

JOINT SESSIONS, JOINT MEETINGS, AND INAUGURATIONS

1st–105th CONGRESSES, 1789–1997¹

The parliamentary difference between a joint session and a joint meeting has evolved over time. In recent years the distinctions have become clearer: a joint session is more formal, and occurs upon the adoption of a concurrent resolution; a joint meeting occurs when each body adopts a unanimous consent agreement to recess to meet with the other legislative body.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives usually presides over joint sessions and joint meetings; however, the President of the Senate does preside over counts of the electoral votes, as required by the Constitution.

In the earliest years of the Republic, 1789 and 1790, when the national legislature met in New York City, joint gatherings were held in the Senate Chamber in Federal Hall. In Philadelphia, when the legislature met in Congress Hall, such meetings were held in the Senate Chamber, 1790–1793, and in the Hall of the House of Representatives, 1794–1799. Once the Congress moved to the Capitol in Washington in 1800, the Senate Chamber again was used for joint gatherings through 1805. Since 1809, with few exceptions, joint sessions and joint meetings have occurred in the Hall of the House.

Presidential messages on the state of the Union were once known as “Annual Messages,” but since the 80th Congress have been called “State of the Union Addresses.” After President Adams’ Annual Message on November 22, 1800, these addresses were read by clerks to the individual bodies until President Wilson resumed the practice of delivering them to joint sessions on December 2, 1913.

In some instances more than one joint gathering has occurred on the same day. For example, on January 6, 1941, Congress met in joint session to count electoral votes for President and Vice President, and then met again in joint session to receive President Roosevelt’s Annual Message.

Congress has hosted inaugurations since the first occasion in 1789. They always have been formal joint gatherings, and sometimes they also were joint sessions. Inaugurations were joint sessions when both houses of Congress were in session, and they processed to the ceremony as part of the business of the day. In many cases, however, one or both houses were not in session or were in recess at the time of the ceremony. In the table below, inaugurations that were not joint sessions are listed in the second column. Those that were joint sessions are so identified and described in the third column.

JOINT SESSIONS, JOINT MEETINGS, AND INAUGURATIONS

1st–105th CONGRESSES, 1789–1997

[See notes at end of table]

Congress & Date	Type	Occasion, topic, or location	Name and position of dignitary (where applicable)
NEW YORK CITY			
1st CONGRESS			
Apr. 6, 1789	Joint session	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
Apr. 30, 1789 .....	.....do	Inauguration and church service ²	President George Washington; Right Reverend Samuel Provoost, Senate-appointed Chaplain.
Jan. 8, 1790 .....	.....do	Annual Message	President George Washington.
PHILADELPHIA			
2d CONGRESS			
Oct. 25, 1791 .....	.....do .....	.....do	Do.
Nov. 6, 1792 .....	.....do .....	.....do	Do.
Feb. 13, 1793 .....	.....do	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
3d CONGRESS			
Mar. 4, 1793	Inauguration	Senate Chamber	President George Washington.
Dec. 3, 1793	Joint session	Annual Message	Do.
Nov. 19, 1794dodo	Do.
4th CONGRESS			
Dec. 8, 1795dodo	Do.

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Dec. 7, 1796	Joint session	Annual Message	President George Washington.
Feb. 8, 1797do	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
5th CONGRESS Mar. 4, 1797	Inauguration	Hall of the House	President John Adams.
May 16, 1797	Joint session	Relations with France	Do.
Nov. 23, 1797 .....	.....do	Annual Message	Do.
Dec. 8, 1798 .....	.....do .....	.....do	Do.
6th CONGRESS Dec. 3, 1799 .....	.....do .....	.....do	Do.
Dec. 26, 1799 .....	.....do	Funeral procession and oration in memory of George Washington ³ .	Representative Henry Lee.
WASHINGTON			
Nov. 22, 1800 .....	.....do	Annual Message	President John Adams.
Feb. 11, 1801 .....	.....do	Counting electoral votes ⁴	N.A.
7th CONGRESS Mar. 4, 1801	Inauguration	Senate Chamber	President Thomas Jefferson.
8th CONGRESS Feb. 13, 1805	Joint session	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
9th CONGRESS Mar. 5, 1805	Inauguration	Senate Chamber	President Thomas Jefferson.
10th CONGRESS Feb. 8, 1809	Joint session	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
11th CONGRESS Mar. 4, 1809	Inauguration	Hall of the House	President James Madison.
12th CONGRESS Feb. 10, 1813	Joint session	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
13th CONGRESS Mar. 4, 1813	Inauguration	Hall of the House	President James Madison.
14th CONGRESS Feb. 12, 1817	Joint session	Counting electoral votes ⁵	N.A.
15th CONGRESS Mar. 4, 1817	Inauguration	In front of Brick Capitol	President James Monroe.
16th CONGRESS Feb. 14, 1821	Joint session	Counting electoral votes ⁶	N.A.
17th CONGRESS Mar. 5, 1821	Inauguration	Hall of the House	President James Monroe.
18th CONGRESS Dec. 10, 1824	House address ⁷	Address	Speaker Henry Clay; General Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette. N.A.
Feb. 9, 1825	Joint session	Counting electoral votes ⁸	
19th CONGRESS Mar. 4, 1825	Inauguration	Hall of the House	President John Quincy Adams.
20th CONGRESS Feb. 11, 1829	Joint session	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
21st CONGRESS Mar. 4, 1829	Inauguration	East Portico ⁹	President Andrew Jackson.
22d CONGRESS Feb. 13, 1833	Joint session	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
23d CONGRESS Mar. 4, 1833	Inauguration	Hall of the House ¹⁰	President Andrew Jackson.
Dec. 31, 1834	Joint session	Lafayette eulogy	Representative and former President John Quincy Adams; ceremony attended by President Andrew Jackson.
24th CONGRESS Feb. 8, 1837 .....	.....do	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
25th CONGRESS Mar. 4, 1837	Inauguration	East Portico	President Martin Van Buren.

