Provisional Clerk Mapes: "All assembled in this auditorium, please give attention. The Secretary... Secretary of State, the Honorable Jesse White sends greetings and proclaims that this day, the second Wednesday of January 2015, is the day fixed for the convening of the House of Representatives of the 99th General Assembly of the State of Illinois pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 of the Constitution. The Provisional Doorkeeper is directed to clear the aisles."

Provisional Doorkeeper Crawford: "Will all those not entitled to the stage please retire from it. Will all Representatives-elect be assembled on the stage?"

Provisional Clerk Mapes: "May I have your attention, please. At the Speaker's rostrum and ready to convene the House of Representatives of the 99th General Assembly, in and for the great State of Illinois, is the Secretary of State, the Honorable Jesse White."

Secretary White: "The House of Representatives of the 99th General Assembly of the State of Illinois will come to order. Welcome. Quoting from the 1970 Constitution of the State of Illinois, Article IV, Section 6(b), 'On the first day of the January Session of the Illinois General Assembly in odd-numbered years, the Secretary of State shall convene the House of Representatives-elect for its Membership of a Speaker of the House of Representatives as officer.' We shall be led in prayer by Father Larry Sullivan from the Christ the King Parish in Chicago. Will the Members and all of their guests please stand and remain standing until after the Pledge of Allegiance."
Father Sullivan: "I'd like to begin by saying what a privilege it is to lead the opening prayer of the 99th General Assembly of the State of Illinois. In addition to congratulating the newly elected Members of the House of Representatives, I'd also like to thank the returning Members of the House for their service to the people of Illinois. As we ask God's blessing upon you, please know that you will remain in my prayers throughout your time in office. And so, let us pray. Loving God, we invoke Your presence among us as the Members of the 99th General Assembly prepare to take their oath of office. Those gathered here today come all the way from Harrisburg to Woodstock and from Quincy to Chicago. Their constituents are the farmers and fishermen who are dependent upon the beauty of Your creation; the police officers, firefighters and emergency personnel, who depend upon Your loving protection; the teachers, doctors and nurses, who depend upon Your guiding hand; the laborers, factory workers, and tradesmen, who depend upon Your loving strength; and the lawyers, financial managers, and businessmen, who depend upon Your guiding wisdom. Those gathered here today are responsible for the young and the old, the past and the future. They have been entrusted with the task of caring for the poor and the sick, the unemployed and the underemployed, the mighty and the lowly. Fill them with Your spirit that they may carry out the duties of their office with fairness and faithfulness, with charity of mind and generosity of heart. Lord, we ask that the needs of Your people be ever present in their minds. We ask that their decisions be based on the greater good of all and that Your peace be firmly
rooted in their hearts. Lord of all goodness, be with us on this day and all the days ahead, Amen."

Secretary White: "Would the Dean of the House of Representatives, Michael J. Madigan, lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance."

Madigan - 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."

Secretary White: "And you may be seated. For the duration of the organizational proceedings, I have appointed the following provisional officers: as Provisional Clerk, Timothy D. Mapes; as Provisional Doorkeeper, Lee Crawford; and as Provisional Parliamentarian, Heather Wier Vaught. We have joining with us today distinguishing... distinguishing... distinguished guests from the State of Illinois. We have Comptroller Leslie Munger; Auditor General Bill Holland. The Provisional Clerk will call the roll of the individuals who have been elected to the 99th General Assembly. The roll will be called in alphabetical order as certified by the State Board of Elections and each Member in attendance shall answer 'present'. Mr. Clerk, please call the roll."

Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Edward Acevedo."
Acevedo: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Carol Ammons."
Ammons: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Jaime Andrade, Jr."
Andrade: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "John Anthony."
Anthony: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Steven Andersson."
Andersson: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Luis Arroyo."
Arroyo: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Mark Batinick."
Batinick: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Daniel Beiser."
Beiser: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Patricia 'Patti' Bellock."
Bellock: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Thomas Bennett."
Bennett: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "John Bradley."
Bradley: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Dan Brady."
Brady: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Rich Brauer."
Brauer: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Peter Breen."
Breen: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Adam Brown."
Brown: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Terri Bryant."
Bryant: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Daniel Burke."
Burke, D.: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Kelly Burke."
Burke, K.: "Present."
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Provisional Clerk Mapes:  "John Cabello."
Cabello:  "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes:  "Kelly Cassidy."
Cassidy:  "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes:  "John Cavaletto."
Cavaletto:  "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes:  "Linda Chapa LaVia."
Chapa LaVia:  "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes:  "Katherine 'Kate' Cloonen."
Cloonen:  "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes:  "Deb Conroy."
Conroy:  "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes:  "Jerry Costello II."
Costello:  "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes:  "Fred Crespo."
Crespo:  "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes:  "Barbara Flynn Currie."
Currie:  "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes:  "John D'Amico."
D'Amico:  "Absent."
Provisional Clerk Mapes:  "Christopher 'CD' Davidsmeyer."
Davidsmeyer:  "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes:  "Monique Davis."
Davis, M.:  "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes:  "William 'Will' Davis."
Davis, W.:  "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes:  "Anthony DeLuca."
DeLuca:  "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes:  "Tom Demmer."
Demmer: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Scott Drury."
Drury: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Kenneth 'Ken' Dunkin."
Dunkin: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Jim Durkin."
Durkin: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Marcus Evans, Jr."
Evans: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Sara Feigenholtz."
Feigenholtz: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Laura Fine."
Fine: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Mary Flowers."
Flowers: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "La Shawn Ford."
Ford: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Mike Fortner."
Fortner: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Jack Franks."
Franks: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Randy Frese."
Frese: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Robyn Gabel."
Gabel: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Esther Golar."
Golar: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Jehan Gordon-Booth."
Gordon-Booth: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Will Guzzardi."
Guzzardi: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Norine Hammond."
Hammond: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "David Harris."
Harris, D.: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Gregory Harris."
Harris, G.: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Chad Hayes."
Hays: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Elizabeth 'Lisa' Hernandez."
Hernandez: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Jay Hoffman."
Hoffman: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Frances Ann Hurley."
Hurley: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Jeanne Ives."
Ives: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Eddie Lee Jackson."
Jackson: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Sheri Jesiel."
Jesiel: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Thaddeus Jones."
Jones: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Dwight Kay."
Kay: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Stephanie Kifowit."
Kifowit: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Lou Lang."
Lang: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "David Leitch."
Leitch: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Camille Lilly."
Lilly: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Michael J. Madigan."
Madigan: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Natalie Manley."
Manley: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Robert Martwick."
Martwick: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Frank Mautino."
Mautino: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Rita Mayfield."
Mayfield: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Emily McAsey."
McAsey: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Michael McAuliffe."
McAuliffe: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Margo McDermed."
McDermed: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "David McSweeney."
McSweeney: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Charles Meier."
Meier: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Bill Mitchell."
Mitchell, B.: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Christian Mitchell."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Anna Moeller."
Moeller: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Donald Moffitt."
Moffitt: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Tom Morrison."
Morrison: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Martin Moylan."
Moylan: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Michelle Mussman."
Mussman: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Elaine Nekritz."
Nekritz: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Brandon Phelps."
Phelps: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Reginald 'Reggie' Phillips."
Phillips: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Raymond Poe. Absent."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Robert Pritchard."
Pritchard: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Pamela Reaves-Harris."
Reaves-Harris: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "David Reis."
Reis: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Al Riley."
Riley: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Robert 'Bob' Rita."
Rita: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Wayne Arthur Rosenthal."
Rosenthal: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes:  "Ron Sandack."
Sandack:  "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes:  "Sue Scherer."
Scherer:  "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes:  "Carol Sente."
Sente:  "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes:  "Elgie Sims, Jr."
Sims:  "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes:  "Mike Smiddy."
Smiddy:  "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes:  "Keith Sommer."
Sommer:  "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes:  "Joe Sosnowski."
Sosnowski:  "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes:  "Cynthia Soto."
Soto:  "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes:  "Brian Stewart."
Stewart:  "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes:  "Ed Sullivan, Jr."
Sullivan:  "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes:  "Silvana Tabares."
Tabares:  "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes:  "Andre Thapedi."
Thapedi:  "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes:  "Michael Tryon."
Tryon:  "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes:  "Arthur Turner."
Turner:  "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes:  "Michael Unes."
Unes: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Patrick Verschoore."
Verschoore: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Litesa Wallace."
Wallace: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Lawrence 'Larry' Walsh, Jr."
Walsh: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Grant Wehrli."
Wehrli: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Emanuel 'Chris' Welch."
Welch: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Barbara Wheeler."
Wheeler, B.: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Keith Wheeler."
Wheeler, K.: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Ann Williams."
Williams: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Kathleen Willis."
Willis: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Christine Jennifer Winger."
Winger: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Sam Yingling."
Yingling: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Michael Zalewski."
Zalewski: "Present."
Secretary White: "116 Representatives-elect having answered the roll and being in attendance, a quorum is present and the House of Representatives of the 99th General Assembly is officially convened. The Provisional Clerk will enter the
attendance roll in the Journal. I have the honor of presenting to this Body a former Member of the House of Representatives. He's the Honorable Alan J. Greiman, retired Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court, who will administer the constitutional oath of office, following which each Member shall execute the written oath to be filed in my office. Justice Greiman."

