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- Speaker Welch: "The House will in order. Members will please take your chairs. We shall be led in prayer today by Wayne Padget, the Assistant Doorkeeper. 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. We will be led in the Pledge of Allegiance today by Representative, my cousin, not really, Welch, Hirschauer."
- Wayne Padget: "Let us pray. Lord, as we prepare for Session today, I ask for freshness of your spirit to quicken our thinking. That out of confused issues may come simplicity, a plan. That out of fear may come confidence. That out of hurry may come deliberation. That out of frustration may come guidance. Let us get to work, not head first, but heart first. May we be able to disagree without being disagreeable, to differ without being difficult, to be honest without tension, to be frank without offense, in an atmosphere of team spirit. These things we ask in your son's name, Amen."
- Speaker Welch: "Amen. Representative Hirschauer for the Pledge."
 Hirschauer 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 Welch: "Roll Call for Attendance. Representative Harris is recognized to report any excused absences on the Democratic side of the aisle."
- Harris: "Mr. Speaker, I'd like to announce that Representative Andrade is excused today. And also, for LIS, some of the new Members are having password issues on their computer."

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- Speaker Welch: "Let the record reflect that... I'm sorry. Representative Spain is recognized to report any excused absences on the Republican side of the aisle."
- Spain: "Well, thank you. And congratulations, Mr. Speaker. It's wonderful to see your family here today. And I report that Representatives Brady, McCombie, Sosnowski, and David Friess are excused today."
- Speaker Welch: "Thank you, Representative Spain. Have all recorded themselves who wish? We're going to hold tight for a moment, resolve some technical issues. Mr. Clerk, please take the record. There being 111 Members answering the roll, a quorum is present. Members, I'm going to kick us off with a point of personal privilege of my own. Yesterday, I was honored to welcome to the Capitol my beautiful wife, ShawnTe, my son, Tyler. Welcome, Tyler. And I was told that she wanted to introduce herself. So, hold on one second."

Marley Welch: "Marley."

Speaker Welch: "So, please give them another warm Springfield welcome. Thank you guys for that. Representative Mayfield is recognized."

Mayfield: "I stand for a personal privilege."

Speaker Welch: "State your point."

Mayfield: "Thank you. In the African American community, there is a saying that's often heard, give me my flowers while I yet live. What that means is don't wait 'til I'm gone or I'm no longer here to talk about all of the good things that I've done or to show your love for me. So, I would like to express my flowers today for one of our very own Members who has given us flowers constantly. A young Mary Flowers, after seeing

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Harold Washington on TV disagreeing with Mayor Daley, asked her mother to take her to meet him. During this first meeting, Mary proceeded to tell Harold everything he was doing wrong, what he should have said, and what she would have done and said if she was a State Representative. Mr. Washington just smiled in response to Mary Flowers, and she ended up volunteering for a long time working on his campaigns. A few years later, after Harold Washington was elected mayor, he called Mary's mom and asked her to convey a message to Mary that he would like her to come to his office. During this meeting, Harold... Mayor Washington asked Mary if she remembered their conversation a few years back when she told him I would do this and I would do that. Mary replied, yes, but I didn't know you were going to be the mayor or I would've been nicer to you. Harold laughed, and then he smiled, and told Mary he wanted her to run for State Representative. A speechless Mary proceeded to provide reasons why she couldn't run. Harold Washington told Mary he wanted her because she cared and that was the most important qualification for the job. Thirty-six years and six days later, Representative Mary Flowers is the longest serving black Legislator in the Illinois General Assembly history. Rep Flowers has been instrumental in passing health care and child rights legislation. She renamed the Calumet Expressway after Bishop Louis Henry Ford, making it the first expressway to be named after an African American. She blocked an effort to use public pension funds, our dollars, from being invested in an apartheid South Africa. She passed legislation to require sensitivity training for police officers and just so much

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more. She has been a strong advocate for women, children. She's been a constant thorn to DCFS in her efforts to make sure that families are kept together, given the resources that they need, and reunited. She has been a strong advocate for ensuring that everyone has an access to quality health care. She has also been the glue that has held the Legislative Black Caucus together, and we thank you, Mary. So, today, we give Representative Mary Flowers her flowers and we salute you. Yes. We actually do have flowers for you, but the person's a little late."

Speaker Welch: "Representative Ford, for what reason do you rise?"
Ford: "On a proud day, Mr. Speaker, to say that, Mr. Speaker.
Congratulations, but I have more to say. Point of personal
privilege."

Speaker Welch: "State your point."

