

to which he dedicated his selfless life, the beloved most Reverend Roman Catholic Bishop Robert W. Donnelly was laid to rest. This “priest of priests,” gentle soul, humble leader, and compassionate shepherd passed from this life on July 21, 2014. With loving gratitude, our entire community extends its deepest appreciation for his life and deepest sympathy to his family and friends at his passing.

Bishop Donnelly’s religious life spanned 57 years, and he served as parish priest for seven congregations and taught in two Catholic high schools. Everywhere, he was of the people and revered.

What a priest, what a bishop, what a shepherd was he—a gentle and holy man and a powerful religious leader. The thousands upon thousands of homilies and religious messages he shared were not bombastic but wise. He touched thousands upon thousands of people across generations with baptisms, graduations, communions, marriages, funerals, and confirmations. Bishop Donnelly was a man of peace. He was hardworking and always present when it mattered.

With his extraordinary brother priest, Father Martin Donnelly, with whom he retired, their service cannot be measured in years but, rather, in devotion to imbuing real meaning to the faith to which they devoted their lives.

May God grant him eternal rest as the joy of his spirit is released to eternity.

MOST REV. ROBERT W. “BISHOP BOB”
DONNELLY

Most Reverend Robert William Donnelly passed on to eternal life on July 21, 2014, surrounded by his family after a short illness. Born in Toledo March 22, 1931, to Agnes (Quinn) and Leonard Donnelly, he was a son of West Toledo’s Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, living close by and attending elementary school there—the tallest kid in the 8th grade. As a teen he worked summers as a day camp supervisor at Close Park. During his high school years in the Class of 1949 at Central Catholic he played football and CYO basketball and baseball, and was an avid CCHS tennis player; he captained the tennis team there. Later, at Quinn Family reunions he was the pitcher for the annual softball games. He enthusiastically donned costumes for family reunions and the Blessed Sacrament Halloween Parades. And he had golf in his blood, avidly playing the game.

Bishop Bob earned a Bachelor’s degree in Philosophy at St. Meinrad College Seminary. Ordained a priest May 25, 1957, he loved his years in pastoral ministry at Sandusky St. Mary, Landeck St. John, Spencerville St. Patrick, Rossford Ss. Cyril & Methodius, Toledo St. Clement, Toledo St. Charles, and Fostoria St. Wendelin; and teaching at Delphos St. John and Oregon Cardinal Stritch high schools. In every assignment, his heart was always with the people.

He earned a Master’s degree in Theology at Saint John’s University, Collegeville, Minnesota and attended graduate school programs at Mount Saint Mary Seminary, Norwood, Ohio; Xavier University, Cincinnati; and the University of Toledo. He was ordained Bishop on May 3, 1984. As Toledo Auxiliary Bishop he was appointed to several diocesan positions, serving as Vicar General for 20 years and diocesan administrator fol-

lowing the death of Bishop James Hoffman; he was chairman of the diocesan Ecumenical Commission, a Pro-Synodal consultant, a director of RENEW, and a member of the diocesan board of consultants. He also served on the National Council of Catholic Bishops’ committees for Pastoral Practices, Evangelization, and African America Catholics as well as local boards of St. Vincent’s Hospital, United Way, and Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE). He retired in May 2006.

Brother priests have known him as “a priest of priests.” He is remembered as a truly gentle man, a warm and loyal friend, a wonderful mentor, respectful, humble, a people person. His friends and family say that he was always open and would give his full attention to whatever they had to say, putting them at ease; he could always find something good in everyone. When he presided at Mass, people knew it wasn’t “his” Mass; it was a prayer of, and for, and by, everyone. He gathered often with life-long friends for cards and camaraderie, loved to vacation with family, and cherished friendships with brother priests. He enjoyed cooking and was good at it, taking special care with holiday dinners of crown roast, apple dumplings, and caesar salad. He later shared and traded secret recipes with his beloved cousin, cook, housekeeper, and friend Dorothy “Buck” Taylor.

With subtle wit and care, Bishop Bob loved his family and friends and took delight in children. His many cousins, nieces, and nephews affectionately call him “Uncle Father Bishop Bob.” He had a seemingly endless line of advice seekers who he couldn’t be more excited and willing to tend to. His Irish heritage inspired him to take a group of the younger generation of family members to Ireland to meet their blood kin. When asked a question, his responses were well-thought-out, detailed, and explained.

Bishop Bob was predeceased by his parents, brother Quinn Donnelly, sister Mary Hendricks, and cousins Fr. Tom Quinn and Betty Mears. He is survived by his brother, Fr. Marty Donnelly, his brother-in-law Pat Hendricks, nieces and nephews Ann (Tim) Doran, Larry (Sharon) Hendricks, Jim (Julie) Hendricks, Mike (Kaye) Hendricks, Kay (Bill) Byrne, and David (Betsy) Hendricks; 24 great nieces and nephews; and 12 great-great nieces and nephews.

Friends may visit Monday, July 28, from 2 to 8 p.m. at Our Lady Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral, 2535 Collingwood Boulevard, Toledo, where a Vigil Service will be celebrated at 7 p.m. Rosary will be prayed Tuesday, July 29, at 10 a.m., with visitation until 11:45 a.m. The Funeral Mass of Resurrection will be celebrated at noon Tuesday, followed by burial at Resurrection Cemetery. Arrangements by Blanchard-Strabler Funeral Home (419-269-1111) The family would appreciate that any memorial donations be sent to St. Martin de Porres, 1119 W. Bancroft Street, Toledo, OH 43606. Online condolences: blanchardstrabler.com.

□ 1800

SUPPORT OF ISRAEL

(Mr. ROKITA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reaffirm my support for one of our closest allies, Israel, as they combat a surge of violence against their sovereign country from the terrorist group Hamas.

The history of the Jewish people is one of faith, honor, and most importantly, survival. This situation is no different.

Hamas claims that Israel has no right to exist and uses tactics that are beneath the dignity of the human race as they carry out these attacks.

Israel has proven time and time again it is a willing and a waiting partner in the struggle for peace in the region. It continues to endure and defend against attack after attack, however, quite often without retaliation. Yet, faced with the pure evil that Hamas represents, no one should find fault in Israel’s measured response and efforts to ensure these attacks are halted and halted for good.

We must continue to show our unwavering support for our friend and ally, Israel.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO LEBANON—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113-142)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Lebanon that was declared in Executive Order 13441 of August 1, 2007, is to continue in effect beyond August 1, 2014.