Justice Greiman: "Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Good afternoon to all of you. Will each of the Representatives-elects please stand at this time? And if you will, please raise your right hand and pursuant to Article VIII, Section 3 of the Illinois Constitution, repeat after me. I do solemnly swear or affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Representative of the General Assembly to the best of my ability. Congratulations to you all."

Secretary White: "I'd like to congratulate the Members of this Body. I had the great pleasure of serving with you for a period of 16 years. I know the feeling. I know you're going to do us proud and I just want to congratulate you because I know that you're going to represent the people of the State of Illinois in a manner in which they richly deserve. Again, will all of the Members of the House please execute the written oath and submit them to the Provisional Clerk. Members shall execute their signatures twice on the sheet placed on their chair and pass the oaths toward the center and there will be a person at the center that will collect them. And the House will be at ease for a few moments. Under Article
IV, Section 6(b) of the Constitution, the first order of business of this House is the election from its membership, a Speaker as presiding officer. The House is now convened by the Rules of the House of the 98th General Assembly, which are made applicable for these proceedings by Section 3 of the General Assembly Operations Act. These Rules provide that the person receiving a majority of the votes of the Members elected shall be declared Speaker. Therefore, 60 votes in favor of the nominee shall be required to be elected Speaker. Debate shall not be in order following nominations and before or during the vote. Nominations are now open for the office of Speaker. The Lady from Cook, Representative Barbara Flynn Currie, is recognized for a nomination."

Currie: "Thank you, Secretary White. To our families and friends, welcome. To the Members of the House of Representatives of the 99th General Assembly, welcome and congratulations. We've been elected to a job that is certainly demanding, but also deeply rewarding. In our system, the Legislature is on an equal footing with the Executive and Judicial Branches and I encourage each of us to make sure we remain full partners in our governmental enterprise. It is my privilege today to nominate Michael J. Madigan for Speaker of the House. Mike is fully committed to this institution and to its legitimate prerogatives. As Speaker, he does an amazing job devoting to it his time, his considerable intelligence and his energy. He understands the issues. He's not an ideologue. He doesn't rush to judgment. His approach is deliberative. The success of our government depends on a deliberative approach. An approach that requires consensus, collaboration and
compromise. Mike understands the art of leadership and he appreciates the value of bipartisanship. By my count, Mike has served with six Governors; three from each of the two major political parties. I would venture to suggest that his record shows that he works well, some might say even better, with the Republican as with the Democratic variety. Mike can take credit for many legislative achievements from ethics and pension reform to marriage equality. Yet, Mike appreciates that we face continuing problems in our government and as a people. He recognizes the divisions that plague us that pit rich against poor, upstate against down, suburb against city. He understands that our diversity, which is our greatest strength, is also the source of many of our greatest challenges like bridges divisions and he helps us build from the values we share. Even as we take our oath of office today, we know that the problems of one era emerge again in the next. Go back 10 years, 30 years, to the installation of earlier General Assemblies. You'll find the same issues. The mismatch between state revenues and responsibilities. The problems of high unemployment and an inadequate wage growth. In the last few years, we've made a major dent in the state's backlog of unpaid bills, but new old bills continue to mount. One man has shown he has the capacity to chart a course toward fiscal sanity and sound public policy. That man is Michael Madigan. He is decent; he's honest; he's a person of great integrity. And for all of his commitments to this institution, he has the good sense to put his family first. His beautiful wife Shirley, his children... their children Lisa and Pat, Tiffany and Jordan, Nicole, Andrew and the grandchildren Rebecca,
Lucy and newest member of the clan; three and a half year old Eliza. Mike Madigan has been and will be a Speaker for all Illinois. It is my pleasure and my great honor to nominate him for Speaker of the House in the 99th General Assembly."

Secretary White: "The Lady from Cook, Representative Currie, places in nomination the name of the Gentleman from Cook, Michael J. Madigan, for Speaker of the House. Is there a second to this nomination? The Chair recognizes the Gentleman from Cook, Representative Eddie Acevedo."

