

I am grateful, though; yesterday we were able to pass the veterans conference report. It wasn't what we passed out of the Senate, but it was OK. It will help. I admire very much the people who were able to get that done.

BERNIE SANDERS worked extremely hard, and I am not sure he could have completed that without the work of the senior Senator from Arizona.

The bill was dead, the conference was really dead, a week ago. But the senior Senator from Arizona weighed in, and with his influence with Democrats and Republicans, it was made possible to move forward and was brought back on track.

I am surprised my friend from Arizona is here. I acknowledge the work that he did. Others worked on it, of course, but without his McCain-like advocacy last Friday and Thursday night, it wouldn't have happened.

Mr. President, I am not only grateful for the conference report we got on the veterans matter but also the highway bill. Now, I think we need a long-term highway bill, and I think we will get one in the near future. The work done by Senator BOXER and others to have a long-term bill because they wanted us to finish something this year didn't come to fruition. We passed it here. But we worked together and have a bill that will allow construction to continue.

In the House, I regret they weren't able to overcome Republican resistance to funding a response to the humanitarian crisis at the border. Again, we could stand here for the next couple hours and affix blame as to whose fault it is. The fact is I don't think it is going to get done.

I watched the House closely. I have heard commentators. It is surprising but I am told that even Charles Krauthammer today said: This is a little unusual. They weren't able to complete their work yesterday and the day before. So what they have done is demanded that President Obama do things on his own, for which they have sued him. That is a little inconsistent. One of the Republican senior House Members was on "Morning Joe" this morning. He said the same thing. But the House appears to be heading from bad to worse as the House Republican majority hunts for votes on border policy.

So let's be clear about what is happening today on the other side of the Capitol.

House Republicans will vote to deport children who have been living in the United States their entire lives, all in a pathetic attempt to appease the tea party. The worse the bill gets the more votes they are getting over there. That is the harsh, wrong-headed idea. If the House does pass a bill, I can't imagine it could be cleared on either side over here.

MAKING CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 220, H.J. Res. 76; that a Reid-McConnell-Mikulski substitute amendment at the desk providing emergency appropriations for the Iron Dome defense system in Israel be agreed to; that the joint resolution, as amended, be read a third time and passed; that the Reid-McConnell-Mikulski title amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid on the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to the request?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Reserving the right to object—

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Let me say to my friend, the majority leader, this is a good example of our being able to put aside partisan considerations and work together to help our good friend Israel.

I particularly want to salute Senator GRAHAM and Senator MCCAIN, who have been absolutely relentless in their efforts to make sure we send this important signal to Israel at a very tough time for them. They are being, in my view, criticized by everyone for pursuing a policy that I am absolutely certain we would pursue if somebody across our border were launching missiles at our civilian population.

I think it is important for us to send a signal that the United States stands behind one of its best friends—if not its best friend—in the world.

I think the Prime Minister of Israel pretty well summed it up when he said: There is no moral equivalency here. Hamas launches missiles on civilians, and Israel warns civilians when it attempts to attack. And Hamas uses its own civilians to protect its missiles. There is no moral equivalency whatsoever.

So as much of the world levels its criticism at Israel, I think it is important for the United States to say: What nonsense to suggest that the Israelis are doing anything that almost any country in the world would have done had its citizens been threatened by a neighbor as Israel has experienced.

So, obviously, I do not object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I wish to take a moment to thank both leaders for their efforts in bringing about this much-needed—not only the funding but the signal that the Congress will send and the President will sign that we are supporting them.

We all know the latest news is, tragically, that a proposed cease-fire has broken down. Apparently an Israeli soldier has been captured. And all of us know the ramifications of that in the future, the value the Israeli Govern-

ment and people rightfully put on each one of their citizens who serve.

I thank again our majority leader and the Republican leader for coming together on this most important signal. This isn't just about money. It is a signal from the American people and the American taxpayers that we are with the Israelis, because if they do not have Iron Dome, they can't defend themselves. It is that simple. The Iron Dome is the ability to keep innocent civilians and neighborhoods and families from being destroyed by these barrages of literally thousands of incoming rockets.

Again, I thank my friend. There has been no one more relentless in this effort than the Senator from South Carolina. I yield for him.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, the time is blurred now. Yesterday, or early this morning, a very bad occurrence happened to the people of Israel. During a cease-fire which they agreed to, an Israeli unit apparently was attacked by a Hamas suicide bomber. After that attack there was a charge against the unit in question, and apparently a soldier has been kidnapped and taken to the tunnels.

It is so appropriate that today, of all days, the Senate speaks in one voice.

I cannot thank Senator REID enough for making this happen. Senator MCCONNELL has worked to make sure it got cleared on our side, and it finally has.

They are running out of Iron Dome missiles to protect themselves. To whom do they turn? To us.

Mr. President, \$225 million is a lot of money, but it is a rounding error in the budget.

It is not only the missiles that matter; it is the message that goes with the missiles: We are with you. Here are the missiles. Use them to defend yourself. We will stand with you on the battlefield. We will stand with you in the court of public opinion, and we are going to push back against the United Nations, which is becoming more and more anti-Israeli. As dysfunctional as the Congress has been, this is one of our finer moments.

We are about to leave here soon with a lot of work undone, but let it be said that we did have the foresight and the ability and, quite frankly, the moral decency to end on a positive note.