Certain ongoing activities, such as continuing arms transfers to Hizballah, which include increasingly sophisticated weapons systems, undermine Lebanese sovereignty, contribute to political and economic instability in the region, and continue to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13441 with respect to Lebanon.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 29, 2014.

ISRAEL’S RIGHT TO PROTECT ITSELF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Utah

(Mr. STEWART) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, we live in a very dangerous world. It seems like there is chaos and darkness all around us. As a former Air Force pilot, I have seen the results of abusive power in a very real way.

It seems like every time we turn on the television or we read the news, we get the feeling that the world is being turned upside down. The wheels have come off the train and we seem to be careening towards the cliff: Russia takes Crimea and then sends ununiformed troops into eastern Ukraine; tens of thousands of deaths in Syria, with millions of refugees; the recent evacuation of our own Embassy in Libya; Iran working toward a nuclear weapon; ISIS in Iraq creating essentially a terrorist state; the crisis of Chinese power threatening significant parts of the Eastern world. The list of concerns is very long, indeed.

But nowhere is the strife and uncertainty more dangerous, more strategic, and more critical to U.S. interests than what we are witnessing in Israel and their military operations in Gaza.

Israel is the most important ally in the region that we have. It has the only democratically elected government in a very unstable and violent part of the world. It has a vibrant, free capitalistic society that respects human rights, that respects women's rights, that respects minority rights, even the religious minorities.

Let me say this as clearly and as unambiguously as I can: Israel is our friend and our ally. So tonight we stand with Israel and state without equivocation that Israel has a right to defend itself.

Let me set the stage for the crisis that is happening right now, very quickly.

September 2005: Israel withdraws from Gaza Strip, home to some 1.8 million people. Thousands of Israelis are uprooted and missile fire from Gaza into Israel increases dramatically.

A few short months later, in January 2006, Hamas deposes Fatah, wins elections, and becomes the ruling party of Gaza. The United States, Britain, and all the European Union consider Hamas a terrorist organization.

June 2007: Hamas seizes power in Gaza with Mahmoud Abbas and the Palestinian Authority.

Skipping ahead now to May 2014: rocket attacks from Gaza to Israel increase.

June 12, 2014: Three Israeli teenagers are kidnapped and killed on the West

Bank. The PA aids Israel Defense Forces in clamping down on Hamas in the West Bank and tension increases significantly. As a result of that, Hamas unleashes hundreds of rockets in Israel.

Finally, July 7, 2014: the Israel Defense Forces launch Operation Protective Edge. Its goal is to stop the insistent rocket attacks in Israel. Within a week, they expand to an offensive ground war. Its purpose is to destroy Hamas tunnels built for military use against Israel. Now, we will talk more about these tunnels, but let me mention just briefly that, to date, Israel has uncovered more than 66 access shafts to 30 tunnels. Palestinian militants have fired, to date, more than 2,000 rockets since the fighting began on July 8.

Let me put that in perspective before I turn the time over to some of my colleagues.

Imagine, if you will, that al Qaeda or ISIS in Iraq has pledged the destruction of the U.S., something which is not hard to imagine. Now imagine they placed a military frigate off our eastern shore. Now, they claim that it is a supply ship, they say that it has no military purpose, that it only has civilian and peaceful purposes. But then imagine they start lobbing not a few and not dozens, but hundreds of rockets and missiles along our eastern shore, specifically targeting cities where millions of innocent families live.

What would we do? What should we do. Would you expect your government, your President, to protect you? Of course, we would. We would defend ourselves. We would seek the elimination of the threat. We would protect our own people, our values, our way of life. Any Nation would, and every Nation should be able to do that.

That is all the State of Israel is asking: the right to defend itself. That is why we are here tonight, to defend a friend and ally against not only missiles and rockets, but against an onslaught of deception in the world of public opinion. We want our friends in Israel to know that they do not stand alone.

I have invited some of my friends and colleagues to share the floor with me this evening as we stand firm and united in the defense of Israel and their right to protect themselves.

I would like to begin with my colleague Dr. WENSTRUP from Ohio. He is a fellow veteran, he has served in the Army Reserves since 1989, and served a tour in Iraq. He sits on the House Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. I yield to Dr. WENSTRUP.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Thank you. I appreciate my friend, the gentleman from Utah, for putting this together tonight to allow us to share our message in support of Israel.

The fear that has engulfed innocent civilians in this conflict is really unthinkable. In southern Ohio and across America, could you imagine rockets

raining down indiscriminately on Cincinnati or Chillicothe or Portsmouth? Ohioans know the fear that they feel when they hear tornado sirens blare and the impending threat of possible destruction. Imagine that fear amplified and extended continuously over weeks by an enemy that seeks to eliminate your country and your countrymen.

The continued success of the Iron Dome has protected countless innocents and weakened the perpetual threat posed by the terrorist organizations that surround them. I am proud to say that America has been a strong partner in pioneering this technology.

While Israel continues to protect their people with the Iron Dome, Hamas urges Palestinians to become human shields to protect their Hamas rockets.

We all hope for a peaceful resolution to the current conflict. Unfortunately, Hamas continually rejects cease-fire deals. Hamas refuses to recognize Israel's right to exist and is dedicated to destroying the State of Israel.

Just yesterday, Hamas used tunnels to burrow into Israel and ambush Israeli soldiers, killing many. Can you imagine a terrorist group with tunnels built to infiltrate your town, your village, your city?

The construction materials used to build these terrorist tunnels were intended to construct schools and hospitals, but Hamas would rather continue its perpetual aggression with Israel than better the lives of the Palestinian people. Hamas would rather fire rockets from playgrounds and homes than work towards peace.

The American public stands with Israel on a foundation of shared democratic values and a commitment to a free society, especially in the face of rising anti-Semitism across the globe.

Israel cannot draw down while Hamas continues to dig tunnels, giving them unfettered access to towns.

Every Nation has the right and responsibility to defend itself, and Israel is no different.

Mr. STEWART. Thank you, Dr. WENSTRUP.

Next, I would like to yield to Mr. STEVE KING, a colleague and gentleman from Iowa. Mr. KING sits on the Agriculture, Small Business, and Judiciary Committees, and he has always been a strong defender of Israel.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman for yielding and for leading on this Special Order to have this discussion about the sovereignty and the safety and the protection of Israel, our strongest ally in the Middle East, the place where there is a rule of law, where there are property rights, where they are available to everyone that is an Israel citizen, whether they happen to be of Arabic descent, whether they happen to be of Jewish descent, or any other descent.