Acevedo: "I rise to second the nomination of Mike Madigan for Speaker of the House. The position of Speaker of the House is an important position of trust, and leadership. I believe there is no better candidate than Michael Madigan, who has worked tirelessly; led this Body for more than 30 years. I have read that a leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go but where they ought to be. Representative Madigan embodies this idea and has proved that he can make the tough decisions that must be made in order to continue improving our great state. He has led us through some of the state's toughest times since he was first elected in the Illinois House in 1971. His historic career speaks for itself, and shows that he knows how to get the job done. A leader must be a person who knows the terrain. A leader must know his people. A leader must know... have both experience and an innovative spirit. A leader must know every line of every budget; must know the needs and hopes of each Member here and every resident of our beloved state. A leader must know how to compromise and sure enough, he must know how to stand
strong on his principles. We all know Speaker Madigan's long and historic career as a Member and Leader in our General Assembly. We all know his incredible legislative achievements. And in particular, the importance of his decades of creating bipartisan compromise both here in the House and as well as the Republicans in the Executive Branch. Speaker Madigan has worked to build a census, bring equitable treatment to all regions of the state and work in a bipartisan manner to address Illinois' pressing issues. He advocates for honest, efficient government and has fought to improve the quality of life in working families. Under his Leadership, the Legislature has enacted sweeping ethics laws, the first campaign finance limits in state history, a needed reform to the state budget process for workers' compensation system. Harry S. Truman said, 'Men make history and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better.' I believe that in these tough times ahead of us, Michael Madigan's experience will prove to be an important asset in cutting through the Party lines so that we are able to offer the solutions that the citizens of this state deserve. And that is why I second the nomination of Michael J. Madigan as Speaker of the House of the 99th General Assembly."

Secretary White: "The Chair recognizes the Gentleman from Cook, Representative Arthur Turner."

Turner: "Thank you, Secretary White, invited dignities, fellow Members and friends. It is my distinct honor to rise today to
enthusiastically second the nomination of Michael J. Madigan as Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives. A man of strong personal integrity with a profound love for his state, Michael Madigan has committed his life to serving Illinois. Whether you have served along side of him for years or you're meeting him for the first time on this stage, we all know Michael Madigan's truly historic record of service to his community and to our great state. He has championed legislative reforms to address the state's most difficult and challenging issues. He fought to protect the integrity of the state even when it meant standing up to a Governor of his own Party. During challenging times, Speaker Madigan has provided steady Leadership, putting what's right ahead of what's easy. Simply put, the legacy Michael J. Madigan continues to build every day will challenge all those along side him and all who follow to be better public servants. For these reasons and so many more, it is my pleasure to second the nomination of Michael J. Madigan for Speaker of the House. Thank you."

Secretary White: "The Chair recognizes the Gentleman from Williamson County, Representative John Bradley."

Bradley: "On behalf of my wife and children, who are here today with me, and to all of my friends here today, I am honored and humbled to be here, to be a part of our proud history here in Illinois, to represent the people of my district in the House of Representatives, the House of Lincoln and Douglas. And I'm honored to be a part of this celebration of the institution of the House of Representatives, its constitutional integrity as a political Body, and its historical place as a coequal branch of government. And most
importantly, to second the nomination of the man, Michael J. Madigan, who in our time in history has protected this institution, its sovereignty and its independence. Benjamin Franklin, constitutional delegate and Speaker of the Pennsylvania Assembly, said of the institution of the House of Representatives, They are of the people and return again to the people to mix with the people, having no more durable preeminence than the different grains of sand in an hourglass. Such an Assembly cannot easily become dangerous to liberty. They are the servants of the people, sent together to do the people's business and promote the public welfare. Their powers must be sufficient or their duties cannot be performed.' Speaker Madigan, as delegate to our Illinois Constitutional Convention, as our Speaker, and a student of history, recognizes our duties and our need for strength to protect democracy and as a check to the other branches of government. When this Body has come under attack, Speaker Madigan has fiercely led our constitutionally appointed duties and so secured our independence. Pope Francis recently expressed what a public servant should be. Every man, every woman who has to take up the service of government must ask themselves two questions; Do I love my people in order to better serve them; am I humble and do I listen to everybody, to diverse opinions, in order to choose the best path? If you don't ask those questions, your government will not be good, Speaker Madigan embodies this. He listens and although there isn't always agreement, he respects the institution and all of its Members. And we know that both sides, both sides, have a strong Leader who will protect this institution, protect
this House. I stand in second to the nomination of Speaker Michael J. Madigan as Speaker of the 99th General Assembly of the Illinois House of Representatives."

Secretary White: "The Lady from Cook, Representative Currie, places in nomination the name of the Gentleman from Cook, Michael J. Madigan for Speaker of the House. The Gentleman from Cook, Representative Acevedo; the Gentleman from Cook, Representative Turner; and the Gentleman from Williamson, Representative Bradley, second the nomination of Representative Michael J. Madigan for the office of Speaker. Representative Michael J. Madigan is nominated for the office of Speaker. Are there further nominations for the office of Speaker? The Chair recognizes the Gentleman from Vermilion, Representative Chad Hays."

Hays: "Good afternoon. I'm Chad Hays and I'm honored to represent the fighting 104th District, encompassing large portions of Vermilion and Champaign County. I want to welcome my new colleagues and their friends and families to Springfield. It's an honor and privilege to be here with all of you today. And for the new Members, I know this is a thrill because just a couple of terms ago I was sitting where you are sitting. But I can tell you it's no less of a thrill in your second term or your third term or your fifth term or your eighth term. It is a rare and special privilege to serve in this Body. The position of Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives requires a person of exceptional character, a person with the ability and history of reaching across the aisle and most importantly, the desire to put the people and future of our great state first. And it's my great honor to
nominate my good friend and colleague, Jim Durkin for Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives. Jim Durkin is an easy choice for me. He's an accomplished public servant who is respected and known for being one of the brightest and hardest-working Legislators in Springfield. As most people on this stage can attest, Jim is quick to lend a hand and he listens, that elusive skill of truly listening. Listening to understand, not just being silent waiting for his turn to speak. And he's always willing to take on challenges to help others. He welcomes Legislators from every corner of this state and from every ideological point of view into his office to discuss issues, and they continue to come back because he has proven that he is fair and open minded. Jim Durkin has the unique ability to bring people together and set aside differences to affect positive change. Through the impeachment of a Governor and other crisis, Jim Durkin has been the voice of reason and a leader in holding elected officials to the highest ethical standards. I have long been impressed with his aptitude to understand the complexity of issues in front of us and his vision for Illinois' future. With one Session of Leader of the House Republican Caucus under his belt, he was able to circumvent several tax increases and fought hard against abuse and misuse of taxpayer dollars. During his tenure in the House, he has led the charge for job creation; he's worked across the aisle on issues important to public safety, education, health care and government reform. Jim has a strong record of public service that is required to succeed as the Leader of the Illinois House of Representatives. Illinois is at... Illinois is at a
almost without exception, democracy works best when there is divided government, voices from all sides being heard. The brilliance of the check and balance system established by our Founding Fathers is about to again make an appearance. Opportunity of this magnitude beckons thoughtful Leadership. The people, once again, have spoken and expectations are high, as they should be. Jim Durkin is ready, willing and able to lead this House into the dawning of a new era. I am proud to place into nomination the name of Jim Durkin as Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives. Thank you."

Secretary White: "The Gentleman from Vermilion, Representative Hays, places in nomination the name of the Gentleman from Cook, Jim Durkin for Speaker of the House. Is there a second to this nomination? The Chair recognizes the Lady from McHenry, Representative Barbara Wheeler."

