

Partial transcript of Donald Trump's RNC acceptance speech on 7/18/2024

Friends, Delegates, and fellow citizens:

I stand before you this evening with a message of confidence, strength, and hope. Four months from now, we will have an incredible victory, and we will begin the four greatest years in the history of our country.

Together, we will launch a new era of safety, prosperity and freedom for citizens of every race, religion, color, and creed.

The discord and division in our society must be healed. As Americans, we are bound together by a single fate and a shared destiny. We rise together. Or we fall apart.

I am running to be president for ALL of America, not half of America, because there is no victory in winning for half of America.

So tonight, with faith and devotion, I proudly accept your nomination for president of the United States.

Let me begin this evening by expressing my gratitude to the American people for your outpouring of love and support following the assassination attempt at my rally on Saturday. As you already know, the assassin's bullet came within a quarter of an inch of taking my life.

So many people have asked me what happened, and therefore, I'll tell you what happened, and you'll never hear it from me a second time, because it's too painful to tell.

It was a warm, beautiful day in the early evening in Butler Township in the great commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Music was loudly playing, and the campaign was doing well.

I went to the stage, and the crowd was cheering wildly. I began speaking very happily because I was discussing the great job my administration did on immigration at the southern border. Behind me and to the right was a large screen that was displaying a chart of border crossings under my leadership. The numbers were amazing. In order to see the chart, I started to turn to my right, and was ready to begin a further turn, which I'm lucky I didn't, when I heard a loud whizzing sound and felt something hit me, really hard, on my right ear.

I said to myself, "Wow, what was that—it can only be a bullet,"—and moved my right hand to my ear, brought it down, and my hand was covered with blood. I immediately knew it was very

serious, that we were under attack, and in one movement, proceeded to drop to the ground. Bullets continued to fly as very brave Secret Service agents rushed to the stage and pounced on top of me for protection. There was blood pouring everywhere, and yet, in a certain way I felt very safe, because I had God on my side.

The amazing thing is that prior to the shot, if I had NOT moved my head at the very last instant, the assassin's bullet would have perfectly hit its mark, and I would not be with you tonight.

The most incredible aspect of what took place on that terrible evening in the fading sun was seen later. In almost all cases, and when even a single bullet is fired—and we had many—crowds run for the exits or stampede, but not in this case. This massive crowd of tens of thousands of people stood by and didn't move an inch. In fact, many of them bravely, but automatically, stood up looking for where the sniper would be, and then began pointing at him.

Nobody ran, and by not stampeding, many lives were saved. But that isn't the reason they didn't move—the reason is that they knew I was in serious trouble, they saw all of the blood, and thought I was dead, and they just didn't want to leave me, and you can see that love written all over their faces. Bullets were flying over us, yet I felt serene—but now the Secret Service agents were putting themselves in peril. And then it all stopped. Our Secret Service sniper, from a much greater distance, and with only one bullet, took the assassin out.

I am not supposed to be here tonight. I stand before you in this arena only by the grace of almighty God. Many people say it was a providential moment.

When I rose, surrounded by Secret Service, the crowd was confused because they thought I was dead, and there was great sorrow on their faces until I raised my right arm, looked at the thousands of people that were breathlessly waiting, and started shouting FIGHT, FIGHT, FIGHT. Once my clenched fist went up, high into the air, the crowd realized I was okay, and roared with pride for our country, like no crowd I have ever heard before. For the rest of my life, I will be grateful for the love shown by that giant audience of patriots that stood bravely on that fateful evening in Pennsylvania.

Tragically, the shooter claimed the life of one of our fellow Americans, Corey Comperatore,

and seriously wounded two other great warriors, David Dutch and James Copenhaver. I spoke to all three families of these tremendous people—our love and prayers are with them, and always will be. Corey, a highly respected former fire chief, was accompanied by his wife Helen and two precious daughters. He lost his life selflessly acting as a human shield to protect them from flying bullets. He was such a fine man. Next to me on stage this evening are Corey's firefighting helmet and jacket. I now ask that we observe a moment of silence in honor of Corey.

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for others. This is the spirit that forged America in her darkest hours, and this is the love that will lead America back to the summit of human achievement and greatness.

Despite such a heinous attack, we unite this evening more determined than ever. Our resolve is unbroken, and our purpose is unchanged--to deliver a government that serves the American People.

Nothing will stop me in this mission. Because our vision is righteous and our cause is pure. No matter what obstacle comes our way: we will not break. We will not bend. We will not back down. And I will never stop fighting for you, your family, and our magnificent country. Everything I have to give, with all of the energy and fight in my heart and soul, I pledge to our nation tonight.

~ ~ ~

Then, Trump started reading the Republican platform part of the speech, which is not herein included. For the full transcript: <https://www.nbcboston.com/news/national-international/read-donald-trumps-full-rnc-speech-accepting-gop-nomination/3432055/>