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26th CONGRESS Feb. 10, 1841	Joint session	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
27th CONGRESS Mar. 4, 1841	Inauguration	East Portico	President William Henry Harrison.
28th CONGRESS Feb. 12, 1845	Joint session	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
29th CONGRESS Mar. 4, 1845	Inauguration	East Portico	President James Knox Polk.
30th CONGRESS Feb. 14, 1849	Joint session	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
31st CONGRESS Mar. 5, 1849	Inauguration	East Portico	President Zachary Taylor.
July 10, 1850	Joint session	Oath of office to President Millard Fillmore ¹¹ .	N.A.
32d CONGRESS Feb. 9, 1853 .....	.....do	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
33d CONGRESS Mar. 4, 1853	Inauguration	East Portico	President Franklin Pierce.
34th CONGRESS Feb. 11, 1857	Joint session	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
35th CONGRESS Mar. 4, 1857	Inauguration	East Portico	President James Buchanan.
36th CONGRESS Feb. 13, 1861	Joint session	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
37th CONGRESS Mar. 4, 1861	Inauguration	East Portico	President Abraham Lincoln.
Feb. 22, 1862	Joint session	Reading of Washington's farewell address.	John W. Forney, Secretary of the Senate.
38th CONGRESS Feb. 8, 1865 .....	.....do	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
39th CONGRESS Mar. 4, 1865	Inauguration	East Portico	President Abraham Lincoln.
Feb. 12, 1866	Joint session	Memorial to Abraham Lincoln	George Bancroft, historian; ceremony attended by President Andrew Johnson.
40th CONGRESS Feb. 10, 1869 .....	.....do	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
41st CONGRESS Mar. 4, 1869	Inauguration	East Portico	President Ulysses S. Grant.
42d CONGRESS Feb. 12, 1873	Joint session	Counting electoral votes ¹²	N.A.
43d CONGRESS Mar. 4, 1873	Inauguration	East Portico	President Ulysses S. Grant.
Dec. 18, 1874	Joint meeting	Reception of King Kalakaua of Hawaii	Speaker James G. Blaine; David Kalakaua, King of the Hawaiian Islands. ¹³
44th CONGRESS Feb. 1, 1877	Joint session	Counting electoral votes ¹⁴	N.A.
Feb. 10, 1877			
Feb. 12, 1877			
Feb. 19, 1877			
Feb. 20, 1877			
Feb. 21, 1877			
Feb. 24, 1877			
Feb. 26, 1877			
Feb. 28, 1877			
Mar. 1, 1877			
Mar. 2, 1877			
45th CONGRESS Mar. 5, 1877	Inauguration	East Portico	President Rutherford B. Hayes.

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46th CONGRESS Feb. 9, 1881	Joint session	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
47th CONGRESS Mar. 4, 1881	Inauguration	East Portico	President James A. Garfield.
Feb. 27, 1882	Joint session	Memorial to James A. Garfield	James G. Blaine, former Speaker, Senator, and Secretary of State; ceremony attended by President Chester A. Arthur.
48th CONGRESS Feb. 11, 1885 .....	.....do	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
Feb. 21, 1885 .....	.....do	Completion of Washington Monument	Representative John D. Long; Representative-elect John W. Daniel ¹⁵ ; ceremony attended by President Chester A. Arthur.
49th CONGRESS Mar. 4, 1885	Inauguration	East Portico	President Grover Cleveland.
50th CONGRESS Feb. 13, 1889	Joint session	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
51st CONGRESS Mar. 4, 1889	Inauguration	East Portico	President Benjamin Harrison.
Dec. 11, 1889	Joint session	Centennial of George Washington's first inauguration.	Melville W. Fuller, Chief Justice of the United States; ceremony attended by President Benjamin Harrison.
52d CONGRESS Feb. 8, 1893 .....	.....do	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
53d CONGRESS Mar. 4, 1893	Inauguration	East Portico	President Grover Cleveland.
54th CONGRESS Feb. 10, 1897	Joint session	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
55th CONGRESS Mar. 4, 1897	Inauguration	In front of original Senate Wing of Capitol.	President William McKinley.
56th CONGRESS Dec. 12, 1900	Joint meeting	Centennial of the Capital City	Representatives James D. Richardson and Sereno E. Payne, and Senator George F. Hoar; ceremony attended by President William McKinley.
Feb. 13, 1901	Joint session	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
57th CONGRESS Mar. 4, 1901	Inauguration	East Portico	President William McKinley.
Feb. 27, 1902	Joint session	Memorial to William McKinley	John Hay, Secretary of State; ceremony attended by President Theodore Roosevelt and Prince Henry of Prussia.
58th CONGRESS Feb. 8, 1905 .....	.....do	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
59th CONGRESS Mar. 4, 1905	Inauguration	East Portico	President Theodore Roosevelt.
60th CONGRESS Feb. 10, 1909	Joint session	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
61st CONGRESS Mar. 4, 1909	Inauguration	Senate Chamber ¹⁶	President William Howard Taft.
62d CONGRESS Feb. 12, 1913	Joint session	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
Feb. 15, 1913 .....	.....do	Memorial for Vice President James S. Sherman ¹⁷ .	Senators Elihu Root, Thomas S. Martin, Jacob H. Gallinger, John R. Thornton, Henry Cabot Lodge, John W. Kern, Robert M. LaFollette, John Sharp Williams, Charles Curtis, Albert B. Cummins, George T. Oliver, James A. O'Gorman; Speaker Champ Clark; President William Howard Taft.
63d CONGRESS Mar. 4, 1913	Inauguration	East Portico	President Woodrow Wilson.