You can say a lot about this Congress—and much criticism is deserved—but here is what you cannot say: We left Israel in the lurch. In a bipartisan manner we were there when they needed us the most.

To our friends in Israel: Stay as long as you need to stay. Do whatever you need to do.

To our friends in Palestine: We grieve when children are killed. There is no more innocent person on the planet than a child.

To the Palestinian people: Reject Hamas and seek peace. We are not your

enemy. We stand to help you, but you have to reject a terrorist organization that has the coldest and darkest of hearts, that would kill every Israeli child and put your children at risk. Reject this hateful ideology while you still can.

To our friends in Israel: There is more to come when it comes to standing by your side.

I thank both leaders of the Senate for rising to the occasion.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. I appreciate the words of my three friends.

Mr. President, there are times when partisanship does not exist. I hope everyone will note that last night when we couldn't get this cleared—I, we—there was no finger-pointing. I understand the person objected. He is a fine man. He is a man of principle. But I have faith in this institution and our sticking by our friend. So I am happy to be here today to be a part of this conclusion.

The situation in Israel is grave. We think this Iron Dome protects Israel. It protects a lot of Israel. But Israel does not have enough Iron Domes—plural—to protect them. They need more. But this will certainly be a step in the right direction.

Three thousand rockets have been fired in the last 2½, 3 weeks—3,000. But for this technology that was perfected by the Israelis, they would be in dire straits. There would be a war in the Middle East that we cannot imagine.

Let's be realistic. Are we going to benefit from what they have done? Of course we are. They are sharing this technology with us as we speak.

There was a cease-fire that lasted about 2½ hours. It is terribly unfortunate what is going on over there, but, as David Brooks said on "NewsHour"—this conservative columnist said he had never known of a conflict in history where one side says: Kill more of us. It is hard to comprehend. When the Israelis notify someone "there is going to be action taken in this building you are in; would you leave," the leadership in Gaza tells them to stay there, and unfortunately a lot of them do. This is something that is hard for me to comprehend, that something like this goes on.

That little country, that tiny little country is the only democracy in that whole area. That is it.

Netanyahu—if I were in Israel, I may have voted for someone else, but the Israeli people determine who leads that country. I don't know of a bond of friendship that we have or ever had in world history better than this one, and so I will stand by Israel. I will stand by Israel for a lot of personal reasons but certainly for political reasons, and I have no hesitation in declaring to the world that is how I feel.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Hearing no objection to the unanimous consent request, without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3780) was agreed to, as follows:

Strike all after the first word, and insert: the following sum is appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes, namely:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
PROCUREMENT

PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE

For an additional amount for "Procurement, Defense-Wide", \$225,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2015, which shall be for the Secretary of Defense to provide to the Government of Israel for the procurement of the Iron Dome defense system to counter short-range rocket threats: *Provided*, That such funds shall be transferred immediately only through an exchange of letters to address emergent operations in support of Operation Protective Edge, notwithstanding section 3.1.3.2.1 of the U.S.-Israel Iron Dome Procurement Agreement: *Provided further*, That nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to apply to previously appropriated funds for the procurement of Iron Dome: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

This joint resolution may be cited as the "Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Resolution, 2014".

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 76), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The amendment (No. 3781) was agreed to, as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill making an emergency supplemental appropriation for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, to provide funding to Israel for the Iron Dome defense system to counter short-range rocket threats."

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved and the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 2 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. I note the absence of a quorum, please.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO MATT OLSEN

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the Director of the National Counterterrorism Center Matt Olsen. Matt has announced his intention to leave his position later this year after serving as Director of NCTC for over 3 years. Matt is one of the best and brightest public servants with whom I have had the pleasure to work. I wish to take a couple of minutes to thank him for a job well done.

As vice chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, I have had the opportunity to work very closely with Matt, as he served in a number of key positions in the intelligence community. Regardless of his position, Matt has served with integrity and has provided sound, honest counsel, which has benefited not only me but numerous other Members of this body.

At NCTC Matt has overseen several key initiatives that have enhanced NCTC's ability to discover and prevent terrorist attacks, such as the Pursuit Group that was put in place after the failed attack on Northwest flight 253. Matt has been a strong advocate for NCTC's mission, striving to make sure NCTC has the right people and the right data to get the job done. He has done his part and has kept the Center acutely focused on terrorist threats to the homeland.

I am certainly glad I supported his nomination and can attest that Matt is a man of his word. Before joining NCTC, Matt served as the National Security Agency's general counsel and as an Associate Deputy Attorney General at the Department of Justice. Matt worked on several national security issues at DOJ but quickly became an expert on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and its implementation. Matt has an excellent perspective of the role of surveillance and keeping this country safe, and I hope he will participate in the public debate on this issue even after his departure from government service.

I would like to say a special thanks to his wife Fern and his three children: Elizabeth, Nate, and Will. Matt has missed many nights and weekends with his family as the Director of NCTC and throughout his public service career. I am sure these sacrifices have been difficult at times, but our Nation is better for it. I know Matt has spent every day of his tenure as Director focusing on how best to neutralize the increasing threat posed by Al Qaeda and its affiliates.

Matt's family should be very proud of his outstanding achievements and his dedicated efforts to protect our national security. I understand Matt plans to return to teaching and spend some well-deserved free time with his family. His presence will be missed at NCTC as well as on the Hill. To Matt and his family, thanks again and best wishes for whatever the future holds.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I intend to speak on a couple matters in morning business for 10 minutes.