Speaker Burke: "The House will be in order. Members will be in their chairs. We shall be led in prayer today by Pastor Chris Harris who is with Bright Star Church of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois. Pastor Harris is the guest of Representative Buckner. Members and guests are asked to refrain from starting their laptops, turn off all cell phones, and rise for the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Harris."

Pastor Harris: "Good morning, everyone. I'll say it again, good morning, everyone. Thank you to Representative Buckner. And I am going to ask that if you missed church Sunday, we are going to have a little bit now for two minutes. So grab somebody by the hand right now. Make sure it's someone better looking than you are. I see a few of you won't touch anybody, I understand. Hold those hands. That’s right. Bow your heads. Let's pray. Dear Heavenly Father, we come to you this morning first and foremost to tell you thank you. Thank you for the love that you have shown and the life that you have graciously given to all of us assembled here today. The mere fact that we are still alive shows that we are all pregnant with possibility. We clearly understand that the earth is yours and the fullness there of, the world and they that dwell there in. Therefore, Lord, we ask that you would use not only our Governor, our Lieutenant Governor, but this entire Body to be faithful stewards over what really belongs to you. Empower these leaders to be sensitive to the needs of the people that they serve, while at the same time being subject to the necessary decisions that they must make to bring effective and systemic change. Make this year and decade more productive and progressive than any other year or decade in the history
of the State of Illinois. The very definition of vision is foresight with insight based on hindsight. We ask, therefore, for strength of mind and heart as well as visionary leadership for every leader and person in the midst and abroad. Father, we are all your children and you are all of our Father. So we humbling request more child support emotionally, psychologically, physically, and financially. Our country, our state, and cities are in challenging situations, but we know that there is nothing too hard for you. Use these great leaders, who create polices, to make decisions in this room to come up with creative and sustainable solutions to bring your plan for this great state to pass. Grant these servant leaders wisdom and understanding in their noble pursuit of justice and equality. Give them guidance, so they will always be conscious of your presence and will strive to enact laws with honesty and integrity according to your will for this state. May they have wisdom to turn adversity into opportunity. Shake the foundations of this state and transform the hearts and the minds of every citizen and resident. Revive and renew our faith back to a place where we are led by an unwavering God consciousness. In closing, Father, you said that if we ask anything in your name, it shall be done. You’ve instructed us to speak things that be not as though they were. Now, therefore, we decree and declare that racism, anti-Semitism, hate of all kinds, poverty, and violence will cease and desist immediately and permanently. We decree and declare that strong businesses, entrepreneurship, economic and community development shall flourish throughout the entire state. Father, we are going to
continue to say it until we see it, believing by faith that it shall come to pass. So because we are holding our brothers and our sisters, we squeeze favor and peace, safety, health, and wealth into every hand that is being hold. Not only into the hands of these leaders, but into our communities, our neighborhoods, our blocks, households, and every person in this state. We declare this is a February of faith, favor, finance, and fitness. Healthy and happy families. You declared to us, let it be said. So now, Father, we declare to you, let it be so. In the name of Jesus we pray, clap your hands and shout Amen."

Speaker Burke: "We will be led in the Pledge of Allegiance today by Representative Meyers-Martin."

Meyers-Martin - et al: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Speaker Burke: "Roll Call for Attendance. Leader Harris is recognized to report any excused absences on the Democratic side of the aisle."

Harris: "Madam Speaker, let the record reflect that there are no excused absences on the Democrat side today."

Speaker Burke: "Representative Spain is recognized to report any excused absences on the Republican side of the aisle."

Spain: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Please let the record reflect that Representatives Keicher, Stephens, and Unes are excused today."