Ford: "Let me first say that I agree with Representative Mayfield, that of course without Mary Flowers there would probably be no Emanuel 'Chris' Welch as Speaker. And so, thank you Representative Mary Flowers for laying the groundwork to get Emanuel 'Chris' Welch as Speaker of the House of the 102nd General Assembly. So, your work is great, and there is a lot to be said about what you've done and how you make all of us feel down here, whether we're trembling or tired of hearing about the transaction tax or the state bank. We expect it from you, and we hope you continue to fight for that. But I also want to thank everyone on this floor for the moment that we had yesterday. There's a lot of talk about black, black, black, black, black... but we did it together. Just like the civil rights movement and all the movements that changed the

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nation, that changed the world, it happened because whites and blacks came together. Only 22 blacks, but yesterday it was white staffers, a white Speaker, a white President of the Senate, white Legislators. And not only did we change Illinois, we led the nation in change. We got a black Speaker. We got a black first family right here. We all should feel good. And those that did not vote for the measures, it's quite okay, I think, because you have another chance because we have so far to go to make justice ring in the halls of Springfield and all across the State of Illinois. But I do feel confident that some people in this room are ready to take votes that they've never taken before because we woke up today and the world didn't end, everything is okay, and we changed public policy, and we elected a black Speaker, and we live on, and we feel good. So, I just want to ask the Lord to bless Emanuel 'Chris' Welch and his family because I really do feel that Emanuel 'Chris' Welch was made for this time. He really is ready to be the Speaker of the House. And so, I'll ask that we join in ... for those that believe in the Lord's Prayer and those that don't, I ask that we join in the Lord's Prayer. And if you don't believe in the Lord's Prayer, please take a moment of silence. In the name of the father, the son, and the Holy Spirit. This prayer is for you and the State of Illinois, Mr. Speaker. Our father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

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now and forever. Thank you, and I hope everyone gives the Speaker a great chance to help us all."

Speaker Welch: "Thank you, seatmate. Representative, Leader Gordon-Booth is recognized."

Gordon-Booth: "I, too, wanted to just stand for a moment of personal privilege to ... thank you ... to just take in this moment that we are living through. You know, this past summer, many of the Members of this Body reached out to myself and many others in this chamber in regards to what we saw happening, not only in our communities and not just in this country, but literally around the world. And I'm up today because I want to say thank you to those of you that stood with us as we began to respond to the peaceful protests that literally were happening all over this world. And it's incredibly important for us to work together so that when we see that kind ... the largest civil rights demonstration in the world in our lifetimes, that we were able to take protests and turn it into policy. So, I want to give an extra special thank you to the Members of this Body, Chairwoman Sonya Harper, Chairwoman Carol Ammons, to Chairwoman Camille Lilly, as well as Chairman Justin Slaughter, and all of the Members of the caucus that helped to bring this to fruition, but to all of the Members that stood with us to make this happen. I can't tell you what it's meant, not only to those of us that stand with you every day, but to communities, not just in this state, but all over this country. And in the midst of taking upon that work, having the opportunity to see our friend, our brother, our colleague stand in that space, it has been the absolute highlight of my career to see this come to fruition. And to

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see his beautiful wife and children here, it fills me with so much joy. ShawnTe, it's so good to see you today. And... I call Chris' children, those are my daughter's GA cousins. So, this really has been a family affair. And to the matriarch of our caucus, Chairwoman Mary Flowers, there is no one like her. I know that sometimes Mary can be tough on folks. She's tough on me, as she may have been tough on you, but that's because Mary has seen a lot more than most of you. Certainly me. And she brings that wisdom and that intellect and that experience to this space. And I just want her to know that not only would Chairman ... excuse me, Speaker Welch ... not only would Speaker Welch likely not be in position, but none of us that you see standing here as brothers and sisters would have the ability to do what we do if it were not for Mary Flowers. Mary, we love you so very much. We honor you. We praise you. And thank you for blazing a trail and making it a little bit easier for the rest of us. Thank you."

Speaker Welch: "Leader Durkin is recognized."

Durkin: "Thank you, Speaker. A point of personal privilege."

Speaker Welch: "State your point, Sir."

Durkin: "Thank you. What a day. I feel good about today. It's raining outside, and I think we can look at that as a way for some of the bitterness and the emotion to be washed away from this chamber and also from this village and this town. Chris Welch and I go back many years, and I remember him as a young man. And I remember him saying once to me, many years ago, when... I've got a few years on you... said, I'd like to do what you're doing, Jim. And I just remember that. You know, he has the spirit and he has the drive to do what many other people

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won't do. And to see him ascend to this position makes me very proud as a west suburbanite, a Proviso Township born and raised man just like you. So, I made comments yesterday and I want to reemphasize that this a new day and that I just met with, spoke with Speaker Welch, and I said that the reset button has been pushed. I will just say that emotions will continue to run high. That is our nature. We're human beings. And we all, including myself, we need to be measured. And we've got to make sure, we have to make sure, that our constituents who watch us need to be proud of what ... the work we do and the words that we say, and that is my commitment in this new General Assembly. And as I said yesterday, I listed a number of priorities that we feel are very important, and I think you share with many of them. But I stated yesterday, also, that we House Republicans are prepared to be partners with the House Democrat majority because we don't have a choice. We don't have a choice. But we have this golden opportunity, a golden opportunity to start fresh and to make decisions that we know that will be tough, but they will be the ones that are going to make us proud, the ones that are going to be the right decisions to make sure that Chris Welch and ShawnTe's children are going to have a better future. That is our goal, that's our commitment, and that's my promise. So, Speaker Welch, congratulations again. Now, Mary Flowers. I've known you for many years also. And I will just say that you are like a bottle of wine, which ages and gets better with time. So, congratulations, Mary."

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Speaker Welch: "Thank you, Leader Durkin, for those kind words. Very much appreciate it. Representative Caulkins is recognized."