The allies that Israel have been deserve on our side that similar kind of support, in fact, a stronger support.

There have been so many messages that have been sent from this administration to the contrary, we need to be standing on the floor of the House of Representatives sending a message to Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, and the leaders that are there, the members of the Israel Defense Forces: We stand with you, Israel. Any Nation that is surrounded by enemies, that is infiltrated by tunnels that are dug through to be able to infiltrate and kill innocent people on the streets of Israel, kidnap them, celebrate that, any government that is formed for the purposes of eradicating Israel from the face of the Earth—and, Mr. Speaker, I would point out that this new government that was formed among the Palestinian Authority, the Palestinian unity government, includes Hamas terrorist leaders in the cabinet.

Finally, the political arm of Hamas, which always was the Palestinian Authority, has openly now embraced Hamas itself. This Congress and the administration itself and the American people need to understand that there is a Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006 which prohibits the U.S. from sending foreign aid to the Palestinian Authority government. That includes Hamas terrorists. It says that we are not going to fund any terrorist organizations, and Hamas has been declared a terrorist organization.

We are watching now as the operations that were so utterly necessary, the Israel Defense Forces going into Gaza, losing Israeli soldiers, and, yes, they have to defend them since thousands of rockets have been fired into Israel. Living under that threat of a people that outside your borders would raise their children to carry suicide vests, to kill themselves to try to kill Israelis, to teach the things that they teach to the young people in that culture and in that climate, that hatred is on one side of that border of Gaza, it is not on both sides. It is on the Gaza side, it is in the West Bank, and it is all around Israel, it is not from within Israel out.

I am amazed at how forgiving they are, how patient they are, how tolerant they are, how they have suffered the way they have, and they waited until it absolutely had to be before the order was given to go in and eradicate the tunnels and to try to take out some of the rocket locations. These rockets are in schools around children. They are using human shields of the children. They are hoping—I guess I can't quite say hoping—but willing to accept the casualties of children, because that is a media message to the world.

This is an appalling set of neighbors that Israel has. They want to live in peace. They have a right to live in peace. We stand with Israel. Israel stands to defend itself. We need to make sure that they have the resources to do so and the moral support from the United States.

I would point out also the statement that was made by Ari Shavit in the

newspaper in Israel. He said of Secretary Kerry's latest attempt for a cease-fire over the weekend that "very senior officials in Jerusalem described the proposal that Kerry put on the table as a strategic terrorist attack."

□ 1815

That is not a very strong message, I would say, Mr. Speaker. It is not a very strong message representing the policy of the United States coming from our Secretary of State. Our policy is we stand with the Israeli people. We stand for their self-defense.

I thank the gentleman for setting up this Special Order tonight.

Mr. STEWART. Thank you, Mr. KING.

Mr. KING mentioned the tunnels. I would like to illustrate this, if I could, and just interject very quickly. This is a photograph of the tunnels. These aren't dark 2-foot holes dug into the ground.

These are sophisticated, expensive, complicated contraptions that have been put together—30 tunnels, not including the more than two dozen that were discovered prior to Operation Protective Edge. They run for miles.

They are dug more than 60 feet beneath the ground, so that they avoid seismic detection. Some of them are large enough that you can drive a vehicle through them.

You think: What is their purpose? Is it to smuggle men, weapons, or material? It is to in some cases, unfortunately, smuggle and hide those who have been captured and are being kidnapped. Hamas operatives have been intercepted emerging from the tunnels with tranquilizers and handcuffs—obviously, to kidnap Israeli soldiers.

Once again, how much better would the situation have been for the citizens of Gaza if these resources and this money had been diverted? Instead of building tunnels, build infrastructure and schools and hospitals and other things that the citizens there could use.

Thank you, Mr. KING, for your comments.

I would like now to yield to my good friend, Mr. DAINES from Montana. He is a successful businessman who sits on the Homeland Security, Natural Resources, and Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittees.

Mr. DAINES. I want to thank the gentleman from Utah for putting together this Special Order. I also want to thank you, Congressman STEWART, for your service to our country. As a B-1 bomber pilot, you in fact hold the record for the fastest nonstop flight around the world. Thank you for your service to our country, Chris.

As our closest ally, Israel's security is critical not only for the future of Israeli people, but also for the security of the United States. Both of our nations were founded by those seeking political and religious freedom.

Israel is the beacon of democracy in the Middle East. Our continued support

for Israel is crucial to bringing peace, stability, and security to this most important region of the world.

Daily rocket fire from Gaza is one of the many threats facing the Israeli people. I was in Israel last year. As I stood at the border with Syria, I could hear mortar and rocket fire in the distance.

Since its founding in 1948, Israel has faced a number of existential threats from all sides, including invasion by its neighbors and terrorism from radical groups operating within Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank.

This past March, representatives from Montana's Crow Tribe presented a formal resolution to Israeli Ambassador Ron Dermer in my office here in Washington. The resolution from the Crow Legislature to the Israeli people affirmed their support of Israel's right to exist and recognized their shared challenges of maintaining political and territorial independence and a deep connection to their ancestral homelands.

During this meeting in my office with Crow Tribal leaders and Israeli Ambassador Dermer, his cell phone went off. It wasn't a call. It wasn't a text message. It wasn't an email.

It was an app he had on his phone that many Israelis have to warn them of impending rocket attacks. It was a sober realization that each time his phone made that noise, fearful Israeli families had seconds to scramble for their lives.

As the Israeli people remain steadfast in confronting these threats, they deserve our unyielding support now and in the future. America's commitment to Israel must never waver. We must stand with Israel.

Mr. STEWART. Mr. DAINES, I agree that we must stand with Israel. All of us here tonight agree that we must stand with Israel.

I now yield to my colleague and good friend, Mrs. HARTZLER from Missouri.

Mrs. HARTZLER. I thank the gentleman from Utah. I appreciate you leading this critical Special Order tonight.

It has been a dangerous few weeks in Israel. We have been watching the developments between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, as Israel shows restraint while still protecting its citizens.

Quite simply, Israel is under siege by a radical faction that displays blatant disregard for its citizens. Hamas is using its citizens as human shields, building bombs in the basements of schools and homes, and prohibiting families from evacuating areas where rockets are being launched.

Israel has shown tremendous restraint and has every right to defend itself against these unwarranted attacks. Over 2,000 rockets have been launched into Israel, reaching even Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Over 80 percent of the country's citizens have had to huddle in bomb shelters for parts of 3 weeks now.