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Apr. 8, 1913	Joint session	Tariff message	President Woodrow Wilson.
June 23, 1913do	Currency and bank reform message	Do.
Aug. 27, 1913 .....	.....do	Mexican affairs message	Do.
Dec. 2, 1913 .....	.....do	Annual Message	Do.
Jan. 20, 1914 .....	.....do	Trusts message	Do.
Mar. 5, 1914 .....	.....do	Panama Canal tolls	Do.
Apr. 20, 1914 .....	.....do	Mexico message	Do.
Sept. 4, 1914 .....	.....do	War tax message	Do.
Dec. 8, 1914 .....	.....do	Annual Message	Do.
64th CONGRESS			
Dec. 7, 1915 .....	.....do .....	.....do	Do.
Aug. 29, 1916 .....	.....do	Railroad message (labor-management dispute).	Do.
Dec. 5, 1916 .....	.....do	Annual Message	Do.
Feb. 3, 1917 .....	.....do	Severing diplomatic relations with Germany.	Do.
Feb. 14, 1917 .....	.....do	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
Feb. 26, 1917 .....	.....do	Arming of merchant ships	President Woodrow Wilson.
65th CONGRESS			
Mar. 5, 1917	Inauguration	East Portico	Do.
Apr. 2, 1917	Joint session	War with Germany	Do.
Dec. 4, 1917 .....	.....do	Annual Message/War with Austria-Hungary.	Do.
Jan. 4, 1918 .....	.....do	Federal operation of transportation systems.	Do.
Jan. 8, 1918 .....	.....do	Program for world's peace	Do.
Feb. 11, 1918 .....	.....do	Peace message	Do.
May 27, 1918 .....	.....do	War finance message	Do.
Nov. 11, 1918 .....	.....do	Terms of armistice signed by Germany	Do.
Dec. 2, 1918 .....	.....do	Annual Message	Do.
Feb. 9, 1919 .....	.....do	Memorial to Theodore Roosevelt	Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Sr.; ceremony attended by former President William Howard Taft.
66th CONGRESS			
Aug. 8, 1919 .....	.....do	Cost of living message	President Woodrow Wilson.
Sept. 18, 1919 .....	.....do	Address	President pro tempore Albert B. Cummins; Speaker Frederick H. Gillett; Representative and former Speaker Champ Clark; General John J. Pershing.
Feb. 9, 1921 .....	.....do	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
67th CONGRESS			
Mar. 4, 1921	Inauguration	East Portico	President Warren G. Harding.
Apr. 12, 1921	Joint session	Federal problem message	Do.
Dec. 6, 1921 .....	.....do	Annual Message	Do.
Feb. 28, 1922 .....	.....do	Maintenance of the merchant marine ..	Do.
Aug. 18, 1922 .....	.....do	Coal and railroad message	Do.
Nov. 21, 1922 .....	.....do	Promotion of the American merchant marine.	Do.
Dec. 8, 1922 .....	.....do	Annual Message ¹⁸	Do.
Feb. 7, 1923 .....	.....do	British debt due to the United States	Do.
68th CONGRESS			
Dec. 6, 1923 .....	.....do	Annual Message	President Calvin Coolidge.
Feb. 27, 1924 .....	.....do	Memorial to Warren G. Harding	Charles Evans Hughes, Secretary of State; ceremony attended by President Calvin Coolidge.
Dec. 15, 1924 .....	.....do	Memorial to Woodrow Wilson	Dr. Edwin Anderson Alderman, President of the University of Virginia; ceremony attended by President Calvin Coolidge.
Feb. 11, 1925 .....	.....do	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
69th CONGRESS			
Mar. 4, 1925	Inauguration	East Portico	President Calvin Coolidge.
Feb. 22, 1927	Joint session	George Washington birthday message ..	Do.
70th CONGRESS			
Feb. 13, 1929 .....	.....do	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
71st CONGRESS			
Mar. 4, 1929	Inauguration	East Portico	President Herbert Hoover.
72d CONGRESS			
Feb. 22, 1932	Joint session	Bicentennial of George Washington's birth.	Do.

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Feb. 6, 1933	Joint meeting	Memorial to Calvin Coolidge	Arthur Prentice Rugg, Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts; ceremony attended by President Herbert Hoover.
Feb. 8, 1933	Joint session	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
73d CONGRESS Mar. 4, 1933	Inauguration	East Portico	President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.
Jan. 3, 1934	Joint session	Annual Message	Do.
May 20, 1934 .....	....do	100th anniversary, death of Lafayette ..	André de Laboulaye, Ambassador of France; President Franklin Delano Roosevelt; ceremony attended by Count de Chambrun, great-grandson of Lafayette.
74th CONGRESS Jan. 4, 1935 .....	....do	Annual Message	President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.
May 22, 1935 .....	....do	Veto message	Do.
Jan. 3, 1936 .....	....do	Annual Message	Do.
75th CONGRESS Jan. 6, 1937 .....	....do	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
Do .....	....do	Annual Message	President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.
Jan. 20, 1937	Inauguration	East Portico	President Franklin Delano Roosevelt; Vice President John Nance Garner. ¹⁹
Jan. 3, 1938	Joint session	Annual Message	President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.
76th CONGRESS Jan. 4, 1939 .....	....do .....	....do	Do.
Mar. 4, 1939 .....	....do	Sesquicentennial of the 1st Congress	Do.
June 9, 1939	Joint meeting	Reception ²⁰	George VI and Elizabeth, King and Queen of the United Kingdom.
Sept. 21, 1939	Joint session	Neutrality address	President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.
Jan. 3, 1940 .....	....do	Annual Message	Do.
May 16, 1940 .....	....do	National defense message	Do.
77th CONGRESS Jan. 6, 1941 .....	....do	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
Do .....	....do	Annual Message	President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.
Jan. 20, 1941 .....	....do	Inauguration, East Portico	President Franklin Delano Roosevelt; Vice President Henry A. Wallace.
Dec. 8, 1941 .....	....do	War with Japan	President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.
Dec. 26, 1941	Joint meeting	Address ²¹	Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.
Jan. 6, 1942	Joint session	Annual Message	President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.
78th CONGRESS Jan. 7, 1943 .....	....do .....	....do	Do.
May 19, 1943	Joint meeting	Address	Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.
Nov. 18, 1943 .....	....do	Moscow Conference	Cordell Hull, Secretary of State.
79th CONGRESS Jan. 6, 1945	Joint session	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
Do .....	....do	Annual Message	President Roosevelt was not present. His message was read before the Joint Session of Congress.
Jan. 20, 1945	Inauguration	South Portico, The White House ²²	President Franklin Delano Roosevelt; Vice President Harry S. Truman.
Mar. 1, 1945	Joint session	Yalta Conference	President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.
Apr. 16, 1945 .....	....do	Prosecution of the War	President Harry S. Truman.
May 21, 1945 .....	....do	Bestowal of Congressional Medal of Honor on Tech. Sgt. Jake William Lindsey.	General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army; President Harry S. Truman.
June 18, 1945	Joint meeting	Address	General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force.
Oct. 5, 1945 .....	....do .....	....do	Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet.
Oct. 23, 1945	Joint session	Universal military training message	President Harry S. Truman.
Nov. 13, 1945	Joint meeting	Address	Clement R. Attlee, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.
May 25, 1946	Joint session	Railroad strike message	President Harry S. Truman.
July 1, 1946do	Memorial to Franklin Delano Roosevelt	John Winant, U.S. Representative on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations; ceremony attended by President Harry S. Truman and Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