Speaker Burke: "Have all recorded themselves who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. There being 111 Members answering the
roll call, a quorum is present. Representative Murphy, for what reason do you rise?"
Murphy: "A point of Personal Privilege."
Speaker Burke: "Please proceed."
Murphy: "Madam Speaker, thank you very much. Last Tuesday, there was a plane crash just outside the city limits of Springfield. And soon thereafter our greatest fears were confirmed that we lost three constituents of mine from the 99th District. John Evans, Frank Edwards, Cinda Edwards, and Frank and Cinda's dog, Lily, were all lost in that crash. Frank and Cinda Edwards were lifelong public servants to this area. Frank started his career as a special education math teacher and P.E. teacher. He was also a member of the Illinois National Guard and then he joined the Springfield Fire Department, where he served for 25 years, ending up serving as fire chief for Springfield. In 2003, Frank ran for city councilman and served there until 2015. In December of 2010, when our Springfield mayor passed away, Frank was asked to step into the role of mayor. Frank served not as a caretaker but he made significant changes and improvements to that office and when he left in April 2011, it was a much better office. His outstanding public service was equally matched by his wife Cinda. Cinda began as a registered nurse in 1984. She was elected a member of the Lincoln Land Community College Board. And in 2011, when the confidence of our coroner had reached all time low, Cinda was asked to step in. She came in 2011, was reelected in 2012, 2016, and was running unopposed for this year 2020. Her professionalism, her kind and caring ways changed that office dramatically. Like I mentioned, it had
lost the confidence of the community and today, the Coroner's Office is a very professional office that's respected by all members of the community. Frank and Cinda was also small business owners owning Springfield Auto Body and Towing for the last several years. They had been married for 37 years. They're survived by one son, Alex. And I hope that everyone keeps him in your thoughts and prayers. Frank and Cinda will be missed by their friends, families, and all members of the community. But without a doubt, Springfield and Sangamon County benefited greatly from their lifelong career as public servants. They were dear friends, I will miss them greatly. I know a couple of other Members would like to speak as well, but I request a moment of silence when we conclude. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

Speaker Burke: "Representative Butler is recognized."
Butler: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. A point of personal privilege."
Speaker Burke: "Please proceed."
Butler: "Thank you to Representative Murphy. And... Frank and Cinda were characters to say the least. Mike did a great job spelling out their careers. I had the opportunity to work with Cinda when she worked for Hospital Sisters Health System and I was working there as well, and her role as nurse at priority care. And I have known them for quite a long time. Frank... if you knew Frank, you knew that he was outspoken. He was never afraid to tell you his opinion. I dreaded answering his phone calls when he would call me on my cell phone, 'cause you knew it was a half hour conversation about property taxes probably. But Frank and Cinda were wonderful, wonderful people. I had my car repaired at Springfield Auto Body and
Towing by Frank. And I just had a conversation just as few days before they had left for Florida, just a couple days before they left for Florida with Cinda. A lengthy conversation about her work and the Coroner's Office and our need for a new pathologist because our person had left. And it's heartbreaking to think that was the last time I talked to her, just a few days as they were flying back from Florida. They were starworts in this community and they will definitely be missed. So, thank you all for keeping not only the Edwards family but the Evans family in your prayers."

Speaker Burke: "Representative Brady is recognized."

Brady: "Thank you. Madam Speaker. Point of personal privilege as well."

Speaker Burke: "Please proceed."

Brady: "Thank you. Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, has been already spoken by my colleges here, in regards to Frank and Cinda and Mr. Evans who I did not know, but I did know Frank and I worked with Cinda. I was not county coroner at the same time she was when I was in McClain County, but she came in here in Sangamon County. And what we worked on mostly together was legislation. Legislation for the Coroners and Medical Examiners Association in this state, to try and professionalize the association through not only education, advanced training, but also through the spirit of cooperation with other law enforcement agencies. And Cinda was very, very good at that. In fact, she was excellent at that. Her background, her medical background lend well. Her ability to communicate with others was superior. And her drive for doing the right thing, whether it was an investigation from this
stand point of something criminal nature, whether it was simply sudden and unexpected, whether it was something as natural as a hospice death that was expected. Her compassion and her kindness was unmatched. She will truly, truly be missed. She rose through the ranks of the chairs of positions to presidency of the association, recently retiring from that, and made so many, so many positive changes in the association. And so many positive changes and professionalism that will long be remembered as a testimony to her many, many accomplishments. So, may her soul and her husband's soul and Mr. Evans' soul, of all the faithfully parted to the mercy of God, may they rest in peace, Amen."