Over 6 million men, women, and children are endangered, yet Israel has

agreed to cease-fire after cease-fire. Unfortunately, Hamas has not abided by these calls, firing dozen of rockets into Israel, even when Israel was ceasing its efforts to protect its citizens, so that humanitarian assistance could arrive to the people in the Gaza Strip.

Israel has gone above and beyond for years now to help the people of Gaza and give them an opportunity for a better life. Nine years ago, Israel moved totally out of Gaza, giving the land and farms and greenhouses to people of Gaza. 10,000 Israeli lives were disrupted as they moved to Israel.

Generous people all over the world raised money to buy the tractors and farm equipment for the people of Gaza. The area could have become the jewel of the Mediterranean and a peaceful neighbor to Israel—a model of a two-state solution. Instead, they tore down the greenhouses. Instead of building roads and homes, they built tunnels with the intent to attack and kill Israelis. They voted Hamas in power and turned the area into a terrorist military outpost.

So here we are today, while Hamas is bent on killing innocent Israelis, Israel is intent on preserving their lives. As they seek to stop the rocket fire in the Gaza Strip, Israel goes to great lengths to save innocent lives. It drops leaflets into the neighborhoods, warning of an impending military attack to take out the rocket launchers, which are often strategically placed by Hamas in the neighborhoods.

It then calls the residents of the house to warn them, then sends text messages to the home, then “knocks” on the house by dropping a small non-penetrating bomb on the roof to let people know they are serious. Unfortunately, Hamas has responded by stopping people from fleeing and even forcing them onto the rooftops as human shields.

Thankfully, the Iron Dome missile defense system has stopped rockets from reaching their targets in Israel. As Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said:

Israel uses its missile defense system to save human lives. Hamas uses its people to save its missiles.

We need to be standing strong for the only democracy and our greatest ally in the Middle East. We need to let other nations know we will never abandon Israel, and they need to join us in speaking out against the affront to national sovereignty and to human decency. We need to be offering assistance to stop these attacks and help Israel stay safe.

It is time for Hamas to agree to a total cease-fire. Any loss of life is tragic, and Hamas needs to end their blatant disregard for their citizens and agree to end the attacks.

Please join me in praying for the peace of Jerusalem.

Mr. STEWART. Thank you. We have so many people who want to join in this conversation tonight. We are grateful for many of those who participated.

It is my honor to yield to Mr. ENGEL, who represents New York, the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Sir, we are glad to have you with us.

Mr. ENGEL. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me, and I want to thank all my colleagues for their excellent remarks. I agree with every word that has been said.

I think perhaps I will start off with a bit of good news because everyone can see this tonight. At a time when the pundits say that the two parties can't agree on anything, that nothing gets done, and that there is too much fighting, there is one thing on which we can agree, and that is that the support for Israel in this Congress is strong and it is bipartisan, and that is the way it should be.

It is bipartisan for a number of reasons. First of all, Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East. We share common values with Israel, and we understand that the people of Israel, right now, are besieged.

Hamas is a terrorist group. It is not a fight between Israelis and Palestinians. It is a fight between Israel and a terrorist group. As someone who was in New York on that fateful day of September 11, 2001, Israel has endured many September 11, 2001s.

My colleague said it right before. The difference between the Hamas terrorists and Israelis is that Israel uses its missiles to protect its citizens and Hamas uses its citizens to protect its missiles.

It is terrible when any civilians die, and my heart breaks for casualties on both sides, but Hamas uses their citizens as human shields. They build their bomb factories, and they build their missile factories in mosques and schoolyards. Missiles were even found in United Nation schools. They do this deliberately because they apparently don't value human life at all.

Let's just imagine if we, in the United States, had a terrorist group over the border in Canada firing rockets, hurting people in New York or Michigan. Wouldn't we respond?

If there were terrorists in Mexico that were firing into Arizona, Texas, or California, would we just simply let our people be targets? Wouldn't we respond? Wouldn't we go over the border and try to root out the terrorists, root out their missiles, root out their tunnels if there were? That is precisely what Israel is trying to do.

I am introducing the emergency Iron Dome replacement act. The Iron Dome, which has been Israeli-created and American-funded, has saved countless numbers of Israeli lives, and by the way, Hamas has the nerve to talk about civilian casualties when it has targeted, day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year, Israeli civilians. That is what they do.

Israel targets the missiles—and there are some civilian casualties because of the way the Palestinians put their mis-

siles right in the densely-populated areas—but Hamas has deliberately been trying to kill innocent Israeli civilians.

So we hope we will continue funding the Iron Dome, and I know there will be strong bipartisan support on both sides.

Any cease-fire should contain the total disarming of Hamas. Any cease-fire should contain the destruction of the tunnels which, as my colleague very adeptly pointed out, were made for terrible purposes.

With the concrete that was coming into Gaza, they could have built schools and mosques and skyscrapers; but what did they do? They built terror tunnels, so they can try to kill Israelis.

And the media? Shame on some of the coverage we have seen in the media. There is no moral equivalency between a terrorist group and a nation that values its citizens and wants to protect its citizens. There is no moral equivalency whatsoever.

Israel is trying to protect its citizens. Hamas only wants to kill. Read their charter. Read what they say about Jews. Read about Israel. They want to destroy every last person in Israel. So I think the media ought to be a little more evenhanded and not the way it has been portraying things up until now.

So let me conclude by saying this: the bond between Israel and the United States is unbreakable, unshakeable. It has always been and will always be. The United States will always stand by the people of Israel, particularly in their fight to exist and in their fight against terrorism.

I thank my friend.

Mr. STEWART. Thank you, Mr. ENGEL. Thank you for your service on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

You bring up such a great point. This is a bipartisan issue. There is agreement on both sides of the aisle. We have got servicemembers, military members, school teachers, and businessmen. We have got people from all backgrounds who want to speak on this tonight. Frankly, we have got more people who want to join in this Special Order than we have time for.

I would like to now yield to Mr. COLLINS from Georgia. He has a unique perspective as a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee as well. He served as a chaplain in the Air Force since 2002 and a combat tour in Iraq in 2008.

Mr. COLLINS, thank you for your service.

□ 1830

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Thank you as well for yours, and thanks for doing this tonight.

Mr. Speaker, this is an easy one for me. I stand with the State of Israel as well as her right to defend herself. It is amazing to me at times that that is even called into question, because Israel has proven time and time again that it is very capable of defending herself, and it is amazing to me that the

world doesn't want to acknowledge that.