Caulkins: "Mr. Speaker, point of personal privilege."

Speaker Welch: "State your point."

- Caulkins: "Thank you. We look around here today as we start this 102nd General Assembly, and I look at the camaraderie, the friendships, the bridges, the offers, and I think about the future here. And I think that we need to be here. We need to be together. We need to meet in this building or back in the Capitol. We need to do the business of the people together, where we can look at each other in the eye. We can have the conversations off the floor in the back of the room, but it's important for us to be here to do the people's business. And I hope, Mr. Speaker, that you bring us back to Springfield often to do this business together where we can work as a team. Thank you for this."
- Speaker Welch: "Thank you, Representative. Representative Butler is recognized."

Butler: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A point of personal privilege." Speaker Welch: "State your point, Sir."

Butler: "So, I knew you wouldn't miss this opportunity to be in the Chair today, but I appreciate the fact that you are up there 'cause these comments are for you. And I'm glad to hear some talking Leader Durkin, La Shawn, Jehan, talking about the history of the day yesterday, 'cause I think the history of the day yesterday kind of got lost in everything that happened yesterday with the end of the 101st and the beginning of the 102nd and everything that went on. It was a

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tremendously, unprecedented, historic day in Illinois history. My family ... you guys have heard me talk about this before. Well, not the new Members. You get to hear this now. My family goes back, spans every day that Illinois has been a state. Somebody in my family has lived in this state the entire time since we became a state. My fourth great grandfather was elected to the very first General Assembly as the Senator from Pope County. He was an enslaver. And the fact that I can stand here today with a black man, an African American man, as the Speaker of the House of Representatives, is something he never could have imagined. That a few generations removed from him, I would stand here with you as my Speaker. That really speaks to the sins of our country, but what it really speaks to more than anything else is the hope of our country. That was quite a historic day yesterday, and I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker. You have an opportunity to make more history as Leader Durkin referenced. We are here to work together with you when we can. We'll be the loyal opposition when we're not. But we have a thing coming up very soon. I read your comments this morning about ... a little bit about the House Rules. I think 45 House Republicans would like nothing better than to some point be able to vote 'yes' on the House Rules because they respect our rights as well. And we have a lot of good people who know a lot about the rules, and I would hope, as we craft the rules the 102nd General Assembly, that collaborate we on those. Representative Caulkins just mentioned... his reference really was to remote voting. You know my speech from the spring with Representative Flowers when it comes to remote voting. I've

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reached out to Representative Williams throughout the summer and the fall and offered up some suggestions on that. So, I hope... I know you're sincere in your thoughts on this, but you have another historic opportunity to work with us to craft a Body that works better and works more collaboratively. And I hope that's what we get to. Again, Chris, congratulations. I hope we all realize what happened yesterday for the history of our state. It was a great day, and congratulations."

- Speaker Welch: "Thank you, Representative. Representative Mason is recognized."
- Mason: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and welcome. And hello, 102nd General Assembly. I'm so, so pleased to be starting this new journey with you all. And I want to welcome our new fellow colleagues and congratulate you all, and so nice to see everyone back. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to you and welcome to your beautiful family. I just want to know, how hard is it for me to be able to find a better neighbor to my office than you? It's going to be a hard thing to find. Another matter of personal privilege that I would like to share with you all today is that 21 years ago today, a beautiful little girl was born into my life. My Julia Anne was born on January 14, 2000, and today is her 21st birthday. She is my light. She is my hope. And she is one of the two reasons that I work so hard and fight every day for a better future. She is studying right now to become a teacher in Illinois, something she has been passionate about since she really could start creating her classroom in our basement and got an overhead projector from Santa Claus, which is a very unusual request. And I know that she is also eager to get

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back to work with her kiddos when she's able to. So, she is part of our future, and she is everything past, present, and future to me. So, I want to wish my Julia happy birthday and ask everyone to just wish her a happy birthday remotely. It would mean the world to me. Thank you."

- Speaker Welch: "Thank you, Representative. Leader Hammond is recognized."
- Hammond: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And point of personal privilege."

Speaker Welch: "Please state your point."

Hammond: "First and foremost, I wish you congratulations and the very best from me personally, but look forward to working with you as a united Body here. Representative Mary Flowers, on behalf of the House Republican women, we would like to acknowledge you, to salute you, and to say that it has been incredible working with you. For those of us that are new women Members on this side, they're in for a treat. Because I will tell you, Mary, I have the utmost respect for you. We don't always agree, but by God we disagree respectfully. You bring something to this Body that many Members will never appreciate. But I will tell you, I certainly do. And I look forward to working with you again. We won't always be on the same side, but at the end of the day, Representative Flowers,

I will call you my friend, Mary. God bless you." Speaker Welch: "Representative Buckner." Buckner: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Point of personal privilege,

please."

Speaker Welch: "Please state your point."

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Buckner: "First off, Speaker Welch, I want to congratulate you for taking over this new role. I think we've all talked about the historical enormity of this, but to see an African American male in this seat, in this Body where Abraham Lincoln started his political career in 1834, is tremendous. So, first off, congratulations to you. Secondly, this is just an what Representative Mayfield talked addendum to about earlier. To Leader Flowers, 13,155 days as a State Representative. Thirteen thousand, one hundred and fifty-five days. Now, all of us have gotten the Mary treatment when she takes the glasses and she does this and she says, now back in the day. But 13,155 days. So, as Representative Mayfield said earlier, we will give you your flowers while you are here. And so, we'll bring these over to you right now. Thank you, Mary."

