

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

February 24, 2009¹	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, 2001²	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 Epsy
February 17, 1993³	Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt

¹This address before a joint session of Congress is not considered an official “State of the Union” message, although President Obama followed the State of the Union tradition of having a cabinet member stay home.

²This address before a joint session of Congress is not considered an official “State of the Union” message, although President Bush followed the State of the Union tradition of having a cabinet member stay home.

³This address before a joint session of Congress is not considered an official “State of the Union” message, although President Clinton followed the State of the Union tradition of having a cabinet member stay home.

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, 1989⁴	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.

Senate Historical Office
February 2009

⁴This address before a joint session of Congress is not considered an official “State of the Union” message.