Wheeler: "Welcome to Springfield, the capital of the great State of Illinois and also, welcome to the 99th inauguration of the House of Representatives. Thank you for allowing me the privilege to second the nomination of one of the finest Legislators in the General Assembly for office of Speaker of the House, my colleague, my friend, Jim Durkin. But before I continue, I want you to... I want to let you know how seriously I'm taking this task. A few days ago, I asked my friend to review my speech. He said, no problem. What's it about? I said I'm going to nominate Jim Durkin for Speaker of the House. Yeah. He said, jeez, what about that Madigan guy? Barb, that better be one hell of a speech. Sorry, Jim. Jim is... Jim is kind. Okay, I'm done. Jim is kind. He's loyal. He's
thoughtful. And he's articulate. An interesting thing you may not know about Jim is that he's deaf in his left ear. Now, I know it's no longer a secret because he told us in caucus. As a matter of fact, I'm surprised it's not in Capitol Fax. As Leader of our caucus, Jim Durkin has proven his loyalty and service to all of us. He's provided us the opportunity to have meaningful impact and to utilize our strength. As a Member of the Minority Party in the House, we often stand in front of our constituency explaining that it's equally important and some would even argue more important to kill a Bill as opposed to pass Bills. Leader Durkin's involvement in a piece of legislation can make or break a Bill. His strong support of a Bill is essential; his lack of support could be devastating. Guaranteed, though, his approach is always amicable, always respectful and if you're lucky, you'll get a glimpse of his sense of humor. We find that in our Republican position of 47-71, the math is obviously not in our favor. And the proverbial bipartisan cooperation is necessary for our caucus to achieve 60 votes for pass. Besides being able to work across both aisles, Leader Durkin provides insightful direction and helps us, guide us and shepherds our Bills for a successful outcome. We cannot solve the problems in the State of Illinois if we don't recognize and acknowledge them. However, as Winston Churchill once said, 'a pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity, but an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty'. It is no secret that Illinois is facing difficulty. This is our state's time to seize the opportunity. And with Jim's thoughtful and patient Leadership, Illinois can yet again be
set on a successful path. We can and we deserve nothing less. Jim, I nominate... and second the nomination for your Speaker of the House. Thank you."

Secretary White: "The Chair recognizes the Gentleman from Macon, Representative Bill Mitchell."

Mitchell, B.: "Good afternoon. My name is Bill Mitchell and I proudly represent the citizens of the 101st District. Having been blessed with the privilege of serving in the Illinois House for 16 years, I know the importance of a proven Leader in the General Assembly who understands the challenges facing our families. It is my honor to be here standing today to second the nomination of my friend and colleague, Jim Durkin, for the office of Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives. Having known and served Jim for these past 16 years, he's spent his entire career working for the families of the State of Illinois. I want you to know that Jim Durkin is an outstanding Leader. Jim Durkin is a person of strong character and be counted on to put people before politics. Having formerly served as Cook County felony prosecutor and Assistant Illinois Attorney General and now, in his role as Legislator, Jim Durkin has fought corruption every step of the way. Most of all, Jim Durkin understands the importance of opportunity. And as Speaker of the House, he will focus on providing greater opportunity for all Illinoisans. Regardless of whether you're born in the 13th Ward of Chicago, Burr Ridge or Decatur, Illinois, every Illinoisan deserves a fair shake in life. Jim Durkin strongly believes in expanding opportunities for all of Illinois' citizens. America is a land of immigrants. Jim Durkin is a
grandson of immigrants who came to Illinois seeking more opportunity; the opportunity to work, to send their children to good schools, to provide their family with a better life. And I don't know if you... if you know this, in the last 14 months, and I know this is probably bitter sweet for you, Jim, this swearing in, Jim lost both his folks in the last 14 months. Jim Durkin's folks sacrificed so he, and get this, he and his seven brothers could enjoy greater opportunities. This is what drives Leader Durkin; the passion to provide greater opportunities for each new generation. He's independent and has the courage to put aside partisan differences for the benefit of all Illinois. As State Representative and Leader of the House Republican Caucus, he's worked across the aisle and has proven his commitment in protecting and strengthening families and communities in all areas of our state. Jim is smart, accomplished and principle Leader who can affect real change for our state. You will not find a more dedicated Member who will work harder on behalf of the citizens of all Illinois. Thank you, Jim, for all you've done for our caucus and for the people of Illinois. I'm proud to second his nomination, and God bless Illinois."

Secretary White: "The Gentleman from Vermilion, Representative Hays, places in nomination the name of the Gentleman from Cook, Jim Durkin, for the Speaker of the House. The Lady from McHenry, Representative Barbara Wheeler and the Gentleman from Macon, Representative Bill Mitchell, second the nomination of Representative Jim Durkin for the office... office of Speaker. Representative Durkin is nominated for office of Speaker. Are there further nominations for the
office of Speaker of the House of Representatives? There being further... there being no further nominations offered from the floor, the nominations for the office of Speaker are closed. The nominees for the office of Speaker for the 99th General Assembly are Representative Michael J. Madigan and Representative Jim Durkin. And on that question, we will have an oral Roll Call and when your name is called, please stand up and announce your vote in a loud and clear voice. The question is on the election of the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 99th General Assembly. Mr. Clerk, please call the roll."

Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Edward Acevedo."
Acevedo: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Carol Ammons."
Ammons: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Jaime Andrade, Jr."
Andrade: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "John Anthony."
Anthony: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Steven Andersson."
Andersson: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Luis Arroyo."
Arroyo: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Mark... excuse me, Mark Batinick."
Batinick: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Daniel Beiser."
Beiser: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Patricia 'Patti' Bellock."
Bellock: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Thomas Bennett."
Bennett: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "John Bradley."
Bradley: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Dan Brady."
Brady: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Rich Brauer."
Brauer: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Peter Breen."
Breen: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Adam Brown."
Brown: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Terri Bryant."
Bryant: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Daniel Burke."
Burke, D.: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Kelly Burke."
Burke, K.: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "John Cabello."
Cabello: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Kelly Cassidy."
Cassidy: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "John Cavaletto."
Cavaletto: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Linda Chapa LaVia."
Chapa LaVia: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Katherine 'Kate' Cloonen."
Cloonen: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Deb Conroy."
Conroy: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Jerry Costello II."
Costello: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Fred Crespo."
Crespo: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Barbara Flynn Currie."
Currie: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Christopher 'CD' Davidsmeyer."
Davidsmeyer: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Monique Davis."
Davis, M.: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "William 'Will' Davis."
Davis, W.: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Anthony DeLuca."
DeLuca: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Tom Demmer."
Demmer: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Scott Drury."
Drury: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Kenneth 'Ken' Dunkin."
Dunkin: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Jim Durkin."
Durkin: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Marcus Evans, Jr."
Evans: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Sara Feigenholtz."
Feigenholtz: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Laura Fine."
Fine: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Mary Flowers."
Flowers: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "La Shawn Ford."
Ford: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Mike Fortner."
Fortner: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Jack Franks."
Franks: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Randy Frese."
Frese: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Robyn Gabel."
Gabel: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Esther Golar."
Golar: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Jehan Gordon-Booth."
Gordon-Booth: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Will Guzzardi."
Guzzardi: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Norine Hammond."
Hammond: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "David Harris."
Harris, D.: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Gregory Harris."
Harris, G.: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Chad Hays."
Hays: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Elizabeth 'Lisa' Hernandez."
Hernandez: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Jay Hoffman."
Hoffman: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Frances Ann Hurley."
Hurley: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Jeanne Ives."
Ives: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Eddie Lee Jackson."
Jackson: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Sheri Jesiel."
Jesiel: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Thaddeus Jones."
Jones: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Dwight Kay."
Kay: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Stephanie Kifowit."
Kifowit: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Lou Lang."
Lang: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "David Leitch."
Leitch: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Camille Lilly."
Lilly: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Michael J. Madigan."
Madigan: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Natalie Manley."
Manley: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Robert Martwick."
Martwick: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Frank Mautino."
Mautino: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Rita Mayfield."
Mayfield: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Emily McAsey."
McAsey: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Michael McAuliffe."
McAuliffe: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Margo McDerm.
McDerm: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "David McSweeney."
McSweeney: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Charles Meier."
Meier: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Bill Mitchell."
Mitchell, B.: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Christian Mitchell."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Anna Moeller."
Moeller: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Donald Moffitt."
Moffitt: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Tom Morrison."
Morrison: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Martin Moylan."
Moylan: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Michelle Mussman."
Mussman: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Elaine Nekritz."
Nekritz: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Brandon Phelps."
Phelps: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Reginald 'Reggie' Phillips."
Phillips: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Robert Pritchard."
Pritchard: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Pamela Reaves-Harris."
Harris: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "David Reis."
Reis: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Al Riley."
Riley: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Robert 'Bob' Rita."
Rita: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Wayne Arthur Rosenthal."
Rosenthal: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Ron Sandack."
Sandack: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Sue Scherer."
Scherer: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Carol Sente."
Sente: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Elgie Sims, Jr."
Sims: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Mike Smiddy."
Smiddy: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Keith Sommer."
Sommer: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Joe Sosnowski."
Sosnowski: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Cynthia Soto."
Soto: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Brian Stewart."
Stewart: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Ed Sullivan, Jr."
Sullivan: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Silvana Tabares."
Tabares: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Andre Thapedi."
Thapedi: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Michael Tryon."
Tryon: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Arthur Turner."
Turner: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Michael Unes."
Unes: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Patrick Verschoore."
Verschoore: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Litesa Wallace."
Wallace: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Lawrence 'Larry' Walsh, Jr."
Walsh: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Grant Wehrli."
Wehrli: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Emanuel 'Chris' Welch."
Welch: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Barbara Wheeler."
Wheeler, B.: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Keith Wheeler."
Wheeler, K.: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Ann Williams."
Williams: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Kathleen Willis."
Willis: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Christine Jennifer Winger."
Winger: "Durkin."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "Sam Yingling."
Yingling: "Madigan."
Provisional Clerk Mapes: "And Michael Zalewski."
Zalewski: "Madigan."

Secretary White: "On that question, Mr. Madigan receives 70 votes, Mr. Durkin 46 votes. I hereby declare that Michael J. Madigan has been elected Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 99th General Assembly. And Jim Durkin has been elected Minority Leader of the House of Representatives of the 99th General Assembly. And with the consent of the House, I will appoint six Members who constitute the Honor Committee to escort the Speaker to the rostrum... rostrum and take their oath of office. Is there leave? Is there leave, Gentlemen and Ladies? Thank you. Leave has been granted. And I appoint the following to the Committee of Escort: Representative Eddie Acevedo, Representative Patrick Verschoore, Representative Monique Davis, Representative Thomas Bennett, Representative Terri Bryant, and Representative Christine Winger. Will the Committee of Escort retire to the seat of Michael J. Madigan to escort him to the rostrum? To administer the constitutional oath of the Speaker, I have the great honor again of presenting to this Body the Honorable Alan J. Greiman, retired...
Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court. Joining Justice Greiman on the podium are members of Speaker Madigan's family who will assist in the administering of the oath of office. Justice Greiman."

Justice Greiman: "Please raise your right hand. And pursuant to Article XIII, Section 3 of the Illinois Constitution, please repeat after me. I do solemnly swear..."

Madigan: "I do solemnly swear..."

Justice Greiman: "...that I will support the Constitution of the United States..."

Madigan: "...that I will support the Constitution of the United States..."

Justice Greiman: "...and the Constitution of the State of Illinois..."

Madigan: "...and the Constitution of the State of Illinois..."

Justice Greiman: "...and that I will faithfully discharge..."

Madigan: "...and that I will faithfully discharge..."

Justice Greiman: "...the duties of Speaker of the House of the General Assembly..."

Madigan: "...the duties of the office of Speaker of the House of Illinois General Assembly..."

Justice Greiman: "...to the best of my ability."

Madigan: "...to the best of my ability. Thank you."

