

Cabinet members who did not attend the State of the Union Address (since 1984*)

February 28, 2017** Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin

January 12, 2016 Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson

January 20, 2015 Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx

January 28, 2014 Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz

February 12, 2013 Secretary of Energy Steven Chu

January 24, 2012 Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack

January 25, 2011 Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar

January 28, 2010 Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Shaun Donovan

February 24, 2009** Attorney General Eric Holder

January 28, 2008 Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne

January 23, 2007 Attorney General Alberto Gonzales

January 31, 2006 Veterans Affairs Secretary Jim Nicholson

February 2, 2005 Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans

January 20, 2004 Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans

January 28, 2003 Attorney General John Ashcroft

January 29, 2002 Interior Secretary Gale Norton

February 27, 2001** Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony Principi

January 27, 2000 Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson

January 19, 1999 Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Andrew W. Cuomo

January 27, 1998 Commerce Secretary Bill Daley

February 4, 1997 Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman

January 30, 1996 Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala

January 24, 1995 Transportation Secretary Federico Pena

January 25, 1994 Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy

February 17, 1993** Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt

January 28, 1992 Secretary of Agriculture Ed Madigan

January 29, 1991 Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan

January 31, 1990 Veterans Affairs Secretary Edward J. Derwinski

February 9, 1989** Unknown

January 25, 1988 Interior Secretary Donald P. Hodel

January 27, 1987 Agriculture Secretary Richard Lyng

February 4, 1986 Secretary of Agriculture John Block

February 6, 1985 Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige

January 25, 1984 Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Samuel R. Pierce Jr.

* The practice of one cabinet official remaining absent from the event dates at least to the early 1960s and perhaps much earlier. Prior to the 1980s, however, the selection of the official was often not made public.

** This address before a joint session of Congress is not considered an official "State of the Union" message, although the president followed the State of the Union tradition of having a cabinet member stay home.

Senate Historical Office
February 2017