This commitment that I have to Israel is here now and will continue to be unwavering even in the midst of this conflict between Israel and Hamas that is taking place mainly in Gaza. I am in firm support of Israel's decision to launch a ground operation, and I hope this conflict will be resolved quickly and negotiations for a permanent cease-fire will occur soon for this area.

Currently, Israel's strategic objective is to eradicate Hamas' ability to terrorize Israel. Prime Minister Netanyahu gave the go-ahead to send ground troops into Gaza after a 10-day air operation failed to diminish Hamas' rocket barrage.

Think if the U.S. were being targeted. Do you think we would wait a day to execute a ground incursion, let alone 10 days? Absolutely not.

In fact, Israel and Egypt tried to negotiate a cease-fire with Hamas, but Hamas was unwilling to accept it. We see the true stripes of Hamas when they will not come to the table and when they, instead, want to basically put their own citizens up as human shields.

I have received a lot of feedback from folks in the Ninth District who feel very strongly about the United States' support for Israel from the beginning, when the three young Israeli teens were kidnapped. Georgians empathized with the pain of the nation and with the hope that the three teenagers would be returned to Israel, unharmed. Unfortunately, their bodies were discovered in a Palestinian-controlled area. They had been brutally murdered at the hands of Hamas.

I think my constituents would agree when I say a peaceful solution to end this conflict between Israel and the residents of the Gaza Strip is preferred. Hamas, on more than one occasion, however, has rejected the cease-fires that Israel was more than willing to agree to. We as Americans understand fighting terrorism is a constant fight, and this is yet another reason we must continue to work towards combating terrorism, not just on American soil, but by supporting our allies in their fights against terrorism.

Our support is shown in many ways, but the biggest is in the Iron Dome defense system. Hundreds of Hamas' rockets have been intercepted by the Iron Dome, and it has protected those in Israel who are being terrorized by Hamas. Hamas is hiding behind Palestinians—their own people—to protect their rockets while Israel is protecting their people with the Iron Dome. These are the things that must be reported, and these are the things that must be looked after. A peaceful solution needs to be found soon.

The administration needs to get its priorities correct. Israelis understand this, and that is why they need to continue to protect themselves. The resources going to Gaza should be used to build schools and hospitals and infra-

structure instead of the things that the Palestinians are not getting. This is why the United States must continue to support Israel. We must continue to support their fight against terrorism, and we must continue to maximize our efforts towards a peace that will last in Israel in this area.

Mr. STEWART. I thank you for your comments and for your support, Mr. COLLINS.

I now am happy to introduce the newest Member of Congress, Mr. CLAWSON from Florida.

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida. Thank you very much for this time.

Mr. Speaker, we are living in a time of significant crisis at home and worldwide.

We have a humanitarian and a national security crisis on our own border, and all Americans are deeply concerned and are looking for solutions. Simultaneously, we see a border crisis in the Middle East that makes our own border crisis pale by comparison. We see our friend and ally Israel attacked physically but also, sadly enough, attacked in the media. It is our solemn duty, I believe, to address this crisis as well as our own crisis on our own border.

Israel's borders have been attacked by over 2,000 rockets, launched by Hamas, with a total disregard for innocent lives. Within Gaza, Hamas sets up their rocket launchers in the midst of apartment buildings, mosques, and U.N.-sponsored schools—using civilians as human shields. Hamas is not seeking to minimize collateral damage but, rather, to maximize it. Meanwhile, elements of the media fuel anti-Israeli propaganda with scenes of innocent dead and wounded Palestinians, adding to Israel's dilemma—falsely asserting that the Israel Defense Forces are committing war crimes.

The fact is that Israel is responding with careful precision, taking extraordinary steps that few nations would take to protect lives on both sides of this fight. Israel's Iron Dome is shooting down rockets that would otherwise kill Israelis. Israel is warning civilians in Gaza in advance of attacking terrorist infrastructure there. Israel takes extraordinary steps to minimize collateral damage. Israel wants peace. Hamas seeks the destruction of Israel. This cannot happen.

The United States must stand firmly with Israel and against Hamas and take a leadership role in convincing the world to do likewise.

We must remember the threats extend beyond Gaza and Hamas. Hezbollah, the Islamist militant group and Iranian surrogate based in Lebanon, possesses thousands of rockets on another part of Israel's border. ISIS—evolved from al Qaeda in Iraq—has declared an Islamic caliphate in major areas of Syria and Iraq, threatening the entire region, but especially Israel. Iran, the world's exporter of terrorism—committed to the destruction of Israel—continues to hold nuclear

ambitions, raising security issues not only for Israel but for the entire world.

We cannot waver in leading the international community towards a long-term, verifiable solution. The Middle East is arguably a more dangerous place than at any time in history, with Israel threatened on several fronts by well-armed and well-funded terrorists who are distressingly close to possessing weapons of mass destruction. This cannot happen.

This is not a time for partisan bickering between Democrats and Republicans or between the Congress and the administration. It is a time for a national discourse to educate the public about the dangers out there, with the goal of national unity and resolve to stand behind Israel—the only democratic state in the world's most dangerous neighborhood.

Speaking as a freshman Congressman—the newest Congressman—I pledge to work with my colleagues to seek better ways of working together in support of the State of Israel and its right to exist.

In these times of peril, I believe it is our duty to work as a team and to stand with Israel. Together, we can seek a path to lasting solutions in the Middle East. The alternative cannot happen. America must come together to support Israel.

Mr. STEWART. Thank you, Mr. CLAWSON. We look forward to serving with you in the future, and we, once again, welcome you.

It is now my honor to introduce my good friend and someone I have come to respect and admire, Mrs. WALORSKI from Indiana. She is the daughter of an Air Force veteran and serves on the House Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs Committees.

Mrs. WALORSKI. I thank the gentleman from Utah for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, as with past conflicts in the Middle East, much of the media focus in this current conflict between Israel and Hamas has been on the death tolls on both sides, but what this reporting neglects to mention is Hamas' destruction of its own people. Legitimate governments understand that one of the most important duties of any nation is the protection of its people and the protection of innocent civilians.

Israel goes to great lengths to avoid targeting civilians, from its use of precision-guided weapons to sending out phone and text warnings to evacuate buildings before it carries out a strike. Yet Hamas' leaders are willing to sacrifice their own people in an attempt to score political points. Hamas continues to force civilians, including women and children, to stand in harm's way and literally act as human shields for the terrorist leaders and properties, causing Israeli strikes on legitimate military targets to result in the loss of innocent lives.