Justice Greiman: "Michael."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Secretary, we sincerely appreciate your service and the fine way in which you have conducted these proceedings. Please bear with me for a few moments until I get my... my thoughts in order. To begin, I'd like to recognize some people who should be recognized that are with us today. I know she's already been recognized, but let me acknowledge
the presence of the new State Comptroller, Leslie Munger. Leslie. As you know, I'm very pleased that my family joined me today. At my side, when I took the oath of office was my wife, Shirley, the woman I love, my partner in life, the person who gave us... the person... the person who gave us four wonderful children and has made it all possible for me and for those children to have such a wonderful life. And so, Shirley, we thank you very, very much and we love you very, very much. Thank you. Our daughter Lisa cannot be with us today, but she's in Washington, D.C., on official business with the office of the Attorney General. Were she here, she would be here with her husband Pat and their two children, Rebecca and Lucy. With us today is my daughter Tiffany and her husband Jordan and their daughter Eliza, who you saw just a few moments ago. In addition, my daughter Nicole and my son Andrew. And to all of them, Shirley and I say thank you very, very much for making us so proud of what you've done with your lives in terms of the selections you've made, in terms of the contributions that you've made to the society. And so to Lisa and Pat, and Tiffany and Jordan, and Nicole, and Andrew, thank you very much and we love you very, very much. I'm very pleased that the invocation was done by Father Larry Sullivan. Father Larry failed to mention that he was born and raised in the district of Representative Michael J. Madigan. And for that reason, plus many others, we're very proud of your accomplishments as a priest, very proud of your recent accomplishments in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Later in the program, the benediction will be done by the new Archbishop of Chicago, Archbishop Blasé Cupich. But at this time, I would
ask all of you if you could give a big Illinois welcome to
the new Archbishop of Chicago, Blasé Cupich. We're very
pleased that the Auditor General of Illinois, Bill Holland,
is with us today. Bill, thank you. We're very pleased that
former Congressman Jerry Costello and wife, Dr. Georgia
Costello, have joined us. They are the parents of
Representative Jerry Costello. From the City of Chicago, the
City Clerk Susan... Susana Mendoza, former Member of the House.
From the City of Chicago four aldermen. First from the 13th
Ward, Alderman Marty Quinn and his daughter Abby. The alderman
of the 23rd Ward and father of Representative Michael
Zalewski, Alderman Mike Zalewski. The alderman of the 28th
Ward, Alderman Jason Ervin. The alderman of the 34th Ward,
Alderman Carrie Austin. Cook County Commissioner Stanley
Moore. From Illinois organized labor, the president of the
state AFL, Michael Carrigan. And the President of the Chicago
Federation of Labor, Jorge Ramirez. Three former State
Representatives: first, Chuck Jefferson from Rockford; next,
Gary Hannig; and lastly, the father of Representative Arthur
Turner, Arthur Turner. I'm advised that Alderman Michelle
Harris from the 8th Ward in Chicago is with us; former
Representative Lisa Dugan. Let me offer my personal
congratulations to Governor Rauner. My pledge to the Governor
is to work professionally and cooperatively, with Mr. Rauner,
on the issues facing the people of the State of Illinois in
the government of the state. Let me offer my personal
congratulations to Representative Durkin and to the other
House Republicans upon your election to the House, and also
upon the election of Governor Rauner. I, and the House
Democrats, wish to welcome you back, back to the active participation in State Government. As you know, in recent years, budgets have been adopted with Democratic votes only. These have been budgets which have provided for the payment of old bills and for the full payment of pension payments, and these budgets were adopted without any Republican votes. Now, with the loss of revenue caused by the expiration of the Illinois income tax increase, there will be many difficult Roll Calls up ahead and we Democrats are very anxious to work together on those tough Roll Calls. Right, everybody? The first and the number one issue facing Illinois and the Legislature will be the deficits in the current budget and in the next two. It's estimated that the deficit for the next budget, the one that begins July 1 of this year, will be $5.7 billion and that the deficit for the budget after that will be $5.8 billion. And so, as we begin our work, and we look forward to budget-making over the next two and a half years, we're contemplating, at a minimum, a deficit in excess of $10 billion. As we work to eliminate these budget deficits, House Democrats will be committed to protecting working men and women of middle-class families; those men and women who want to work but can't get a job, those who are single with children and find it difficult to balance a job with raising children. As we work to eliminate these budget deficits, I think we can all agree that, for certain, we must protect education. Education beginning with birth through five initiatives, then through grammar school and high school where we should work for more parental involvement. And we should work among the students to provide more respect for
the teachers. Next, worker training and retraining at the community colleges. And finally, higher education, where we should work to make a college education affordable. Affordable not just for some, but for all, for all students. As we prepare these budgets, we should provide for a capital construction program to improve the infrastructure, to build and maintain roads and bridges, to improve and maintain mass transit. All of these activities will provide good-paying jobs for Illinoisans at a time, when Illinois needs more jobs held by people who will then pay taxes to the State of Illinois. In preparing these remarks, I had a recurring thought which kept coming back to me, time to time, as I prepared these remarks. The thought became a word. The word is security. Security. We all want to be secure. We all want to be secure in the hope that we can get and keep a job in order to pay our bills, to make a mortgage payment, make a tuition payment, provide for our elderly in the twilight of their lives. We all want to be secure against violence: violence in the homes; violence in our schools; violence in our workplaces; violence in the general community. With this in mind, I would like to talk about a recently released mental health report. The report was issued by the Office of the Child Advocate of the State of Connecticut. The report was just issued in November of 2014. The report is concerned with Adam Lanza. Lanza was the 20-year-old gunman involved in the Sandy Hook School shooting. The report indicates some real problems within the mental health and educational systems in terms of identifying mental problems that Lanza... that Lanza had as he moved through school. There were several missed
opportunities to help Lanza. Additional intervention might have helped. Since December of 2012, a little over two years ago when Sandy Hook happened, there have been far too many discharges of weapons in schools all across America. And, obviously, these weapons were not being held by law enforcement at the time of discharge. We should do all that we can to prevent kids like Lanza from falling through the cracks. And therefore, I plan to work with Representative Durkin to create a bipartisan task force to work with mental health professionals; to study this report and then to tell us how we might be able to prevent a Sandy Hook in Illinois. The Democratic cochair will be Representative Greg Harris and the Democratic vice cochair will be Representative Robyn Gabel. At this time, the Chair recognizes Representative Durkin."

