

Charles W. Johnson
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Paving the Way for a Commemorative Joint Meeting

Charles W. Johnson details the 2002 Commemorative Joint Meeting of Congress in New York City.
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Representative Rangel introduced a resolution to actually require the two Houses to be in session in New York City. And that would have, under the Constitution, the two Houses cannot convene for business outside the seat of government without the consent of the other House, and it has to be in one place, it can't be the Senate in one city, the House in another. But that was finally converted to a resolution for a ceremony during adjournments. And the, the two Houses went to New York by train, I accompanied that trip, and there, there were a series of speeches in Federal Hall by the Vice President and—Cheney and Hastert were really kind of co-presided. And I'd never been to Federal Hall, the first—where the first Congress had met in 1789, and it was, it was beautifully arranged, it really was.