As General Conway, the 34th Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, recently wrote in *The Wall Street Journal*, there is a clear and obvious "moral chasm," he says, between

Hamas and Israel. Hamas has always targeted civilians, and they continue to target civilians. It is their standard operating procedure, and it is one of the reasons it makes them a terrorist organization.

Sadly, though, what we are seeing in this conflict is nothing new. This is the third time in less than 6 years that fighting has broken out between Israel and Hamas.

In order to secure peace and stability in the Middle East, America, our allies, and anyone else truly concerned about the safety of civilians on both sides of the border should focus on keeping weapons out of the hands of Hamas' leaders. We must condemn anyone—perhaps, most importantly, Iran—who is supporting and arming Hamas. Iran supplies Hamas with rockets and training. Just yesterday, Iran's supreme leader declared on Iranian national TV:

Everyone, whoever has the means—especially in the Islamic world—should do what they can to arm the Palestinian nation . . . The Zionist regime deeply regrets starting this war, but it has no way out.

We must stand strongly with Israel as it exercises its legitimate right to self-defense. We must call on the international community to join us in condemning Hamas for their human rights violations.

Everyone wants the current conflict in Gaza to end, but how it ends is critically important. The conflict can only be truly over when there are no rockets, when there are no tunnels, and when Hamas has been completely disarmed and defeated militarily and politically.

Mr. STEWART. We thank you, Mrs. WALORSKI. Beautifully said.

I now would like to introduce someone I have come to have tremendous respect for. He brings not only a unique perspective but great experience to this question as chairman of the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee. He is also a U.S. Army Vietnam veteran; although, he appears to be far too young for that.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to you.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I stand with Israel.

There are certain principles that govern the conduct of nations that are so basic—so fundamental—that the world should never have to be reminded of them. The most fundamental of these is simple and straightforward: a nation has the right and the obligation to defend its people and its territory from attack. Unfortunately, however, this fundamental principle does not bear repeating tonight because too many around the world seem to have forgotten it or too many seem to think it only applies to every nation but one—the State of Israel.

Make no mistake. It applies to Israel just as it applies to every nation on the face of the Earth.

Every nation—every one—has the right and the obligation to defend its people and its territory. The thousands

of rockets launched against Israel by the terrorist group Hamas are a deliberate attack on the State of Israel and the Israeli people.

I stand with Israel's right to exist in peace and to protect itself. I stand with Israel in terms of its efforts to defend itself, and I support the very important Iron Dome, Arrow program, and David's Sling program, which keep the Israeli people safe. I stand with Israel in its effort to destroy the ability of Hamas' to attack Israel's people and its territory.

Mr. Speaker, I stand with Israel.

Mr. STEWART. Thank you, Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN, for your comments and for your leadership.

It is now my honor to introduce Mr. LANCE from New Jersey. He served for many years in the New Jersey State Legislature and now serves on the powerful House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. LANCE. Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker, for those of us in the United States who value Israel, its people and its value—symbolic and real—these are heartbreaking times. Our world's most sacred lands are again brutalized by terror as evil tries to extinguish the Jewish state. Though we may be far in distance, our spirit, support, and resources are needed. The United States stands in solidarity with Israel and its fundamental right to defend itself.

The ongoing crisis in Israel may feel a world away to some, but the significance cannot be understated: a free people and democratic ally of our Nation faces continued war by elements of hate and intolerance similar to those who have claimed the lives of millions, forever scarred the face of the Earth, and brought this battle to our shores 13 years ago.

To know terror, look at their tactics. While Israel uses weapons to shield women and children, Hamas uses women and children to shield weapons.

□ 1845

When Israel offers a cease-fire, Hamas orders more rocket launches. When Israel offers compromise, Hamas calls for more bloodshed. Israel needs and deserves the support of the world community, not a lecture from media commentators. If the United States were under daily rocket assault, assuredly, the press would not question our right to keep Americans safe.

Many of us in Congress have worked together in a bipartisan fashion to support Israel. Look no further than the Iron Dome capability at the center of Israel's current defense apparatus. The Iron Dome has been the guardian of a people under siege, and it was constructed with the help of American ingenuity, American technology, and American funds.

Countless other measures have sought to assist Israel, including legislation recently passed here in the House, to disrupt to the greatest extent possible international financing capabilities of terror networks.

How can Israel negotiate with entities on a mission for its destruction? The answer is moral authority. Israel stands for peace, democracy, the rule of law, human rights, liberty, an eventual two-state solution, and peace through strength.

In this time of great moral crisis, now is not the time for neutrality. Nearly 800 people proudly stood in solidarity with Israel earlier this month at the New Jersey headquarters of the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest as we rallied for Israel. Tonight, that same energy is here in Washington, where I join many other lawmakers in further conversation as how best the United States can assist our friend in need.

Israel must never lose its resolve, its mission, its purpose, or forget its proud history, and the United States must support our great ally as it fights to preserve its very existence.

Mr. STEWART. Thank you, Mr. LANCE.

As the manager of this Special Order, I have to be prepared to fill the time if we need to, to fill any gaps in the conversation, and very clearly that has not been necessary tonight. We have so many eloquent Members who are anxious and are stating this case so powerfully.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS), who also serves on the Armed Services Committee and Judiciary Committee and is also chairman of the Constitution Subcommittee.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman MICHELE BACHMANN and I recently introduced H. Res. 622 to defund the Palestinian Authority. We have now 27 bipartisan cosponsors in the House of Representatives, and just today we received nearly 28,000 signatures supporting this policy.

Mr. Speaker, may we all remember that Yasser Arafat, the founder of the Palestinian Authority, proclaimed early on: "We plan to eliminate the State of Israel and establish a purely Palestinian state. We will make life unbearable for the Jews by psychological warfare and population explosion. We Palestinians will take over everything, including all of Jerusalem."

Mr. Speaker, Mahmoud Abbas, the current head of the Palestinian Authority, has taken this mantra to its insidious end by publicly uniting with the terrorist group Hamas, which is really the Muslim Brotherhood.

Let me make this very clear, Mr. Speaker. The Hamas and Palestinian Authority have now become one and the same. Yet, even as Hamas has continued to launch cowardly attacks from neighborhoods in Gaza, hiding behind innocent women and children and making civilian casualties a deliberate strategy, this President has responded by heralding President Mahmoud Abbas as a man of peace.