Durkin: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and congratulations. My name is Jim Durkin. I am the State Representative and also Minority Leader from the 82nd District in the western suburbs of Cook County. I reside in Western Springs, there with my family. And joining me today with a number of friends, but also my family, is my wife, Celeste and my daughter Caroline are here, to the left. I want to thank them for coming down here and joining us today. They've... they've been to a number of these ceremonies in the past. This one's a little bit different and I hope you're enjoying it as much as I am. So, they have... they've been through a lot over the years. I've been in public office in the Legislature on and off for about 18 years and that means a lot of nights away, a lot of weekends away, alot of days away. And they supported me 100 percent during this
in every one of these ventures that I've taken in what I believe is advancing public service in the State of Illinois. So, I want to thank them for their... for their love and their support. And I love you both, too, and thank you for joining me today. In 1995, I was new to Springfield in the House of Representatives. And on my first evening in town, I was driving and got lost, turned around by all those one-way streets. You've probably got a hint where I'm going with this right now, okay? Since then, nothing has really changed. Those of you who know me can attest that at times I get turned around, confused, et cetera. I think we can say that with pretty good cause here. But that night, I found myself parking in a parking garage where I ran into a very nice couple. I rolled down my window, as I was lost, and I asked the gentleman for directions to the State Capitol Building. It was a little bit awkward since, at the time, I didn't realize it, I was about two blocks away from the Capitol Building, but with a smile on his face, he gave me a very colorful answer. One that I cannot repeat in public nor at this ceremony. So, when my colleague and good friend Representative Ray Poe returns to the chamber, please ask him what he said to me on that night. Now, just as a little side note, Ray Poe's not with us today. He's... he's fighting, you know, some illness. He's in Texas being treated, recuperating, but I just want you to know that he'll be sworn in this afternoon by a member of the Circuit Court in Texas as a State Representative in the 99th General Assembly. He's doing well. I spoke to him. He's recuperating. He'll be back with us sometime this spring. And Mr. Speaker, thank you for
allowing for that accommodation for Representative Poe to be sworn in out of state. Thank you so much. One-way streets seem to be the grid on which Springfield was designed. In the past, one way seemed to carry the day in the Capitol. Having served in this Body off and on for almost 18 years, I still get frustrated and confused by the one-way streets. And over the years, by the one-Party, one-way approach to solving our most pressing issues. But voters said, with the November election, that they no longer want State Government to move in one direction or one way. This November, the voters of Illinois broke up the monopoly that existed in State Government for the past 12 years. It is no secret that Illinois is suffering from the highest unemployment in the Midwest, the net population loss of nearly 95 thousand Illinoisans in 2014 alone and nearly nonexistent job creation. But with the election of Bruce Rauner, Illinois citizens have said they are ready to go in a dramatically different direction to make our state strong and prosperous again. Just watch the TV shows on late night and hear the jokes about Illinois. We've all heard them, folks, and I'm sick of them and I hope you are as well. We need to get past that. But rather than being the laughing stock of these late night talk shows, Illinois should be featured in the Wall Street Journal and other business publications with stories about how we are and will lead the nation in job creation and growing our economy. If we work with Governor Rauner and his administration, and I believe we will, the 99th Illinois General Assembly will be historic, where we will accomplish great things. As all of you know, the issues facing our state
are profound. They are deep and they are real, but they're not Republican nor are they Democrat. So, starting today, let's demonstrate to the people of Illinois that we can work together. Let's demonstrate through the actions in our chamber that we can implement changes that Illinoisans are so desperately seeking. I started in this position a little more than a year ago and Mr. Speaker, we're able to work together and pass legislation which has been daunting for many, many years, that is reforming our public pension systems, the Chicago pension systems. That's just a few to name. Those moments were not easy, but we accomplished our goal. And I believe we will continue with that sense of cooperation that we've been demonstrating this past year. And thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can speak for all of us when I say that we must provide the foundation for generations to come to pursue the American dream in this Prairie State, the Land of Lincoln. We certainly have our work cut out for us, but for... but I know that if we work together we have the ability to put our state back on the path to prosperity and success. At this time, I would like to introduce to you Members of my Leadership team. They're wonderful people and I think I just want to give a little bit of a side note about each one of them. Deputy Leaders: Patti Bellock of Hinsdale. Patti has been a dear friend of mine for a number of years, but for those of you who don't... don't know Patti, she is becoming a national expert on human services and Medicaid reform. She provides a valuable service, not only to our caucus, but also to the chamber, also to the State of Illinois. So, Patti, thank you and congratulations. Representative David Leitch of Peoria.
David. David has served under six Governors, but those of you... if you get to know David, he is truly the Dean of the House of Representatives. Think about him and the experiences that he has had: the institutional knowledge that he has gained over these years, with these Governors, many different Speakers and Presidents of the Senate. It's just an absolute delight, but he's a great resource for us. And for new Members of the General Assembly, I would talk to David. Talk to him about the way that this building works, the way that this chamber works. And I think that you will be better for it, but don't miss that opportunity because he's an absolute gem and you should get to know him. As I said he's willing to talk to you and he wants to give you his perspective on how things operate in this Capitol. It'll make it... it'll be worth your while. Dan Brady, Bloomington. Dan is a... Dan, thank you. Dan is a fierce advocate for his constituents. All of us know that year in and year out. But also on a side note, he's an undertaker on the side. But anyway, you guys know that those guys have quite a sense of humor, so get to know Dan. A little dry at times, but I think it comes with the job. Chad Hays. Chad Hays from Danville. Chad is one of our Assistant Leaders. He's a hospital executive. He has his health care experience. He's been fantastic on these major difficult issues that we have with our Medicaid system and also health care delivery in Illinois. He also is a member... He's from Danville. He's also a member of a group called the Boat Drink Caucus, which I will talk a little bit about in a few seconds, a little bit more. I also want to mention Bill Mitchell who gave a wonderful speech earlier. Bill is from Forsyth, Illinois,
gateway to Decatur, I think that's what we refer to it as. But what I like about Bill is Bill has just been a personal friend for so many years, but his knowledge of State Government is truly remarkable. And, he has, day in and day out, provided me with just fantastic advice on how our votes should go and what we should be looking at with each one of these votes as we have to look at the regional perspectives, the regional sensitivities we have on any vote. I live in the western suburbs of Illinois and the fact is, it's a little bit different in Western Springs than it is in Taylorville, and the fact is or in Danville and Decatur. I've got great friends over here who are able to give me their perspective on how any one particular issue is going to play in their district. And that's very important in this position is to understand the regional sensitivities that come up on a daily basis before the Legislature. Representative Ed Sullivan, he's an Assistant Sullivan, he's an Assistant Leader. He's from Mundelein. Thank you, Ed. Ed's our newest Member of our Leadership team. Ed is a he's an expert on taxes and local government and he truly is a champion for local government. Keep up the great work, Ed. Thank you so much. Michael Tryon. He's also an Assistant Leader. He is from Crystal Lake. Mike is a former county chair of McHenry County. He is truly a champion of local government and gives us, as Ed does, perspectives on the types of implications when we pass legislation; how it is going to affect their ability to run government at that level. We hear about unfunded mandates all the time that are being delivered to local governments. We have true champions of local government in our caucus, as the
Democrats do, who give us that advice and give us the commonsense type of response of how is this going to affect their county? How is this going to affect their township? How is this going to affect their municipality? So, thank you, Gentlemen. We have a few more positions but that's in formation. We'll be releasing those names in the near future. But I made a little mention of this Boat Drink Caucus. Now, both Chad and Mike are musicians and they performed at the inaugural concert two nights ago, sharing the stage with Buddy Guy and Toby Keith. But we need to remind them that you should not let the celebrity of the moment get too far. For example, let me just go back in history a little bit. There was a little quartet that was called Van Halen back in the early '80s and 1990s. Mr. Speaker, you might be familiar with them. But they were a band that were wildly successful, extremely popular, but they allowed the celebrity of the moment to lead them astray on many levels. And I will give you one example. So, in one of their contractual provisions is that they would like to have M&Ms delivered backstage for the band, but no green M&Ms. So, my advice to Mike and Chad is do not let the celebrity of the moment lead you astray. Friends, if you are in their offices this year, keep an eye on the candy dishes in their office and if necessary, remind them of where they came from and where they still are. So, that's our humor for the moment. Anyway, to the family and friends that are joining us here today for this magnificent ceremony, I hope that you are proud of us for taking on this extremely noble cause of serving in the Illinois House of Representatives. The sacrifices you have made for the men and women on this stage.
today, I believe have been validated. Each one of us represents approximately 108 thousand Illinoisans. We serve nearly 13 million residents. Just think about that. And folks on this stage... on the stage, don't lose track of this awesome responsibility that we have or that 108 thousand Illinoisans who rely upon us for good government, watching their back when they're in Springfield. It's very important. We just took our oath of office. It is truly meaningful because it does have meaning. It is powerful. And my friends, remember that moment when we took that oath of office just a little bit earlier. And for the new Members, just remember during difficult times, reflect on that moment exactly what you attested to. As I said, it's powerful and it's inspirational. To the new freshman Representatives, my advice to you is simple. Do what you're told. I'm just kidding. My advice to you, be true to your oath, be responsive to your constituents and lastly, and most importantly, follow your heart. We have a very large freshman class today and approximately one quarter, 25 percent, of the House Republican Caucus are made up of freshman Members. And if they wouldn't mind standing and so you can see who our new Members are, I would appreciate it. So, if our freshman Members stand up? Welcome. And lastly, I just want to state to my friends on the stage today, if your parents are here, give them a hug, thank them afterwards. You never want to miss that moment. But folks, I'll tell you, this has just been a... an amazing journey for me this past year and a half. I take this job very seriously because I love my state. And as Bill Mitchell told me earlier, I had wonderful parents who provided for me and my seven brothers
the opportunity to pursue the American dream in the State of Illinois. We have that obligation; we have that responsibility and I know we can do that for them. Thank you. God bless Illinois. And God bless America."