Speaker Welch: "Leader Demmer is recognized."

Demmer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on a point of personal privilege."

Speaker Welch: "Please state your point, Sir."

Demmer: "Thank you. You know what? This is a new year. It's a new General Assembly. We have many new Members who are elected and serving on their first day, and of course we have a new Speaker. It's a great opportunity, I think, for us to reflect and to reconsider many of the practices that the House has engaged in over the years and to ensure that we're recommitted to serving the people of the State of Illinois. You know, the Illinois Constitution is what... is the foundation of this government. It's what creates the House of Representatives. And they give us broad discretion to determine how the House

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goes about its business. And, after the election of the Speaker, one of the first things we have to do is consider the Rules of the House. And I just want to urge all of my colleagues to reread the Constitution in considering how we can move forward as a House of Representatives because the Constitution has some specific things that they say the General Assembly shall do in order to serve the people. That we shall give reasonable notice of meetings, including a statement of subjects to be considered. That a Bill shall be read on three different days. That a Bill or an Amendment shall be given to all Members of the General Assembly before we vote on things. And that Bills shall be confined to a single subject. Now, we really need to not just consider the specific letter of the law, but consider also the spirit. The spirit of those provisions are to draw public input to allow individuals all across our state to be confident that their voice can be heard, that they know the subjects that we're considering, that they have an opportunity to offer testimony, they have an opportunity to contact their Legislator to offer support or opposition to a measure. They are there to improve transparency, to show the people that we have nothing to hide, that this is their House, that we're doing their business. And it helps to instill a sense of confidence and trust in government. And I know that's a factor that we all can agree on. I know that's something that motivates all of us. I know that we've all been caught in the frustration of five or six Amendments that get offered. And we're not sure which version is being debated and exactly what it says, and we have a specific provision that we're

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paying very close attention to. Sometimes we can really get caught up in the heat of the moment during some legislative maneuvering. We need only to look back at the Constitution. We need only to know that these provisions about public input, about posting of Bills, about posting committee meetings and inviting that input, this is what makes the House functional. It's what makes the House great. And it's what gives us an opportunity to show our constituents that we're worthy of their trust. So, I look forward to working in a new spirit. Congratulations to our new Speaker. This is a new General Assembly. Congratulations to all those who are serving for the first time in this Body. It's a tremendous honor for each and every one of us. And I look forward to working together to make sure that we're living up, not only to the letter of the law, but to the spirit that motivates the Illinois government. Thank you."

Speaker Welch: "Thank you, Leader Demmer. Representative Scherer is recognized."

- Scherer: "Thank you to our new Mr. Speaker. That's exciting. I just wanted to do a point of personal privilege and that would be to congratulate you to have a new Speaker. Yesterday, was my daughter's Marcy's birthday. So, it's a day I'll never forget. Her birthday, and we got a brand new Speaker, and that makes it a very exciting day for all of us. So, congratulations."
- Speaker Welch: "Thank you, Representative. Representative Gabel is recognized."

Gabel: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Point of personal privilege." Speaker Welch: "Please state your point."

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Gabel: "Thank you. I would like to introduce to the General Assembly the new Poet Laureate of Illinois. She just... she was just announced in November. Her name is Angela Jackson. She is an accomplished and award-winning poet, novelist, and play write who has published three chat books and four volumes of poetry. Her job as the poet laureate is to promote poetry at the state and national level. And the previous poet laureate described Angela Jackson's work as, 'Angela Jackson's poems dwell in the fervid topographies of family and myth, heart and tongue. Her lines bristle with the melody of conversation and soulful blues. Her voice, unwaveringly human.' I would like the read the first poem that she wrote as the poet laureate. It's called Giving Thanks.

> Illinois, 2020 We give thanks ---For red cardinals that appear Anywhere, For violets, pristine and tender, And tall white oaks That bear The weight of midwestern winds Moving across the prairie State. Thanks For the kiss of the Great Lake Michigan, on a Big Chicago, bodacious and bursting With promises Thanks for the lakes and rivers that flow through A state of dreams and blood and tears,

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Thin rivers of toil that lace the land And a Big River, Mississippi, That runs. Thanks for mid-cities churning industry For rural places poised on tractors And waystations Peopled with all kinds Of people ---All colors A One In the Land of Lincoln Lifting Freedom, Union, yes We pray for each other In all our heartbreaks. We give thanks For hope, For family, for dear ones, And neighbors For 'I love you' Written on the red wings of cardinals, On the sweet petals of violets, On the strong brown branches of oaks. We give thanks, Thanks and thanks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Welch: "Representative Mazzochi is recognized." Mazzochi: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Point of personal privilege." Speaker Welch: "State your point."

