

The Detroit News

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To whom it may concern:

With Michigan's 16 Electoral College votes contested by President Donald Trump, The Detroit News felt it was important to cover the count of Jan. 6 from inside the House chamber. The News maintains the largest Washington, D.C., presence of any Michigan news outlet, and Melissa Nann Burke covers our Congressional delegation.

As horrifying as it was on television, it is difficult to convey how terrifying and chaotic those events were for those inside the chamber.

Melissa was in regular communication with her editors via text and Microsoft Teams, both witnessing and becoming an unwitting participant in a national drama.

After members of Congress and journalists were hastened to secure locations, Melissa was asked to do the very difficult: Gather her tools, find a place to concentrate, set aside the still-racing emotions of the afternoon and, on a tight deadline, tell Detroit News readers what it was like to be there.

Her resulting piece is a captivating, thoroughly reported and personally touching description of the drama that unfolded and the feelings of those inside, conveyed in a way that can only be done from reporting the story in person (even amid a pandemic).

We consider it an outstanding piece of spot-news coverage in the most trying of circumstances. We hope you agree.

Sincerely,