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Congress & Date	Type	Occasion, topic, or location	Name and position of dignitary (where applicable)
80th CONGRESS			
Jan. 6, 1947	Joint session	State of the Union Address ²³	President Harry S. Truman.
Mar. 12, 1947 .....	.....do	Greek-Turkish aid policy	Do.
May 1, 1947	Joint meeting	Address	Miguel Aleman, President of Mexico.
Nov. 17, 1947	Joint session	Aid to Europe message	President Harry S. Truman.
Jan. 7, 1948 .....	.....do	State of the Union Address	Do.
Mar. 17, 1948 .....	.....do	National security and conditions in Europe.	Do.
Apr. 19, 1948 .....	.....do	50th anniversary, liberation of Cuba	President Harry S. Truman; Guillermo Belo, Ambassador of Cuba.
July 27, 1948 .....	.....do	Inflation, housing, and civil rights	President Harry S. Truman.
81st CONGRESS			
Jan. 5, 1949 .....	.....do	State of the Union Address	Do.
Jan. 6, 1949 .....	.....do	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
Jan. 20, 1949 .....	.....do	Inauguration, East Portico	President Harry S. Truman; Vice President Alben W. Barkley.
May 19, 1949	Joint meeting	Address	Eurico Gaspar Dutra, President of Brazil.
Jan. 4, 1950	Joint session	State of the Union Address	President Harry S. Truman.
May 31, 1950	Joint meeting	Address	Dean Acheson, Secretary of State.
82d CONGRESS			
Jan. 8, 1951	Joint session	State of the Union Address	President Harry S. Truman.
Feb. 1, 1951	Joint meeting ²⁴	North Atlantic Treaty Organization	General Dwight D. Eisenhower.
Apr. 2, 1951 .....	.....do	Address	Vincent Auriol, President of France.
Apr. 19, 1951 .....	.....do	Return from Pacific Command	General Douglas MacArthur.
June 21, 1951 .....	.....do	Address	Galo Plaza, President of Ecuador.
Sept. 24, 1951 .....	.....do .....	.....do	Alcide de Gasperi, Prime Minister of Italy.
Jan. 9, 1952	Joint session	State of the Union Address	President Harry S. Truman.
Jan. 17, 1952	Joint meeting	Address	Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.
Apr. 3, 1952 .....	.....do .....	.....do	Juliana, Queen of the Netherlands.
May 22, 1952 .....	.....do	Korea	General Matthew B. Ridgway.
June 10, 1952	Joint session	Steel industry dispute	President Harry S. Truman.
83d CONGRESS			
Jan. 6, 1953 .....	.....do	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
Jan. 20, 1953 .....	.....do	Inauguration, East Portico	President Dwight D. Eisenhower; Vice President Richard M. Nixon.
Feb. 2, 1953 .....	.....do	State of the Union Address	President Dwight D. Eisenhower.
Jan. 7, 1954 .....	.....do .....	.....do	Do.
Jan. 29, 1954	Joint meeting	Address	Celal Bayar, President of Turkey.
May 4, 1954 .....	.....do .....	.....do	Vincent Massey, Governor General of Canada.
May 28, 1954 .....	.....do .....	.....do	Haile Selassie I, Emperor of Ethiopia.
July 28, 1954 .....	.....do .....	.....do	Syngman Rhee, President of South Korea.
84th CONGRESS			
Jan. 6, 1955	Joint session	State of the Union Address	President Dwight D. Eisenhower.
Jan. 27, 1955	Joint meeting	Address	Paul E. Magliore, President of Haiti.
Feb. 29, 1956 .....	.....do .....	.....do	Giovanni Gronchi, President of Italy.
May 17, 1956 .....	.....do .....	.....do	Dr. Sukarno, President of Indonesia.
85th CONGRESS			
Jan. 5, 1957	Joint session	Middle East message	President Dwight D. Eisenhower.
Jan. 7, 1957 .....	.....do	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
Jan. 10, 1957 .....	.....do	State of the Union Address	President Dwight D. Eisenhower.
Jan. 21, 1957 .....	.....do	Inauguration, East Portico	President Dwight D. Eisenhower; Vice President Richard M. Nixon.
May 9, 1957	Joint meeting	Address	Ngo Dinh Diem, President of Vietnam.
Jan. 9, 1958	Joint session	State of the Union Address	President Dwight D. Eisenhower.
June 5, 1958	Joint meeting	Address	Theodor Heuss, President of West Germany.
June 18, 1958 .....	.....do .....	.....do	Carlos F. Garcia, President of the Philippines.
86th CONGRESS			
Jan. 9, 1959	Joint session	State of the Union Address	President Dwight D. Eisenhower.
Jan. 21, 1959	Joint meeting	Address	Arturo Frondizi, President of Argentina.
Feb. 12, 1959	Joint session	Sesquicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth.	Fredric March, actor; Carl Sandburg, poet.
Mar. 11, 1959	Joint meeting	Address	Jose Maria Lemus, President of El Salvador.
Mar. 18, 1959 .....	.....do .....	.....do	Sean T. O'Kelly, President of Ireland.
May 12, 1959 .....	.....do .....	.....do	Baudouin, King of the Belgians.
Jan. 7, 1960	Joint session	State of the Union Address	President Dwight D. Eisenhower.
Apr. 6, 1960	Joint meeting	Address	Alberto Lleras-Camargo, President of Colombia.