Speaker Burke: "Representative Scherer is recognized."

Scherer: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Frank and Cinda gave so much to this world, and when they did leave the world they had truly made a difference. They say that it's great if you can leave a legacy, but it's even more important if the people that you touched during your life are changed for the better. And that is exactly what we can say about Frank and Cinda. So, they both had lives well lived and they are in our thoughts, in our prayers, and especially their son. Thank you."

Speaker Burke: "Body will take a moment of silence. Thank you, Members. Representative Caulkins, what reason do you rise?"

Caulkins: "A point of personal privilege."

Speaker Burke: "Please proceed."

Caulkins: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Two things. First, today, I would like to recognize former Representative and current State Senator Chapin Rose, who joins us here today. We also
have in the gallery with us today, a group of young men who are state champions. We have the Monticello boys cross country team with us today. They are the IHSA 1A State Champions from last fall. This is the second title the school history, the first coming in 2014. Our cross country team started the season ranked seventh and rose to the occasion to win the state championship. The team is led by junior, Luke Sokolowski, who earned all-state honors this year, finishing eleventh. Our cross country team is joined by Coach Dave Remmert, Assistant Coach Scott Burnsmier, Principal Adam Clapp, and Athletic Director Dan Sheehan. Please give them a warm Springfield welcome and a thank you, job well done."

Speaker Burke: "Congratulations, and welcome to the Capitol. Representative Wehrli, for what reason do you rise?"

Wehrli: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker Burke: "Please Proceed."

Wehrli: "So what I'd like to do today is read a quote from the former Attorney General for the great United States, who was a Senator from Massachusetts. It seems every day we find ourselves in crisis in Illinois, when it comes to ethics and corruption and politicians behaving badly. So, what I would like to do is just remind people that it is incumbent on all of us to take action when we see it. So with that I'd like to read a quote from Robert Kennedy. 'Every time we turn our heads the other way when we see the law flouted; when we tolerate what we know to be wrong; when we close our eyes and ears to the corrupt because we are too busy, or too frightened; when we fail to speak up and speak out, we strike
a blow against freedom and decency and justice.' It's time we get control of illegal activities coming out of this chamber, the other chamber, this entire Capitol. Please heed the words of Robert Kennedy."

Speaker Burke: "Representative Meier, for what reason do you rise?"

Meier: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Burke: "Please proceed."

Meier: "Well, in my small town in of Okawville, this week's headline in the paper is going to read, Okawville wins class girls basketball first and second. Now not many State Reps can stand up and say a statement like that but my hometown had both competitors, Immanuel Lutheran, which is joined up with Nashville Lutheran, and the Okawville Junior Lady Rockets went to battle. And the Okawville Junior Lady Rockets won the state tournament and Immanuel Lutheran and Trinity St. John Titans came in second. So I'd like you to congratulate both teams, hopefully I'll be able to bring them to Springfield later on. Thank you."

Speaker Burke: "Representative McCombie, for what reason do you rise?"

McCombie: "Point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker Burke: "Please proceed."