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Mazzochi: "Mr. Speaker, I would like to also congratulate you for making this a historic day in the sense that, in my time as Legislator, I believe this is the very first honest House Calendar I have seen that we can all count on to be true and accurate. So, I congratulate you for that, and I hope that we can continue in the spirit going on because, I think, it will help all of us to be better Legislators when we know what's coming down the pike. To all of our new Legislators, on behalf of the House Republican Caucus, we want to welcome you. Not only from our caucus, but from the ... but those who are on the other side of the aisle. I'm sad that we couldn't all actually have the types of moments to celebrate that we had in years past because it truly is an accomplishment what you have done. You are entrusted to care for over a hundred thousand voices who live in your districts, and that truly is an awesome responsibility. When we come down here, we don't necessarily see all of the time ... you know, we see all of us as fellow ... as Legislators and that sort of thing, but it really is amazing when you think about it, the number of people who we are entrusted to be their voice down here. So, I hope that, going forward, you will be strong voices for your community, that you will also reach out to learn about all of the other strong voices for other communities throughout the state. It will give you a wonderful appreciation for how truly diverse this state is. And since today we are recognizing Mary Flowers, I hope that each and every one of you does reach out to Mary Flowers because what I have found is that Mary is a woman who truly is full of dignity and grace and has a generosity of spirit and is very open, sharing, and caring. And she will

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give you her point of view, and from her prospective and her position in this House. I hope that you will also do her the honor of recognizing her voice and what she can contribute to the General Assembly and helping you see things a different way. And, Mary, I would also like to say I have very much benefited from your generosity and your openness of heart. And I thank you for that because that is the model of what a Legislator should be. So, thank you."

- Speaker Welch: "We have two other Representatives seeking recognition. Representative Ammons."
- Ammons: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honor to ask you for a point of personal privilege."

Speaker Welch: "Please state your point."

Ammons: "Thank you. I stand today to share with you all my joy of being the mother of Titianna Ammons. Titianna Ammons turned 31 years old yesterday. I drove all the way back home last night, exhausted, just so that I could be present in my home with my husband to honor my daughter and all of her accomplishments. Two years ago to this date, we arrived in Springfield and we were sitting in committee, and I received a phone call that was quite disturbing, that my daughter had been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. And we had no idea how or why, but that moment literally changed her life, her trajectory, and her outcome. Six months after that diagnosis, my daughter got out of the hospital. She spent 21 days in intensive care. She got out of the hospital. She recovered. And she entered a USA Petite Pageant. And I said what? She said, 'Yes, I'm going to enter this pageant.' She did. She entered the pageant to represent Illinois in the USA Petite.

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I couldn't believe she was doing it, but she did. And she was selected to represent Illinois in the 2021 USA Petite competition that will take place March 21, 2021, in the State of Wisconsin. I want us to give her our support and our encouragement for her to keep going and to represent our state in the Miss USA Pageant and help me wish her a happy birthday. Thank you."

- Speaker Welch: "Our final speaker seeking recognition today is the honorable, the lovely and talented, knowledgeable institution we have. Representative Mary Flowers is recognized."
- Flowers: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every last one of you. And I'm grateful that I had the privilege of having my SO granddaughter, Madison Jolee Perry, joining me today because all of my life, all of my life, I have always wanted to leave a legacy for my daughter and my granddaughter. And I have a grandson, his name is Grant. And he's not listening yet. He's only a few months old. But I hope one day that he will be able to read this story about the little things that his grandmother may have done to make a difference in at least one person's life. And I used to tell people that I have the best job in the whole wide world. A lot of people wanted to know why is it that I'm still down here. How could you take that? I said, take what? I'm not taking anything. If anything, it's a give and a take. Life has never promised anyone that it was going to be easy. We going to go through our ups and downs, but if we continue to respect each other, respect each other, we can all learn from each other. And I'm just so

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humbled to be here today. And let me say before I forget, I've had so many people to talk about those people, the Republicans. And I have to be quite honest with you, my Democratic colleagues, some of my best friends sit on this side of the aisle. Some of my best friends that I can argue with and disagree with sit on this side of the aisle. When I first came through these doors in 1985, the people that I traveled down south with and went to the Birmingham Church and went to Martin Luther King burial ground, they were Republicans because we wanted to learn from each other. It wasn't no big I's and little you's. And so, as a result of the traveling, and the changes, and the arguments, and the disagreement, and the respect, the respect as human beings, we were all able to get along despite the fact we had our differences. And so, to my Democratic colleagues, oh my God, I am so humbled. I promise you I am. I went over there, and I asked Representative Mayfield, 'What are you doing?' I mean, she was just engrossed in whatever it was, and she just turned her nose up at me. I said, 'Oh, well.' But I can't ... I can't say enough. I love you Representative Greenwood. I love you all. Representative Thapedi. Representative Thapedi's mother came to me. I didn't know the kid, quite frankly. But his momma said, 'Can you help my son join you in Springfield?' I said, 'Well, for you I'll do anything.' I have to even talk about ... I could talk about a few people's mothers, quite frankly, because it was because of their mothers ... and I could talk about a few people's grandfathers and daddies because it was those people that I served with that helped make me and shape me and help me grow to be who I am today. And one of