Mr. Speaker, in spite of the President's astonishing failure to do so, Congress must continue its steadfast

commitment of supporting Israel to protect against Hamas' thirst for death, and the first step in doing that is to defund the Palestinian Authority.

Mr. STEWART. Thank you, Mr. FRANKS.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy now to yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY), a good friend of mine, someone, once again, that I have come to respect greatly. For one thing, he is a colonel in the Army National Guard. I was only a major when I separated from the Air Force, so, of course, I salute him every time I see him. He sits on the Homeland Security and also Foreign Affairs Committees.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to start by thanking the great gentleman from Utah who is, indeed, a friend, and I thank him for his service.

We have heard much tonight about Israel and the rockets and everything that is happening in that part of the world, but one thing we haven't talked about much is the United Nations Human Rights Council, which really can't be taken seriously as a human rights organization, and I will tell you why.

Let's talk about some of the members on that: Cuba, Russia, Congo, Ivory Coast, Venezuela, and China.

When you think about Cuba and Venezuela, they outlaw political demonstrations in their country, but yet they are on the Human Rights Council judging Israel. When you think about Ivory Coast or Congo, they allow genital mutilation in their country, yet they are judging Israel.

Now, this commission established a commission to probe alleged war crimes in violation of international law by Israel for defending its citizens against rocket attacks and terror tunnels. I mean, really? A competition to probe the war crimes from Israel.

Now, what they should be doing, instead, is focusing on Hamas, which uses its citizens as human shields while its commanders flee to bunkers. If Hamas uses human shields to protect its rockets, I mean, is that Israel's fault for defending itself? But somehow, as Americans, we are told that that is what we should believe.

Everybody—everybody—in this Chamber, every American is saddened by the tragic loss of innocent life on both sides of the conflict. However, let's be clear. It is Hamas, a designated terrorist organization, that has refused to deescalate this conflict.

Recently, I heard a reporter and some other folks saying: Well, in Gaza, where should the Palestinians go? It is small. There is nowhere to go to avoid the rockets from Israel. Where should they go?

They should stay right there and quit firing on Israel, quit digging tunnels into Israel. That is what they should do, and then this problem would relieve itself. I mean, who dug these tunnels? Who has fired over 2,000 rockets into Israel? They don't have to go anywhere. They just need to quit attacking Israel.

No U.S. funds should go towards the Palestinian Authority or its institution so long as Hamas is part of a unity Palestinian Government.

Secretary Kerry's recent actions have actually hampered a cease-fire. This administration continues to befriend our enemies and make enemies of our friends, and it must stop, Mr. Speaker. It is critical for the U.S. to reiterate our support for our ally, our only ally there, which is Israel, including its right of its people to live in peace and to defend itself.

Mr. STEWART. Thank you, Mr. PERRY.

Once again, I have the honor of yielding to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENTIVOLIO), a Member with a unique background, who, while stationed in Iraq with the Michigan Army National Guard, he, himself, experienced rocket attacks. This happened on a regular basis, so I think he speaks with some authority on the subject tonight.

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. I thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. STEWART). He is a true friend of Israel and a friend of mine as well.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of Israel and its right to self-defense as it faces the ongoing threat of terrorist rockets from Gaza.

Picture the scene. You are walking down the streets of Tel Aviv. You look around you. You see men, women, and children of all ages. To your right is an elderly man with a walker. A few paces ahead is a mother with her stroller. It is peaceful. It is calm. It is the embodiment of urban normality. And suddenly you hear it. Everyone instinctively knows what it is and, in a split second, everything changes. It is the red alert siren. A rocket is racing toward the city at breakneck speed. Only seconds remain to find refuge in a bomb shelter. And the rocket could land anywhere: on a preschool, on a hospital, on a random family home, or perhaps on the mother and her stroller up ahead.

Mr. Speaker, this is the threat that Israel faces from Hamas and other terrorist groups in Gaza, which deliberately target Israeli civilians, which indiscriminately kill, maim, and terrorize, and whose sole purpose is to destroy the State of Israel.

When faced with such a complete absence of basic moral inhibition by a brutal enemy, it is Israel's right—nay, its duty—to forcefully respond in order to eliminate the threat. It is not disproportionate. It is self-defense, pure and simple, and it is precisely why the State of Israel deserves our unwavering support at this time.

It is also why no government that claims to be interested in peace can credibly partner with a group like Hamas. It is past time for the Palestinian Authority's president to dissolve his unity governing arrangement with this appalling terrorist group.

We can't have it both ways. We can choose to make peace with Hamas or with Israel.

As for me, I have made my choice. I am proud to support the Jewish State, and I stand with Israel because Israel embodies all the values I embrace—peace, democracy, tolerance—while the values of Hamas—hate, extremism, violence—violate everything I believe.

Mr. STEWART. I thank the gentleman from Michigan. He has stated it, once again, like many others, very powerfully.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion tonight, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), who, once again, as a senior member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, has great experience and is unquestionably like many of us, a strong supporter of Israel.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank my good friend from Utah. I thank him for his service to our country and for, again, bringing us all together this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the President of the United States to give Israel the robust and vigorous support it deserves.

Since the latest round of unprovoked rocket barrages were launched on July 6 by Hamas, Israeli citizens have lived under a relentless rocket attack, mortar fire, even attack from Hamas drone aircraft and a foiled sea raid.

Israel itself has lived under a media attack, a calculated campaign to isolate Israel for defending itself. Major articles in international newspapers around the world take a grossly anti-Israeli slant.

Make no mistake about it, Mr. Speaker. A major purpose of Hamas' rocket attacks is to provoke counterattacks, thereby to use the inevitable civilian deaths to set up an international media campaign against Israel. Hamas is guilty of sacrificing Palestinian lives and is guilty of using women and children as human shields in a brutally cynical attempt to manipulate world public opinion and isolate Israel.

Mr. Speaker, the facts on the ground of Hamas attacks were clear from the start and follow long-established patterns. It is time our government sent a much more powerful and unambiguous message that the U.S. fully supports Israel's right to defend itself.

The administration should emphasize that Israel's actions in its own defense are legal, that they are right, and that the U.S. stands with Israel without any ifs, ands, or buts, or so longs or any other qualifiers.