McCombie: "I'd like to get everyone's attention in the House. You should all have in your mailboxes, today, something from Illinois Manufacturers' Association. They kicked off this event this morning and it extremely cool thing for all of our districts and our manufactures within our district, which we all have one. This is... to take a moment and to nominate your
favorite thing made in Illinois and then we vote. The nominations close on February 23, with voting on the 26 to the 8. For example, and in my district, I have ElKay Manufacturing, so almost every water fountain you see anywhere in the state, is made in my very small hometown of Savanna. Over in Norine's district we have the Vaughn & Bushnell hammer capital of the world. So we have a lot of cool things in our areas that we should be nominating and talking about and supporting this. There should be something in your mailboxes, please pass it on, get it throughout your districts and... let's just see who has the coolest product in Illinois. Thanks."

Speaker Burke: "On page 3 on the Calendar, under Total Vetoes appears House Bill 3902, offered by Representative Bristow. Representative Bristow is recognized."

Bristow: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Ladies and Gentlemen of the General Assembly, today I am asking you to override the Governor's Veto of House Bill 3902. I originally brought this legislation to you in November and it passed 113-0-1. It's is a sales tax exemption on aircraft parts that expired and that was originally enacted in 2010 and subsequently expired. It is similar to the one manufacturing sales tax exemption that is currently in place. Thirty-six other states have the same exemption. This affects 14 aviation facilities in 12 communities and more than 3700 jobs across state. This is good economic development and I ask for you 'aye' vote. And of course, I'll take any questions."

Speaker Burke: "Representative Batinick is recognized."

Batinick: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"
Speaker Burke: "She indicates she will."
Batinick: "And I was listening to the entire thing this time, Representative Bristow. Two really quick questions. I'm looking at the previous... previous vote total. It looked like there were no, 'no' votes on the Republican side. Is that correct?"
Bristow: "That is correct."
Batinick: "So there were no, 'noes'. I think... I... 113 to 0 to 1?"
Bristow: "Correct."
Batinick: "Correct? And this is not Amendatory Veto override, this is just the same Bill we voted on before, correct?"
Bristow: "It is."
Batinick: "Thank you."
Speaker Burke: "Any further discussion? Seeing none, the Chair recognizes Representative Bristow to close."
Bristow: "I ask for your 'aye' vote."
Speaker Burke: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 3902 pass, the Veto of the Governor notwithstanding?' This Motion requires 71 votes. And this is final action. All those favor... in favor signify by voting 'aye'; all those oppose vote 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 107 voting 'in favor', 0 voting 'against', and 2 voting 'present'. And this Motion having received the required Three-fifths Majority, the Motion to override prevails and House Bill 3902 is declared passed notwithstanding the Governor's Veto. Representative Batinick, for what reason do you rise?"
Batinick: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Point of personal privilege."
Speaker Burke: "Please proceed."

Batinick: "Everybody, it's been a little troubling time for many of us. It's been another week and another reason to have a crisis in confidence in what's going on in this chamber. Last Friday we learned of yet another criminal investigations that revolves around the General Assembly regarding a former Member. I am not here to politicize the issue, or call into question the very confusing facts laid out by the Speaker's Office. I do want to express my sincere empathy for the victim, to be put in this situation... it's appalling. I couldn't be more upset to be a Member of this chamber when I hear these sort of accusations. And I want to apologize to the victim for the lack of trust in the process, where they felt the need to wait years before going to their employers on it. But I do want to be very clear. In addition to the troubling allegations, something that I can't get out of mind, is the reason for the disregard of the judge's order by the Speaker's Office. A quick FOIA release on a document that was meant to be kept private is a betrayal of the separation of powers. It is betrayal to the criminal justice process and a betrayal to the oath we take in this chamber. We all deserve answers and few of those have been coming, but why a document that was meant to remain sealed to protect this victim and protect the case was allowed to come out in the manner that it was? I do hope today that we will learn why this document was made public. And I hope that all Members of this chamber understand why this is so important as we attempt to continue the business of the State of Illinois under an ever growing cloud of corruption and ethical lapses. Thank you very much."
Speaker Burke: "Representative Miller, for what reason do you rise?"

Miller: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Burke: "Please proceed."