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our previous speaker's spoke about the Constitution. You spoke of the Constitution and what it was all about, but you forgot what it started off with. And it started off with talking about we, we the people. Yesterday, I gave Slaughter my little constitutional handbook. I said, 'If they start getting on your nerve, just raise up my constitutional handbook because that Constitution includes me.' And when you talk about the laws that we're passing down here, remember we're talking about we the people. And when you're talking about other people's rights, you think about my rights, think about my granddaughter's rights, think about the rights of each and every last one of you. None of us are superior. We're all deserving of equal protection under the law. Poor people, rich people, white people, green people, black, whoever you are. And so, today, Mr. Speaker ... Mr. Speaker, Rep ... I wanted to say Representative Welch... but, Speaker Welch, I'm so honored because, see, what you all don't understand is when I first came here, it was not as diverse. And I would tell my colleagues about the people back there that always had my back. You can't see them. You can't see them, but I know they're there. And they tell me what to say, what to do, who to say it to, and how to get my message across. And so, for you, Representative Welch, and all of us, we always have to take in consideration of our past and the people that was before us. And I just want to say to Representative Butler, and he spoke of his grandfather's past, I've always said on this House Floor that one day, as some of you may remember, but we need to have a conversation about race, because the sooner that we have that conversation about race, we're all

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going to be better for it. And in some of the environment in which we are working in, in the health care environment, and the teaching environment, and whatever type of academic there is out there or whatever type of jobs there are out there, there needs to be, not only an academic portion, but a humanities portion. We have to talk about how we got to where we are and the reason why we're thinking the way we think. Why is that so many African American women are dying giving child birth? Why is it so many African American babies are not living to have a better guality of life? Why is it that so many African American men are locked up? But may I engage you, please? I sent Representative Marty Moylan a book on the reason why some of our communities are the way that they are. And I spoke to Representative Chesney about... he shared his community with me, and I was telling him about mine. And I was telling him about the laws of government that created where we are and how we got here today and the reason why our communities are in the condition that it's in. It's the government. It's the laws that we passed. We did this. And so, to my Black Caucus Members, I want to say thank you because what we started is just the beginning of the tearing down of the walls of racism. And we're going to be ... continue to be successful because we're going to have all of us working together because we will be educated on the reason why we're in the situation that we're in, and we're going to try to move forward for the people, for the people, for the elderly people, for the handicap people, for the whatever kind of people... for the people of the State of Illinois. We're going to be better for it. And I just want to say thank you all

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very much for honoring me today. I will say to you, I was pleasantly surprised because I've always felt like I was like an old shoe being kicked around. But just like that old shoe and that penny, I was never going to go away. And so, for these 36 years, thank you for being a part of my extended family. When I first came down here, I was single, fancy free. But since I've been down here, I've acquired a family, but I also lost some members of my family. But I was still able to come to a place where I could find peace, and this is my peaceful place, despite the fact all the havoc that goes around. I want to thank each and every last one you for being in my life. And, Speaker Welch, I look forward to working with you. And I'm so honored to see your beautiful family again and the First Lady of the State of Illinois. I can't wait to see them more often. And God bless us all. And I look forward to working with each and every last one of you. And, Norine, I just want to send a special shout out to you. I love you, girl, and I'm looking forward to working for you and with you for a very long time. God bless you. Thank you." Speaker Welch: "Thank you, Leader Flowers. There is nothing officially on the Calendar, but I would love to proclaim this Mary Flowers Day. And I heard a Motion, and if no one objects, in the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. It is officially Mary Flowers Day. A few announcements, Members. A reminder regarding Members official House license plates. Current license plates expire at the end of the month. Members interested in receiving license plates for the new term must send payment to the Secretary of State's Office and the new plates will be mailed to you. Further details were previously

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provided in a letter from the Secretary of State's Office. That communication will be resent to all of you for your reference. Also, Members and staff are reminded that COVID-19 testing is available downstairs in room B10. Testing will be available in room B10 until 1 p.m. today. Members and staff are encouraged to get tested before you leave the building today. I want to specifically mention, 'cause a couple people talked about it, that there will be no vote on the rules today. There is nothing on the Calendar. We are committed, as previously stated, to Member engagement before we act on the new rules. The Legislature is back in business and will be active in 2021. The Calendar for the upcoming spring Session is available at the well. It will be shared via email as well. Mr. Clerk, Agreed Resolutions."

Clerk Hollman: "Agreed Resolution. House Resolution 12, offered by Representative Burke."

- Speaker Welch: "Representative Harris moves for the adoption of the Agreed Resolutions. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Agreed Resolutions are adopted. Mr. Clerk, please read the Adjournment Resolution."
- Clerk Hollman: "Adjournment Resolution. Senate Joint Resolution #1, offered by Representative Harris. Be it
 - RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that when the two Houses adjourn, the Senate stands adjourned until Wednesday, January 20, 2021, in perfunctory session; and when it adjourns on that day, it stands adjourned until Tuesday, January 26, 2021,

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or until the call of the President; and the House of Representatives stands adjourned until Tuesday, February 2, 2021, or until the call of the Speaker."