As of yesterday, since the start of Israel's Operation Protective Edge, 2,500 rockets have been fired at Israel from Gaza. 1,875 of these have landed in Israel; 495 have been shot down by Iron Dome. Also, as of yesterday, the IDF has uncovered in Gaza 32 tunnels, with more than 60 access shafts, some of which were in mosques and houses.

Anyone who has read today's feature in *The New York Times*, "Tunnels Lead Right to the Heart of Israeli Fear," understand what these tunnels mean. The tunnels are about 50 feet underground, mostly undetectable like

this one to my left, and underground equipment cannot even discover their whereabouts.

The story quotes Eyal Brandeis, who lives in Kibbutz Sufa, and he says:

It is a very pastoral environment. I live in the quiet of the green grass, the trees. It is not pleasant, though, that you sit one day on the patio drinking coffee with your wife and a bunch of terrorists will rise from the ground.

That is exactly what happened a mile from his kibbutz at dawn on July 17.

Many Israelis are more concerned about the tunnels than the rockets. Perhaps that gives us some insight into the dimension of the Hamas terrorist.

I note, Mr. Speaker, that despite these rocket attacks by Hamas and tunnels, Israel continues to permit the transfer to the Gaza of humanitarian supplies and goods. Israel's humanity while under terrorist fire, its continued effort to do everything it can to separate terrorist militants from Palestinian civilians, only underscores the evil nature of Hamas.

□ 1900

Mr. Speaker, Hamas was designated a foreign terrorist organization in 1997, and it has adopted its charter, the famous Covenant of the Islamic Resistance. That charter remains its ideological program.

Only yesterday, Khaled Meshaal, the leader of Hamas, spoke on the Charlie Rose show in response to a question, "Do you want to coexist with the State of Israel?" He said, "No." He said, "No." Hamas doesn't want peace or reconciliation or coexistence. It wants to utterly destroy the State of Israel.

I have further comments I will be saying later on this evening about the charter. Please read the charter. It couldn't be clearer. Hamas wants to destroy Israel.

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, that was powerfully said.

In conclusion, as we wind down our time tonight, let me just finalize with these thoughts.

There is a great line from a speech that would have been given by John F. Kennedy in November 1963 if he had been allowed to give that speech before he was assassinated. And he said: "This people, this generation, not by choice, but by destiny, are set to be the watchmen on the wall of world freedom."

We may not like the fact that we have to lead in the world. We may not like the responsibility. We may not like the cost. We may not like the hassle or the criticism or sometimes the hatred that is directed toward us. But it doesn't matter. We have to lead. If we don't do it, who will? If we don't lead, we give power to our enemies, and we weaken our friends.

We have a chance here tonight to make a statement to the world. To the people of Israel, we stand by your side. To the peace-loving people of Gaza, we stand with you as well. But to the terrorists who seek for the destruction of Israel and to the leaders of Hamas who

seek only for death and destruction, we, the American people, will always stand in your way.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ANTI-SEMITISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCALLISTER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MENG) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, we gather this evening to discuss anti-Semitism. It is a plague that has ravaged the world for thousands of years, yet in the last few weeks, it has reared its ugly head globally in a way we have not seen in a long time.

It is truly shocking. From Berlin to New York, we are hearing chants of "Gas the Jews." And this is not hyperbole. We are actually hearing chants of "Gas the Jews" around the world.

And these are not isolated incidents. We are seeing hundreds and thousands of people rallying and sometimes attacking synagogues in Europe. It is one thing to protest against events going on in the Middle East, but there is simply no justification and no reason for doing it right outside any Jewish place of worship. These are brazen acts of anti-Semitism.

Now, I cannot possibly understand anti-Semitism to the same extent as my Jewish friends. But I think it is crucial that non-Jews speak out forcefully against this disease because to effectively combat anti-Semitism, we need non-Jews to step up and also lead on this issue.

I would like to focus my remarks today on two related issues, the international and domestic dimensions of anti-Semitism.

With regard to anti-Semitism beyond our borders, I would like to focus on one case, that of France. I am focusing on France because I think it is really the front line right now in the war against global anti-Semitism, and I think it is an instructive case for how policy leaders here can face this issue.

In France right now, there is a war. On the one hand, we see some of the most widespread and atrocious acts of anti-Semitism, but on the other hand, we see a government—most particularly, Prime Minister Valls—acting forcefully against anti-Semitism. The words and actions of the French Government, most particularly Mr. Valls' recent assertions that anti-Zionism is anti-Semitism, are unprecedented and should be acknowledged as such.

So what we have here are two sides: virulent anti-Semites on one side, and on the other, a democratically elected government that appears resolved to take them on. Rather than throw our hands in the air and say that France is a horribly anti-Semitic place and that all the Jews should leave, we ought to get in this fight.

Anti-Semitism is a complicated issue, not a black-and-white issue. Yes, France has a deep history of anti-Semitism, but it is also a country that has had a Jewish President and one that nearly elected another a couple of years ago. It has the third-largest Jewish population in the world, and there is a reason for that. It is also a country that historically has proven itself capable of changing. We need to recognize this history and work with France's leadership and civil society to fight this battle and remain hopeful. What happens here will, I believe, affect the future of the Jewish people.

This brings me to the domestic dimension of our problem. We obviously have anti-Semitism in this country as well, although not to the degree we see it in Europe. It is essential that Jews and non-Jews speak about this problem to their own communities, and we have to continue to encourage that here in Congress.

In New York, Mr. JEFFRIES and I are leading a program whereby Jewish, Asian, and African American college students are gathering to discuss foreign policies and the perspectives of the respective communities in relation to key foreign policy issues.

We must speak regularly about Israel, BDS, and other issues of importance to our Jewish friends and neighbors, not just when there is a major international incident. The reason I say this is because it is also far easier to hate someone you don't know than to hate someone that you do know.

Mr. Speaker, as we head into the August recess, I urge my colleagues of all stripes to discuss the dangers of anti-Semitism with their communities and to build bridges between communities so that we may reduce hatred and bigotry.

I also urge my colleagues as statesmen and -women to engage the international community in a positive way on this issue and believe in and fight for a Europe and world of lesser anti-Semitism.

With that, I would like to yield to the gentlewoman from Florida, Ms. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, the first Jewish woman from Florida elected to Congress, a tireless advocate and one of the great Jewish leaders of our time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I thank the gentlewoman from New York, particularly for her leadership in stepping up and bringing to the floor of the United States House of Representatives the incredibly important topic of anti-Semitism, not just nationally but globally, because much of the conflict that exists worldwide today, unfortunately, stems from poisonous anti-Semitism.