Miller: "Yeah, I'd like recognize my Page for a day, Dylan Herrington. He's a junior at Marshall High School, and he's interested in political science and also he's interested in pursuing a degree in psychiatry. And I told him, I said, there's a target rich environment for that here. But anyway, thank you and welcome Dylan, please."

Speaker Burke: "Welcome to the Capitol. Representative Ammons is recognized."

Ammons: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Today we want to open Black History Month with a recognition of something that is not too far away and not too distant in our historical record. It's an American story that needs to be recounted and remembered but also repaid. Today... last year we acknowledged the discovery of the last slave ship that brought Africans to the United States as slaves. It may also offer a test for the case of reparations. Relatives of the steamship owner Timothy Meaher still live in Mobile, Alabama and so do the descendants of the people he enslaved. The Clotilda was the last known U.S. slave ship to bring captured Africans to the United States more than 50 years after slavery was abolished. There's a mural in the only town called Africatown in Mobile, Alabama, after the discovery of the Clotilda. The Alabama steamship owner, Timothy Meaher, financed the last slave vessel that brought African captives to the United States, and he came out of the Civil War a wealthy man. His descendants, with
land worth millions, are still part of Moblie's society's upper crusts. The people whom Meaher enslaved, however, emerged from the war with freedom, but little else. Census forms that documented Meaher's postwar riches list them as laborers, housewives, and farmers with no value. Many of their descendants today hold working class jobs and no wealth. Now the history of the Meaher and the slave ship Clotilda may offer one of the more clear cut cases for slavery and reparations, with identifiable perpetrators and victims. When experts said they found the wreckage of the Clotilda in the muddy waters near Moblie, some say, too many years have passed for reparations and others say the discovery of the ship makes the timing perfect. Reparations debates usually involve redress for the multitude of descendants of about 4 million black people who were enslaved in the United States. In Moblie, like many Southern communities, descendants of slave owners and enslaved people are often neighbors, though in vastly different circumstances. Originally from Maine, Meaher moved south and got rich off steamboats and a sawmill. He purchased the schooner, Clotilda, for a reported 35 thousand and financed a slave expedition to West Africa 50 years after slavery had been abolished. The international slave trade was already outlawed, but Meaher wagered he could import slaves in defiance of the ban. Arrested after the ship carrying about 110 to 160 captives arrived and was scuffled into Mobile in 1860, he was cleared of all charges by a judge. Historical accounts say Meaher refused to provide land after the war to the freed Africans, who then scraped together money to purchase their own property. They founded a community called
Africa Town USA, where some of the West African ways are the once enslaved people are preserved, and its remnants still remain today and is located in Mobile, Alabama. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

Speaker Burke: "Mr. Clerk, committee announcements."

Clerk Hollman: "The following committees were canceled for this afternoon: Appropriations-Elementary & Secondary Education was canceled. Insurance was canceled. Financial Institutions was canceled. Health Care Licenses was canceled. Meeting at 2 p.m. is Adoption & Child Welfare in Room 122. At 2:30, Judiciary Criminal is meeting in Room 118 and Veterans’ Affairs in Room 115."

Speaker Burke: "Representative Spain is recognized for an announcement."

Spain: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Upon adjournment this afternoon House Republicans will caucus in Room 118."

Speaker Burke: "Representative Willis… Leader Willis is recognized for an announcement."

Willis: "Thank you, Madam Chair. Upon adjournment the Democrats will also caucus in Room 114."

Speaker Burke: "Agreed Resolutions."

Representative Butler. And House Resolution 711, offered by Representative Davis."

Speaker Burke: "Leader Harris moves for the adoptions of the Agreed Resolutions. All those in favor say 'aye'; all opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Agreed Resolutions are adopted. And now, allowing perfunctory time for the Clerk, Leader Harris moves that the House stand adjourned until Wednesday, February 5, at the hour of noon. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the House stand adjourned."

further business, the House Perfunctory Session will stand adjourned."