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Apr. 25, 1960	Joint meeting	Address	Charles de Gaulle, President of France.
Apr. 28, 1960dodo	Mahendra, King of Nepal.
June 29, 1960 .....	.....do .....	.....do	Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand.
87th CONGRESS			
Jan. 6, 1961	Joint session	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
Jan. 20, 1961 .....	.....do	Inauguration, East Portico	President John F. Kennedy; Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson.
Jan. 30, 1961 .....	.....do	State of the Union Address	President John F. Kennedy.
May 4, 1961	Joint meeting	Address	Habib Bourguiba, President of Tunisia.
May 25, 1961	Joint session	Urgent national needs: foreign aid, defense, civil defense, and outer space.	President John F. Kennedy.
July 12, 1961	Joint meeting	Address	Mohammad Ayub Khan, President of Pakistan.
Sept. 21, 1961 .....	.....do .....	.....do	Manuel Prado, President of Peru.
Jan. 11, 1962	Joint session	State of the Union Address	President John F. Kennedy.
Feb. 26, 1962	Joint meeting	Friendship 7: 1st United States orbital space flight.	Lt. Col. John H. Glenn, Jr., USMC; Friendship 7 astronaut.
Apr. 4, 1962 .....	.....do	Address	João Goulart, President of Brazil.
Apr. 12, 1962 .....	.....do .....	.....do	Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi, Shahanshah of Iran.
88th CONGRESS			
Jan. 14, 1963	Joint session	State of the Union Address	President John F. Kennedy.
May 21, 1963	Joint meeting	Flight of Faith 7 Spacecraft	Maj. Gordon L. Cooper, Jr., USAF, Faith 7 astronaut.
Nov. 27, 1963	Joint session	Assumption of office	President Lyndon B. Johnson.
Jan. 8, 1964 .....	.....do	State of the Union Address	Do.
Jan. 15, 1964	Joint meeting	Address	Antonio Segni, President of Italy.
May 28, 1964 .....	.....do .....	.....do	Eamon de Valera, President of Ireland.
89th CONGRESS			
Jan. 4, 1965	Joint session	State of the Union Address	President Lyndon B. Johnson.
Jan. 6, 1965 .....	.....do	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
Jan. 20, 1965 .....	.....do ²⁵	Inauguration, East Portico	President Lyndon B. Johnson; Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey.
Mar. 15, 1965 .....	.....do	Voting rights	President Lyndon B. Johnson.
Sept. 14, 1965	Joint meeting	Flight of Gemini 5 Spacecraft	Lt. Col. Gordon L. Cooper, Jr., USAF; and Charles Conrad, Jr., USN; Gemini 5 astronauts.
Jan. 12, 1966	Joint session	State of the Union Address	President Lyndon B. Johnson.
Sept. 15, 1966	Joint meeting	Address	Ferdinand E. Marcos, President of the Philippines.
90th CONGRESS			
Jan. 10, 1967	Joint session	State of the Union Address	President Lyndon B. Johnson.
Apr. 28, 1967	Joint meeting	Vietnam policy	General William C. Westmoreland.
Oct. 27, 1967 .....	.....do	Address	Gustavo Diaz Ordaz, President of Mexico.
Jan. 17, 1968	Joint session	State of the Union Address	President Lyndon B. Johnson.
91st CONGRESS			
Jan. 6, 1969 .....	.....do	Counting electoral votes ²⁶	N.A.
Jan. 9, 1969	Joint meeting	Apollo 8: 1st flight around the moon	Col. Frank Borman, USAF; Capt. James A. Lowell, Jr., USN; Lt. Col. William A. Anders, USAF; Apollo 8 astronauts.
Jan. 14, 1969	Joint session	State of the Union Address	President Lyndon B. Johnson.
Jan. 20, 1969 .....	.....do ²⁵	Inauguration, East Portico	President Richard M. Nixon; Vice President Spiro T. Agnew.
Sept. 16, 1969	Joint meeting	Apollo 11: 1st lunar landing	Neil A. Armstrong; Col. Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr., USAF; and Lt. Col. Michael Collins, USAF; Apollo 11 astronauts.
Jan. 22, 1970	Joint session	State of the Union Address	President Richard M. Nixon.
Feb. 25, 1970	Joint meeting	Address	Georges Pompidou, President of France.
June 3, 1970 .....	.....do .....	.....do	Dr. Rafael Caldera, President of Venezuela.
Sept. 22, 1970 .....	.....do	Report on prisoners of war	Col. Frank Borman, Representative to the President on Prisoners of War.
92d CONGRESS			
Jan. 22, 1971	Joint session	State of the Union Address	President Richard M. Nixon.
Sept. 9, 1971 .....	.....do	Economic policy	Do.
Do	Joint meeting	Apollo 15: lunar mission	Col. David R. Scott, USAF; Col. James B. Irwin, USAF; and Lt. Col. Alfred M. Worden, USAF; Apollo 15 astronauts.
Jan. 20, 1972	Joint session	State of the Union Address	President Richard M. Nixon.
June 1, 1972 .....	.....do	European trip report	Do.
June 15, 1972	Joint meeting	Address	Luis Echeverria Alvarez, President of Mexico.