- Speaker Welch: "And now, allowing perfunctory time… ahead of myself. Representative Harris moves for the adoption of the Adjournment Resolution. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Adjournment Resolution is adopted. And now, allowing perfunctory time for the Clerk, Representative Harris moves that the House stand adjourned until Tuesday, February 2, 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 stands adjourned."
- Clerk Bolin: "Introduction and First Reading of House Bills. House Bill 1, offered by Representative Jones, a Bill for an Act concerning firearm violence. House Bill 2, offered by Representative Jones, a Bill for an Act concerning gaming. House Bill 3, offered by Representative Greenwood, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. House Bill 4, offered by Representative Mayfield, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 5, offered by Representative DeLuca, a Bill for an Act concerning finance. House Bill 6, offered by Representative DeLuca, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. House Bill 7, offered by Representative Mayfield, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 8, offered by Representative Mayfield, a Bill for an Act concerning schools. House Bill 9, offered by Representative Gong-Gershowitz, a Bill for an Act concerning health. House Bill

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10, offered by Representative Meyers-Martin, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. House Bill 11, offered by Representative Meyers-Martin, a Bill for an Act concerning finance. House Bill 12, offered by Representative Costa Howard, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 13, offered by Representative Tarver, a Bill for an Act House Bill 14, concerning education. offered bv Representative Tarver, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. House Bill 15, offered by Representative Tarver, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 16, offered by Representative Conroy, a Bill for an Act concerning public aid. House Bill 17, offered by Representative Mason, a Bill for an Act concerning health. House Bill 18, offered by Representative Scherer, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 19, offered by Representative Costa Howard, a Bill for an Act concerning the Department of Children and Family Services. House Bill 20, offered by Representative Scherer, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. House Bill 21, offered by Representative Scherer, a Bill for an Act concerning public employee benefits. House Bill 22, offered by Representative Halpin, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. House Bill 23, offered by Representative Halpin, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 24, offered by Representative West, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 25, offered by Representative Gong-Gershowitz, a Bill for an Act concerning civil law. House Bill 26, offered bv Representative Mah, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 27, offered by Representative West, a Bill for an

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Act concerning elections. House Bill 28, offered bv Representative West, a Bill for an Act concerning law enforcement training. House Bill 29, offered by Representative Stava-Murray, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 30, offered by Representative Delgado, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 31, offered by Representative Delgado, a Bill for an Act concerning government. House Bill 32, offered by Representative Meyers-Martin, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. House Bill 33, offered by Representative Mason, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. House Bill 34, offered by Representative Walker, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. House Bill 35, offered by Representative Mason, a Bill for an Act concerning veterans. House Bill 36, offered by Representative Stuart, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. House Bill 37, offered by Representative Stuart, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 38, offered by Representative West, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 39, offered by Representative Stuart, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 40, offered by Representative Hurley, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 41, offered by Representative Stuart, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 42, offered by Representative Meyers-Martin, a Bill for an Act concerning revenue. House Bill 43, offered by Representative Stuart, a Bill for an Act concerning aging. House Bill 44, offered by Representative West, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. House Bill 45, offered by Representative Stuart, a Bill for an Act concerning

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government. House Bill 46, offered by Representative DeLuca, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. House Bill 47, offered by Representative Mason, a Bill for an Act concerning business. House Bill 48, offered by Representative Mayfield, a Bill for an Act concerning civil law. House Bill 49, offered by Representative West, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 50, offered by Representative Andrade, a Bill for an Act concerning gaming. House Bill 51, offered by Representative Andrade, a Bill for an Act concerning safety. House Bill 52, offered by Representative Andrade, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. House Bill 53, offered by Representative Andrade, a Bill for Act an concerning employment. House Bill 54, offered by Representative Didech, a Bill for an Act concerning safety. House Bill 55, offered by Representative Didech, a Bill for an Act concerning civil law. House Bill 56, offered by Representative Didech, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. House Bill 57, offered by Representative Didech, a Bill for an Act concerning elections. House Bill 58, offered by Representative Didech, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. House Bill 59, offered by Representative Butler, a Bill for an Act concerning elections. House Bill 60, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning safety. House Bill 61, offered by Representative Costa Howard, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. House Bill 62, offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning health. House Bill 63, offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. House Bill 64, offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning public

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aid. House Bill 65, offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning public aid. House Bill 66, offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning public aid. House Bill 67, offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. House Bill 68, offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. House Bill 69, offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning health. House Bill 70, offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 71, offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 72, offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for Act an concerning education. House Bill 73, offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 74, offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning employment."

Clerk Hollman: "House Bill 75, offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 76, offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. House Bill 77, offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. House Bill 78, offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for Act an 79, concerning education. House Bill offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 80, offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 81, offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 82, offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 83, offered

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by Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 84, offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 85, offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning employment. House Bill 86, offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning civil law. House Bill 87, offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning civil law. House Bill 88, offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning public aid. House Bill 89, offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. financial House Bill 90, offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. House Bill 91, offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. House Bill 92, offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning business. House Bill 93, offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning real estate appraisal. House Bill 94, offered by Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 95, offered by Representative Halpin, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. House Bill 96, offered by Representative West, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. House Bill 97, offered by Representative West, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. House Bill 98, offered by Representative Carroll, a Bill for an Act concerning business. House Bill 99, offered by Representative Carroll, a Bill for an Act concerning health. House Bill 100, offered by Representative Carroll, a Bill for an Act concerning elections. House Bill 101, offered by Representative Carroll, a Bill for an Act

