’s working toward the day when he can serve his country again.

“My recovery has not been easy,” he says, “but living in life that’s worth anything is easy.”

Cory is here tonight. And like the Army he loves, like the America he serves, Sergeant First Class Cory Remsburg never gives up, and he does not quit.

My fellow Americans, men and women like Cory remind us that America has never come easy. Our freedom, our democracy, has never been easy. Sometimes we stumble; we make mistakes; we get frustrated or discouraged. But for more than 200 years, we have put those things aside and placed our collective shoulder to the wheel of progress—to create and build and expand the possibilities of individual achievement; to free other nations from tyranny and fear; to promote justice, and fairness, and equality under the law, so that the words set to paper by our founders are made real for every citizen. The America we want for our kids—a rising America where work is plentiful and communities are strong; where prosperity is widely shared for all—lets us go as far as our dreams and toll take us—none of it is easy. But if we work together, if we support one another, if we help one another, our future is in the hands of people who believe.

Believe it.

God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

BARACK OBAMA

THE WHITE HOUSE, January 28, 2014

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:06 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1684. An act to convey certain property to the State of Wyoming to consolidate the historic Ranch A, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2168. An act to direct the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of Commerce to expedite access to certain Federal lands under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary for good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2568. An act to provide for the conveyance of a small parcel of National Forest System land in Los Padres National Forest in California, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1684. An act to convey certain property to the State of Wyoming to consolidate the historic Ranch A, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2168. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture to expedite access to certain Federal lands under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary for good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2609. An act to provide for the conveyance of a small parcel of National Forest System land in Los Padres National Forest in California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:


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-4442. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation of a national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 12967 with respect to terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process, to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4443. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Registration of Municipal Advisers” (51990-A086) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2014, to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4446. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Final Flood Elevation Determinations” (44 CFR Part 67) (Docket No. FEMA-2013-0002) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2014, to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4445. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Executive Compensation” (51990-AA12) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 21, 2014, to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4446. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Obligations and Payments” (51990-AA06) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 21, 2014, to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4447. A communication from the Director of Human Resources, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, three (3) reports relative to vacancies in the Environmental Protection Agency, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 21, 2014, to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4448. A communication from the Director of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Species, Designation of a National Marine Sanctuary in Central Valley Spring-Run Chinook Salmon Below Friant Dam in the San Joaquin River” (51564-B029) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2014, to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4449. 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 “Bond Premium Carryforward” (51354-BL28) (TD 9653) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2014, to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4450. 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 “Sales-Based Royalties and Related Payments” (51354-BL28) (TD 9652) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2014, to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4451. 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 “Rules Relating to, Medical Loss Ratio” (51354-BL28) (TD 9601) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2014, to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4452. 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 “2014 Prevaling State Assumed Interest Rates” (Rev. Rul. 2014-4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2014, to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4453. 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 “Excision from Incomes of Payments to Care Providers from Medicaid Waiver Programs” (Notice 2014-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2014, to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4454. 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 “Current Ratings of Recovery Zone Facility Bonds” (Notice 2014-8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2014, to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4455. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-
Drake Relays, 2008, Lolo Jones

Courtesy of Drake University
Iowa Girls 6-on-6 Basketball Players Tell Their Stories, 2008

Courtesy of Iowa PBS, “Iowa Girls 6-on-6 Basketball Players Tell Their Stories,” 2008