JOINT SESSIONS, JOINT MEETINGS, AND INAUGURATIONS—CONTINUED

1st–105th CONGRESSES, 1789–1997

[See notes at end of table]

Congress & Date	Type	Occasion, topic, or location	Name and position of dignitary (where applicable)
93d CONGRESS Jan. 6, 1973	Joint session	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
Jan. 20, 1973	Inauguration	East Portico	President Richard M. Nixon; Vice President Spiro T. Agnew.
Dec. 6, 1973	Joint meeting	Oath of office to Vice President Gerald R. Ford.	Vice President Gerald R. Ford; ceremony attended by President Richard M. Nixon.
Jan. 30 1974	Joint session	State of the Union Address	President Richard M. Nixon.
Aug. 12, 1974 .....	.....do	Assumption of office	President Gerald R. Ford.
Oct. 8, 1974 .....	.....do	Economy	Do.
94th CONGRESS Jan. 15, 1975 .....	.....do	State of the Union Address	President Gerald R. Ford.
Apr. 10, 1975 .....	.....do	State of the World message	Do.
June 17, 1975	Joint meeting	Address	Walter Scheel, President of West Germany.
Nov. 5, 1975 .....	.....do .....	.....do	Anwar El Sadat, President of Egypt.
Jan. 19, 1976	Joint session	State of the Union Address	President Gerald R. Ford.
Jan. 28, 1976	Joint meeting	Address	Yitzhak Rabin, Prime Minister of Israel.
Mar. 17, 1976 .....	.....do .....	.....do	Liam Cosgrave, Prime Minister of Ireland.
May 18, 1976 .....	.....do .....	.....do	Valery Giscard d'Estaing, President of France.
June 2, 1976 .....	.....do .....	.....do	Juan Carlos I, King of Spain.
Sept. 23, 1976 .....	.....do .....	.....do	Dr. William R. Tolbert, Jr., President of Liberia.
95th CONGRESS Jan. 6, 1977	Joint session	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
Jan. 12, 1977 .....	.....do	State of the Union Address	President Gerald R. Ford.
Jan. 20, 1977	Inauguration	East Portico	President Jimmy Carter; Vice President Walter F. Mondale.
Feb. 22, 1977	Joint meeting	Address	Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada.
Apr. 20, 1977	Joint session	Energy	President Jimmy Carter.
Jan. 19, 1978 .....	.....do	State of the Union Address	Do.
Sept. 18, 1978 .....	.....do	Middle East Peace agreements	Do.; joint session attended by Anwar El Sadat, President of Egypt, and by Menachem Begin, Prime Minister of Israel.
96th CONGRESS Jan. 23, 1979 .....	.....do	State of the Union Address	Do.
June 18, 1979 .....	.....do	Salt II agreements	Do.
Jan. 23, 1980 .....	.....do	State of the Union Address	Do.
97th CONGRESS Jan. 6, 1981 .....	.....do	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
Jan. 20, 1981 .....	.....do ²⁵	Inauguration, West Front	President Ronald Reagan; Vice President George Bush.
Feb. 18, 1981 .....	.....do	Economic recovery	President Ronald Reagan.
Apr. 28, 1981 .....	.....do	Economic recovery—inflation	Do.
Jan. 26, 1982 .....	.....do	State of the Union Address	Do.
Jan. 28, 1982	Joint meeting	Centennial of birth of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.	Dr. Arthur Schlesinger, historian; Senator Jennings Randolph; Representative Claude Pepper; Averell Harriman, former Governor of New York ²⁷ ; former Representative James Roosevelt, son of President Roosevelt.
Apr. 21, 1982 .....	.....do	Address	Beatrix, Queen of the Netherlands.
98th CONGRESS Jan. 25, 1983	Joint session	State of the Union Address	President Ronald Reagan.
Apr. 27, 1983 .....	.....do	Central America	Do.
Oct. 5, 1983	Joint meeting	Address	Karl Carstens, President of West Germany.
Jan. 25, 1984	Joint session	State of the Union Address	President Ronald Reagan.
Mar. 15, 1984	Joint meeting	Address	Dr. Garrett FitzGerald, Prime Minister of Ireland.
Mar. 22, 1984 .....	.....do .....	.....do	François Mitterrand, President of France.
May 8, 1984 .....	.....do	Centennial of birth of Harry S. Truman	Representatives Ike Skelton and Alan Wheat; former Senator Stuart Symington; Margaret Truman Daniel, daughter of President Truman; and Senator Mark Hatfield.
May 16, 1984 .....	.....do	Address	Miguel de la Madrid, President of Mexico.
99th CONGRESS Jan. 7, 1985	Joint session	Counting electoral votes	N.A.

JOINT SESSIONS, JOINT MEETINGS, AND INAUGURATIONS—CONTINUED

1st–105th CONGRESSES, 1789–1997

[See notes at end of table]