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concerning persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or DeafBlind. House Bill 102, offered by Representative Carroll, a Bill for an Act concerning health. House Bill 103, offered by Representative Carroll, a Bill for an Act concerning human rights. House Bill 104, offered by Representative Carroll, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. House Bill 105, offered by Representative Hurley, a Bill for an Act concerning government. House Bill 106, offered by Representative Andrade, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. House Bill 107, offered by Representative Andrade, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. House Bill 108, offered by Representative Tarver, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. House Bill 109, offered by Representative Tarver, a Bill for an Act concerning finance. House Bill 110, offered by Representative Ford, a Bill for an Act concerning health. House Bill 111, offered by Representative Mayfield, a Bill for an Act concerning juveniles. House Bill 112, offered by Representative Sosnowski, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. House Bill 113, offered by Representative Carroll, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 114, offered by Representative Guzzardi, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 115, offered by Representative Guzzardi, a Bill for an Act concerning business. House Bill 116, offered by Representative Guzzardi, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. House Bill 117, offered by Representative Guzzardi, a Bill for an Act concerning employment. House Bill 118, offered by Representative Guzzardi, a Bill for an Act concerning employment. House Bill 119, offered by Representative

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Guzzardi, a Bill for an Act concerning health. House Bill 120, offered by Representative Guzzardi, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 121, offered by Representative Guzzardi, a Bill for an Act concerning human rights. House Bill 122, offered by Representative Didech, a Bill for an Act concerning business. House Bill 123, offered by Representative Yednock, a Bill for an Act concerning hunting. House Bill 124, offered fishing and bv Representative Flowers, a Bill for an Act concerning health. House Bill 125, offered by Representative Scherer, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. House Bill 126, offered by Representative Scherer, a Bill for an Act concerning public employee benefits. House Bill 127, offered by Representative Halpin, a Bill for an Act concerning employment. House Bill 128, offered by Representative Halpin, a Bill for an Act 129, concerning employment. House Bill offered by Representative Mason, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. House Bill 130, offered by Representative Ford, a Bill for an Act concerning revenue. House Bill 131, offered by Representative Halpin, a Bill for an Act concerning employment. House Bill 132, offered by Representative Delgado, a Bill for an Act concerning finance. House Bill 133, offered by Representative Mayfield, a Bill for an Act concerning juveniles. House Bill 134, offered by Representative Meyers-Martin, a Bill for an Act concerning revenue. House Bill 135, offered by Representative Mussman, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. House Bill 136, offered by Representative Andrade, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. House Bill 137, offered by

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Representative Meyers-Martin, a Bill for an Act concerning revenue. House Bill 138, offered by Representative Meyers-Martin, a Bill for an Act concerning revenue. House Bill 139, offered by Representative Andrade, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. House Bill 140, offered by Representative Andrade, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. House Bill 141, offered by Representative Ford, a Bill for an Act concerning public aid. House Bill 142, offered by Representative Ford, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. House Bill 143, offered by Representative Meyers-Martin, a Bill for an Act concerning revenue. House Bill 144, offered by Representative Harper, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. House Bill 145, offered by Representative Morgan, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. House Bill 146, offered by Representative Morgan, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. House Bill 147, offered bv Representative Morgan, a Bill for an Act concerning health. House Bill 148, offered by Representative Morgan, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 149, offered by Representative Morgan, a Bill for an Act concerning health. First Reading of these House Bills. Introduction of Resolutions. House Resolution 4, offered by Representative West. House Resolution 5, offered by Representative West. House Resolution 6, offered by Representative Carroll. House 7, offered by Resolution Representative Mason. House 8, offered by Resolution Representative Mason. House Resolution 9, offered by Representative Carroll. House Resolution 10, offered by Representative DeLuca. House Resolution 11, offered by Representative Harper. House Joint

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Resolution 1, offered by Representative West. House Joint Resolution 2, offered by Representative Yednock. House Joint Resolution 3, offered by Representative Yednock. House Joint Resolution 4, offered by Representative Yednock. These are referred to the Rules Committee. Introduction and First Reading in full of House Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment #1, offered by Representative DeLuca. Be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the State for adoption or rejection at the general election next occurring at least 6 months after the adoption of this resolution a proposition to amend the Illinois Constitution in Article IV by adding Section 2.5 as follows:

ARTICLE IV

THE LEGISLATURE

SECTION 2.5. TERM LIMITS

(a) A person may not serve as a State Representative for more than 3 terms of office that begin on or after the date that this Section is declared adopted.

(b) A person may not serve as a State Senator for more than3 terms of office that begin on or after the date that thisSection is declared adopted.

(c) A person is considered to serve a term of office for the purpose of this Section if the person is elected or appointed to serve any portion of the term.

SCHEDULE

This Constitutional Amendment takes effect upon being declared adopted in accordance with Section 7 of the Illinois

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Constitutional Amendment Act and applies to the election of members of the General Assembly in the first general election to occur after this Amendment is declared adopted and thereafter. This Constitutional Amendment does not, however, affect the terms of members of the General Assembly elected before this amendment is declared adopted. This was First Reading in full of House Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment #1. There being no further business, the House Perfunctory Session will stand adjourned."