

RECESS

At 11:44 a.m., on a motion by Speaker Bromm, the Legislature recessed until 1:30 p.m.

AFTER RECESS

The Legislature reconvened at 1:30 p.m., Speaker Bromm presiding.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called and all members were present except Senator Chambers who was excused.

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

Presentation of Colors by the State Area Command of the Nebraska Army National Guard and the 155th Air Refueling Wing of the Nebraska Air National Guard.

INAUGURAL CEREMONIES

Chief Justice John Hendry administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected State officials.

Governor Mike Johanns delivered the following Inaugural Address:

GOVERNOR'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chief Justice, Members of the Legislature, distinguished guests and friends, I am humbled and honored to stand before you today and to take the oath of office for a second term as Nebraska's 38th Governor.

Four years ago, in my first inaugural address, I referred to the words of former Nebraska Governor William A. Poynter who addressed the 26th session of the Nebraska Legislature in 1899.

Governor Poynter said, "We recognize that the primary power rests in the hands of the people and that this, their will, should be considered supreme. Partisanship may be bitter before election, but the will of the people having been expressed, citizenship should rise above partisanship. It is my most sincere desire that we shall cooperate for the best interests of the state."

Governor Poynter's address reflects the spirit of then and now. The legislative and executive branches of government can be more effective working toward a common purpose than we could ever hope to be working at cross-purposes.

In this session, there will be difficult choices and sacrifices made by each of us and by every Nebraskan. As we proceed, we must approach our discussions, our debate and our challenges with the civility that Nebraskans have come to expect from their leaders. That's not to say there won't be disagreements; there have been in the past. But we have accomplished much in four years, leaving me optimistic about this session and the coming four years.

In 1999, my administration began with a five-point agenda based on priorities set by Nebraskans: tax relief, less government, a strong statewide economy, protecting families, and ensuring the health, safety and success of Nebraska's children. Those priorities will continue.

The journey I began four years ago has spanned thousands of miles as I've traveled to every corner of Nebraska. Along the way, I've become acquainted with thousands of our citizens who have shared with me their hopes for the future, their concerns about the present and their memories of the past. I've been reminded that the pioneer spirit that Willa Cather detailed in her books still exists among Nebraskans, and that our heritage is one of our most precious resources.

Together, we've weathered natural disasters, devastating drought, financial hardships and acts of terrorism. And together, we've celebrated births, lauded graduations, reached out to our fellow man and laid the groundwork for an even brighter future for our children.

While there is no shortage to my optimism for the future, I realize that there are some very trying times ahead for our state. We must continue to work together to conquer our challenges and diversify our economy so that every Nebraskan has the opportunity to succeed in whatever life path they chose.

I approach the next four years of my service to the people of this great state with enthusiasm, humility and awe at the opportunity that has been bestowed upon me. I also approach the next four years with deep gratitude to you, the members of the Nebraska Unicameral, for your willingness to serve our state and to partner in leading our state forward. Your service has earned my admiration.

As I leave here today, I do so with tremendous hope for our future, knowing that our best days are still to come.

May God bless you, your families, and the great State of Nebraska.

The Governor, Chief Justice, associate justices, newly elected state officials, congressional delegation, and families were escorted from the Chamber.