

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 that 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're black, white, Latino, Asian, 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 will be 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 build a railroad no matter how many homes get 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 is 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 sit 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; and 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 without any sleep. Thirty-seven days later, Plan B succeeded, and the miners were rescued. But because he didn't want all the attention, Brandon wasn't there when the miners emerged. He had already gone back home, back to work on his 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.

(Applause, the Members rising.) At 10 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m., the President of the United States, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Deputy 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 20 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. CANTOR. Mr. 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.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for January 24 on account of airline mechanical failure.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, January 26, 2010, at 10 a.m.

#### OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF SUBSTANTIVE REGULATIONS AND SUBMISSION FOR CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL

OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE,  
Washington, DC, January 24, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: On March 21, 2008, the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance adopted and submitted for publication in the Congressional Record final regulations implementing section 4(c)(3) of the Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998 which extends to the Congress certain rights, protections, and responsibilities under section 2108, 3309 through 3312, and subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 5, United States Code. On December 10, 2010, the Senate agreed both to S. Res. 700 to provide for the approval of final regulations that are applicable to the employing offices and covered employees of the Senate, and to S. Con. Res. 77 to provide for approval of final regulations that are applicable to the instrumentalities of the Congress, i.e., the employing offices and employees other than those offices and employees of the House and the Senate. Both S. Res. 700 and S. Con. Res. 77 included technical corrections to the regulations. On December 15, 2010, the House agreed to S. Con. Res. 77, covering the instrumentalities, and in addition approved H. Res. 1757, to provide for the approval of the final regulations that are applicable to employing offices and covered employees of the House. H. Res. 1757 also included technical corrections. On December 22, 2010, the House agreed to H. Res. 1783 amending the technical corrections of H. Res. 1757 and the Senate agreed to S. Res. 705 amending the technical corrections of S. Res. 700.