Congress & Date	Type	Occasion, topic, or location	Name and position of dignitary (where applicable)
Jan. 21, 1985	Inauguration	Rotunda ²⁸	President Ronald Reagan; Vice President George Bush.
Feb. 6, 1985	Joint session	State of the Union Address	President Ronald Reagan.
Feb. 20, 1985	Joint meeting	Address	Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.
Mar. 6, 1985 .....	....do .....	....do	Bettino Craxi, President of the Council of Ministers of Italy.
Mar. 20, 1985 .....	....do .....	....do	Raul Alfonsin, President of Argentina.
June 13, 1985 .....	....do .....	....do	Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India.
Oct. 9, 1985 .....	....do .....	....do	Lee Kuan Yew, Prime Minister of Singapore.
Nov. 21, 1985	Joint session	Geneva Summit	President Ronald Reagan.
Feb. 4, 1986 .....	....do	State of the Union Address	Do.
Sept. 11, 1986	Joint meeting	Address	Jose Sarney, President of Brazil.
Sept. 18, 1986 .....	....do .....	....do	Corazon C. Aquino, President of the Philippines.
100th CONGRESS			
Jan. 27, 1987	Joint session	State of the Union Address	President Ronald Reagan.
Nov. 10, 1987	Joint meeting	Address	Chaim Herzog, President of Israel.
Jan. 25, 1988	Joint session	State of the Union Address	President Ronald Reagan.
Apr. 27, 1988	Joint meeting	Address	Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister of Canada.
June 23, 1988 .....	....do .....	....do	Robert Hawke, Prime Minister of Australia.
101st CONGRESS			
Jan. 4, 1989	Joint session	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
Jan. 20, 1989	Inauguration	West Front	President George Bush; Vice President Dan Quayle.
Feb. 9, 1989	Joint session	Building a Better America	President George Bush.
Mar. 2, 1989	Joint meeting	Bicentennial of the 1st Congress	President Pro Tempore Robert C. Byrd; Speaker James C. Wright, Jr.; Representatives Lindy Boggs, Thomas S. Foley, and Robert H. Michel; Senators George Mitchell and Robert Dole; Howard Nemirov, Poet Laureate of the United States; David McCullough, historian; Anthony M. Frank, Postmaster General; former Senator Nicholas Brady, Secretary of the Treasury.
June 7, 1989 .....	....do	Address	Benazir Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan.
Oct. 4, 1989 .....	....do .....	....do	Carlos Salinas de Gortari, President of Mexico.
Oct. 18, 1989 .....	....do .....	....do	Roh Tae Woo, President of South Korea.
Nov. 15, 1989 .....	....do	Address	Lech Walesa, chairman of Solidarność labor union, Poland.
Jan. 31, 1990	Joint session	State of the Union Address	President George Bush.
Feb. 21, 1990	Joint meeting	Address	Václav Havel, President of Czechoslovakia.
Mar. 7, 1990 .....	....do .....	....do	Giulio Andreotti, President of the Council of Ministers of Italy.
Mar. 27, 1990 .....	....do	Centennial of birth of Dwight D. Eisenhower.	Senator Robert Dole; Walter Cronkite, television journalist; Winston S. Churchill, member of British Parliament and grandson of Prime Minister Churchill; Clark M. Clifford, former Secretary of Defense; James D. Robinson III, chairman of Eisenhower Centennial Foundation; Arnold Palmer, professional golfer; John S.D. Eisenhower, former Ambassador to Belgium and son of President Eisenhower; Representatives Beverly Byron, William F. Goodling, and Pat Roberts.
June 26, 1990 .....	....do	Address	Nelson Mandela, Deputy President of the African National Congress, South Africa.
Sept. 11, 1990	Joint session	Invasion of Kuwait by Iraq	President George Bush.
102d CONGRESS			
Jan. 29, 1991 .....	....do	State of the Union Address	Do.
Mar. 6, 1991 .....	....do	Conclusion of Persian Gulf War	Do.
Apr. 16, 1991	Joint meeting	Address	Violeta B. de Chamorro, President of Nicaragua.

JOINT SESSIONS, JOINT MEETINGS, AND INAUGURATIONS—CONTINUED

1st–105th CONGRESSES, 1789–1997

[See notes at end of table]

Congress & Date	Type	Occasion, topic, or location	Name and position of dignitary (where applicable)
May 16, 1991	Joint meeting	Address	Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom; joint meeting also attended by Prince Philip.
Nov. 14, 1991 .....	.....do .....	.....do	Carlos Saul Menem, President of Argentina.
Jan. 28, 1992	Joint session	State of the Union Address	President George Bush.
Apr. 30, 1992	Joint meeting	Address	Richard von Weizsäcker, President of Germany.
June 17, 1992 .....	.....do .....	.....do	Boris Yeltsin, President of Russia.
103d CONGRESS			
Jan. 6, 1993	Joint session	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
Jan. 20, 1993	Inauguration	West Front	President William J. Clinton; Vice President Albert Gore.
Feb. 17, 1993	Joint session	Economic Address ²⁹	President William J. Clinton.
Sept. 22, 1993 .....	.....do	Health care reform	Do.
Jan. 25, 1994 .....	.....do	State of the Union Address	Do.
May 18, 1994	Joint meeting	Address	Narasimha Rao, Prime Minister of India.
July 26, 1994 .....	.....do	Addresses	Hussein I, King of Jordan; Yitzhak Rabin, Prime Minister of Israel.
Oct. 6, 1994 .....	.....do	Address	Nelson Mandela, President of South Africa.
105th CONGRESS			
Jan. 24, 1995	Joint session	State of the Union Address	President William J. Clinton.
July 26, 1995	Joint meeting	Address	Kim Yong-sam, President of South Korea ³⁰ .
Oct. 11, 1995 .....	.....do	Close of the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of World War II.	Speaker Newt Gingrich; Vice President Albert Gore; President Pro Tempore Strom Thurmond; Representatives Henry J. Hyde and G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery; Senators Daniel K. Inouye and Robert Dole; former Representative Robert H. Michel; General Louis H. Wilson (ret.), former Commandant of the Marine Corps.
Dec. 12, 1995 .....	.....do	Address	Shimon Peres, Prime Minister of Israel.
Jan. 30, 1996	Joint session	State of the Union Address	President William J. Clinton.
Feb. 1, 1996	Joint meeting	Address	Jacques Chirac, President of France.
July 10, 1996 .....	.....do .....	.....do	Benyamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel.
Sept. 11, 1996 .....	.....do .....	.....do	John Bruton, Prime Minister of Ireland.
105th CONGRESS			
Jan. 9, 1997	Joint session	Counting electoral votes	N.A.
Jan. 20, 1997	Inauguration	West Front	President William J. Clinton, Vice President Albert Gore.
Feb. 4, 1997	Joint session	State of the Union Address ³¹	President William J. Clinton.
Feb. 27, 1997	Joint meeting	Address	Eduardo Frei, President of Chile.