Speaker Madigan: "At this time, I would like to announce the Members of the Democratic Leadership team. I'm not going to give their backgrounds as Mr. Durkin did because they all speak for themselves and they do very, very well. The Majority Leader will be Representative Barbara Flynn Currie. The Deputy Majority Leaders will be Representative Lou Lang, Representative Frank Mautino. The Assistant Majority Leaders will be Representative Edward Acevedo, Representative Dan Burke, Representative Sara Feigenholtz, Representative Al Riley, Representative Arthur Turner, Representative Jehan Gordon-Booth. There will be two noncompensated Assistant Majority Leaders: Representative John Bradley and Representative Elaine Nekritz. Ladies and Gentlemen, we're going to do some perfunctory business which means that we're going to be moving along very quickly. We don't always normally do things like this, but just bear with us. So, the next order of business is the election of the Chief Clerk, the Assistant Clerk and the Doorkeeper for the 99th General Assembly. The Lady from Cook, Representative Currie has moved... is recognized."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. I move for the suspension of all applicable House Rules so that we can give immediate consideration to adoption of House Resolutions 1, 2 and 3."
Speaker Madigan: "You've all heard the Lady's Motion. All in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'nay'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Motion is adopted."

Currie: "Good work."

Speaker Madigan: "The Lady from Cook, Representative Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. I move for the adoption of House Resolution 1. This is the Resolution for the election of Timothy D. Mapes as Chief Clerk, Bradley S. Bolin as Assistant Clerk and Lee A. Crawford as Doorkeeper."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Clerk, read the Resolution."

Provisional Clerk Mapes: "House Resolution 1.

BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the following Officers are hereby elected for the term of the Ninety-Ninth General Assembly:

Timothy D. Mapes as Chief Clerk of the House,
Bradley S. Bolin as Assistant Clerk of the House,
Lee A. Crawford as Doorkeeper of the House."

Speaker Madigan: "The Lady has moved the adoption of House Resolution 1. All those in favor signify by saying 'aye'; all those opposed by saying 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Resolution is adopted. Pursuant to House Resolution 1, the Chair declares Timothy D. Mapes elected as the Chief Clerk of the House for the 99th General Assembly. Bradley S. Bolin is declared elected as the Assistant Clerk of the House for the 99th General Assembly. Lee A. Crawford is declared elected as the Doorkeeper of the House for the 99th General Assembly. Do these gentlemen accept the offices to which they have been elected? They're all
nodding their heads indicating that they've accepted. The Lady from Cook, Representative Currie, is recognized to offer another Resolution."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. I move the adoption of House Resolution 2 which directs the Clerk to inform the Senate that the House is very well organized."

Speaker Madigan: "The Lady has moved for the adoption of House Resolution 2. This is the traditional notification to the other chamber that this Body is prepared to do the people's business. The Lady from Cook, Representative Currie is recognized to offer another Resolution."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. This time I offer House Resolution 3, which would appoint a committee to attend the Governor, inform him that we are organized and await any communication he might have to offer."

Speaker Madigan: "The Lady has moved the adoption of House Resolution 3. This is another traditional ceremonial procedure. Without objection, we can take both Motions on one vote. Those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And House Resolutions 2 and 3 are adopted. At this time, as previously announced, I'd ask Archbishop Blasé Cupich to come to the podium for the purpose of the benediction."

Archbishop Cupich: "Lord, on this day, when oaths are taken and promises are made, we lift our voices in prayer to You, for You are ever faithful. You always keep Your word. May the words our elected officials pledged this day become etched on their hearts and inspire in their minds imaginative ideas and policies as they serve and pursue the common good. May their
very oath taking remind us all of the power and blessing of keeping one's word and of the deep desire we all have for authenticity and loyalty. Let this moment motivate all of us to be true to our word, spouses and parents who commit to each other their families and their children, business leaders and public servants entrusted with the goods and the well-being of others and the citizens of this state who this day are reminded of the social contract that binds us together. It is a solemn pledge to work together for a just society and to promote the good order which depends on, yet extends beyond, the rule of law. Lord, we come before You in this prayer fully aware of our own failures and weaknesses in remaining true. We all live with divided hearts. We are humbled that You are faithful even when we are not and that You are ever rich in mercy and forgiveness. And so this day, we beg You to grace in a special way our Legislators with the integrity to keep their word even when others do not, with the freedom to forgive when others fail them and the courage to believe that the truth always sets us free. Lord, on this day, when oaths are taken and promises are made, we lift our voices in prayer to You, for You are ever faithful. You always keep Your word. Amen."

Speaker Madigan: "If you could remain standing, we are prepared to adjourn. Let me first congratulate all the Members of the House on their election and their assumption of office. Let me thank all of our guests for joining us today. If any of you plan to visit the Capitol Building, the House chamber will be open to all. And so, you'll have an opportunity to walk through the chamber and to view firsthand the beauty of
the House chamber. Now, we're going to be led by Star Windham singing America the Beautiful. Let me simply say, before she begins, to all of you, God bless all of you and God bless America."

Star Windham: "Sings America the Beautiful."

Speaker Madigan: "We thank Representative Monique Davis for bringing Star to join us today. Representative Currie moves that the House stand adjourned until Thursday, January 15 at the hour of 9 a.m., allowing perfunctory time for the Clerk. Those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. The House stands adjourned until Thursday, January 15, 9 a.m., providing perfunctory time for the Clerk. Thank you again."

Clerk Hollman: "House Perfunctory Session will come to order. Introduction and First Reading of House Bills. House Bill 1, offered by Representative Lang, a Bill for an Act concerning health. House Bill 2, offered by Representative Lang, a Bill for an Act concerning health. House Bill 3, offered by Representative Lang, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. House Bill 4, offered by Representative Lang, a Bill for an Act concerning health. House Bill 5, offered by Representative Lang, a Bill for an Act concerning health. House Bill 6, offered by Representative Lang, a Bill for an Act concerning health. House Bill 7, offered by Representative Lang, a Bill for an Act concerning health. House Bill 8, offered by Representative Lang, a Bill for an Act concerning aging. House Bill 9, offered by Representative Lang, a Bill for an Act concerning nursing homes. House Bill 10, offered by Representative Lang, a Bill for an Act
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revenue. House Bill 196, offered by Representative Drury, a Bill for an Act concerning capital improvement planning. House Bill 197, offered by Representative Drury, a Bill for an Act concerning finance. First Reading of these House Bills. There being no further business, the House Perfunctory Session will stand adjourned."