¹ Closing date for this table was May 12, 1997.² The oath of office was administered to George Washington outside on the gallery in front of the Senate Chamber, after which the Congress and the President returned to the chamber to hear the inaugural address. They then proceeded to St. Paul's Chapel for the "divine service" performed by the Chaplain of the Congress. Adjournment of the ceremony did not occur until the Congress returned to Federal Hall.³ Funeral oration was delivered at the German Lutheran Church in Philadelphia.⁴ Because of a tie in the electoral vote between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr, the House of Representatives had to decide the election. Thirty-six ballots were required to break the deadlock, with Jefferson's election as President and Burr's as Vice President on February 17. The Twelfth Amendment was added to the Constitution to prevent the 1800 problem from recurring.⁵ During most of the period while the Capitol was being reconstructed following the fire of 1814, the Congress met in the "Brick Capitol," constructed on the site of the present Supreme Court building. This joint session took place in the Representatives' chamber on the 2d floor of the building.⁶ The joint session to count electoral votes was dissolved because the House and Senate disagreed on Missouri's status regarding statehood. The joint session was reconvened the same day and Missouri's votes were counted.⁷ While this occasion has historically been referred to as the first joint meeting of Congress, the Journals of the House and of the Senate indicate that Lafayette actually addressed the House of Representatives, with some of the Senators present as guests of the House. Similar occasions, when members of one body were invited as guests of the other, include the Senate address by Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands on Aug. 6, 1942, and the House address by General H. Norman Schwarzkopf on May 8, 1991.⁸ Although Andrew Jackson won the popular vote by a substantial amount and had the highest number of electoral votes from among the several candidates, he did not receive the required majority of the electoral votes. The responsibility for choosing the new President therefore devolved upon the House of Representatives. As soon as the Senators left the chamber, the balloting proceeded, and John Quincy Adams was elected on the first ballot.⁹ The ceremony was moved outside to accommodate the extraordinarily large crowd of people who had come to Washington to see the inauguration.¹⁰ The ceremony was moved inside because of cold weather.¹¹ Following the death of President Zachary Taylor, Vice President Millard Fillmore took the presidential oath of office in a special joint session in the Hall of the House.

¹² The joint session to count electoral votes was dissolved three times so that the House and Senate could resolve several electoral disputes.

¹³ Because of a severe cold and hoarseness, the King could not deliver his speech, which was read by former Representative Elisha Hunt Allen, then serving as Chancellor and Chief Justice of the Hawaiian Islands.

¹⁴ The contested election between Rutherford B. Hayes and Samuel J. Tilden created a constitutional crisis. Tilden won the popular vote by a close margin, but disputes concerning the electoral vote returns from four states deadlocked the proceedings of the joint session. Anticipating this development, the Congress had created a special commission of five Senators, five Representatives, and five Supreme Court Justices to resolve such disputes. The Commission met in the Supreme Court Chamber (the present Old Senate Chamber) as each problem arose. In each case, the Commission accepted the Hayes' electors, securing his election by one electoral vote. The joint session was convened on 15 occasions, with the last on March 2, just three days before the inauguration.

¹⁵ The speech was written by former Speaker and Senator Robert C. Winthrop, who could not attend the ceremony because of ill health.

¹⁶ Because of a blizzard, the ceremony was moved inside, where it was held as part of the Senate's special session. President William Howard Taft took the oath of office and gave his inaugural address after Vice President James S. Sherman's inaugural address and the swearing-in of the new senators.

¹⁷ Held in the Senate Chamber.

¹⁸ This was the first Annual Message broadcast live on radio.

¹⁹ This was the first inauguration held pursuant to the Twentieth Amendment, which changed the date from March 4 to January 20. The Vice Presidential oath, which previously had been given earlier on the same day in the Senate Chamber, was added to the inaugural ceremony as well, but the Vice Presidential inaugural address was discontinued.

²⁰ A joint reception for the King and Queen of the United Kingdom was held in the Rotunda, authorized by Senate Concurrent Resolution 17, 76th Congress. Although the concurrent resolution was structured to establish a joint meeting, the Senate, in fact, adjourned rather than recessed as called for by the resolution.

²¹ Delivered in the Senate Chamber.

²² The oaths of office were taken in simple ceremonies at the White House because the expense and festivity of a Capitol ceremony were thought inappropriate because of the war. The Joint Committee on Arrangements of the Congress was in charge, however, and both the Senate and the House of Representatives were present.

²³ This was the first time the term "State of the Union Address" was used for the President's Annual Message. Also, it was the first time the address was shown live on television.

²⁴ An informal meeting in the Coolidge Auditorium of the Library of Congress.

²⁵ According to the Congressional Record, the Senate adjourned prior to the inaugural ceremonies, even though the previously adopted resolution had stated the adjournment would come immediately following the inauguration. The Senate Journal records the adjournment as called for in the resolution, hence this listing as a joint session.

²⁶ The joint session to count electoral votes was dissolved so that the House and Senate could resolve the dispute regarding a ballot from North Carolina. The joint session was reconvened the same day and the North Carolina vote was counted.

²⁷ Because the Governor had laryngitis, his speech was read by his wife, Pamela.

²⁸ The ceremony was moved inside because of extremely cold weather.

²⁹ This speech was mislabeled in many sources as a State of the Union Address.

³⁰ President Kim Yong-sam was in Washington for the dedication of the Korean Veterans' Memorial, held the day after this joint meeting.

³¹ This was the first State of the Union Address carried live on the Internet.