

glad to see that the President in Tel Aviv yesterday was on point: America will stand with Israel. America will help them defeat Hamas.

But he also said everyone must be deliberate at this moment, and we must unequivocally work to protect civilian life during conflict. That is a really tough job, particularly when Hamas puts hostages in the middle of civilian populations, rockets, military equipment in the middle of civilian populations and uses them as shields.

But even having said how difficult this is, Israel, being a democracy, has to live to a higher standard. And we made that point—all of us—when we visited Israel, as much as we wanted the Israelis to know we stand by them and will give them the equipment that they need.

This morning, the Senate will pass a bipartisan resolution affirming that the Senate stands firmly with Israel and firmly against Hamas. Hopefully, the Senate will speak in one voice that Israel is our friend and that Hamas's attack is reprehensible and that we will stand with our friends to defend themselves.

Our resolution has overwhelming—nearly unanimous—support in the Senate on both sides. We are working with the few who have some problems to solve their problems so we can get this done.

By the end of the week, the President will send the Senate a supplemental request to provide Israel the military intelligence, diplomatic, and humanitarian aid it needs. When the Senate receives this request, we will spring into action and move it as soon as we can.

Secretary Austin was clear: They need these funds yesterday, especially right now as extremists have brought the House of Representatives to complete paralysis. The world needs to see a U.S. Senate united in action. Democrats and Republicans in this Chamber must send an unmistakable message that the work of legislating is not going to stop over here because of chaos in the other Chamber. And if we act with enough bipartisan strength, it is my hope that it could help the House snap out of its delirium and get back to the business of governing, not letting a small hard-right group simply tie the House in a knot because they are not getting their way. Every day counts immensely.

RUSSIA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, on a detained journalist. Unfortunately, yesterday, authorities detained a journalist with dual U.S.-Russian citizenship on specious charges of failing to register as a foreign agent. Alsu Kurmasheva is now the second American journalist detained by Russia this year after Evan Gershkovich of the Wall Street Journal was arrested in March.

We unequivocally condemn Russia's unjustifiable detention of Alsu

Kurmasheva and of Evan Gershkovich, and we demand they be released immediately.

It is no secret that Russia has a long and disturbing history of unjustly detaining U.S. citizens, especially members of the free press. But let me be clear: Journalism is not a crime and should never be met with persecution, intimidation, and suppression.

America stands with Alsu Kurmasheva, Evan Gershkovich, and their families.

BUDGET

Mr. SCHUMER. Now on the minibus, over the course of this week, I have worked closely with Democratic and Republican appropriators to move forward on the bipartisan Senate appropriations process. We have made a lot of progress this week trying to reach an agreement on amendments. We are getting close to an agreement, but we are not there yet, so we will keep working today.

Here in the Senate, unlike the chaos of the House, most Members on both sides want to see bipartisanship because that is the only way things move forward in a divided government. And the Appropriations Committee, under the leadership of Chair MURRAY and Ranking Member COLLINS, have done a very good job passing out all the bills with overwhelming bipartisan majorities, many of them unanimously.

But there is one crucial point: When we came to agreement to move these bills, both sides committed to stopping poison pill amendments because that would risk ending the process. Sadly, a small group on the other side have tried adding poison pills, and we have been dealing with them over the last few weeks. I am optimistic that we will work through these poison pills and pass these bipartisan bills soon.

Democrats made a commitment to our Republican colleagues to pursue regular order as much as possible because we want to get these appropriations bills done. We have committed to having debates and votes on relevant, non-poison pill amendments. I think there are 39 or so lined up. But while we are getting close, the work is not done.

We are going to keep working today. If people want to know why it is moving slowly, it is because of Republican insistence on poison pill amendments. But that is not going to stop us. We are going to keep moving forward, and we are going to try to vote on amendments soon.

So, once again, thank you to the whole Appropriations Committee on both sides. I am optimistic we can get this done.

TRIBUTE TO BETTY K. KOED, SENATE HISTORIAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally on our wonderful Senate Historian. An old quote goes:

To study history means submitting yourself to chaos, but nevertheless retaining your faith in order and meaning.

That is a great quote, very relevant today in this Congress. I don't imagine that the author of that line was thinking about the U.S. Senate, but I cannot think of a more apt description of the duties of the Senate Historian.

For the last 8 years, the Senate has been blessed with the wonderful erudite Historian, Betty Koed—only the third Historian ever and the first woman to hold the position.

Sadly, this week marks the end of Betty's remarkable tenure in the Senate, which dates back to her earliest days as Assistant Historian in 1998. So she began in the Senate Historical Office the same year I began running for the Senate. I didn't know her at that point, but I am sure glad I have gotten to know her now.

It is a great undertaking to chronicle the history of an institution so unique, so rich with significant events, so influential in the landscape of our Nation. But for the last 25 years, Betty has done that with the utmost professionalism, devotion, and a bit of a flair.

Every week, she gives us a little history lesson at our Tuesday lunches, and every Member looks forward to hearing what she has come up with, and it is amazing. We learn a lot, and we enjoy it.

As Senate Historian, Betty was tasked with the extraordinary responsibility to preserve, protect, and promote the history of the Senate and the multitudes of Members who served in this Chamber. She has not only been a student of Senate history but a teacher of it as well. Thanks to her work developing education programs and exhibits, generations of Americans will have the means to learn about the Senate and the U.S. Capitol.

I was proud to lead a resolution with Leader MCCONNELL and all other 98 Senators commemorating Betty's decades of service and officially designating her—congratulations, Betty—as "Historian Emerita" of the United States Senate.

So on behalf of a grateful Senate, a grateful country, and a very grateful majority leader, I thank Betty for her service and wish her the best moving forward.

Congratulations, Historian Emerita.
I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

ISRAEL

Mr. MCCONNELL. There is evil in the world, and for the better part of the last century, America and our allies were squarely in the crosshairs. Unfortunately, we tend to forget that.

On September 12, 2001, George Will coined a phrase, saying that the free

world's "holiday from history" was over. When Russia escalated its lawless invasion of Ukraine last year, many observers, including former Secretary of Defense Bob Gates, invoked the same idea.

The West is at a crossroads. Increasingly, fringe voices on the left and right are insisting that it is not America's business to lead. They seem willing to accept American decline and to assume that their lack of interest in history means history won't be interested in them. Meanwhile, many of our allies are waking up to their own commitments to collective defense.

As the world was reminded last February in Ukraine and again on October 7 in Israel, some of our friends and fellow democracies have never had the option of taking a holiday from history. Israel has no choice but vigilant self-defense because murderous theocrats and terrorists have vowed to wipe it off the map. Ukraine has no choice but all-out resistance because an authoritarian thug with delusions of Soviet glory has spent years butchering its people and carving up its sovereign territory. Half a world away, the free people of Taiwan have no choice but to stare down the threat from a communist superpower intent on bringing their island to heel.

It is hard to ignore the growing strategic alignment between these authoritarian forces. They share an interest in one another's violent pursuits and in undermining the West—especially America.

Take the growing strategic partnership between Russia and Iran. The Obama administration foolishly welcomed Putin's intervention in Syria, and it gave Russia influence in the Middle East it hadn't had since the 1970s—mostly at America's expense. Iran and its terror proxies were glad to see Putin prop up Bashar Assad. Under Russian protection, Syria became a training ground and logistics superhighway from Tehran's terror network. And as terrorists challenge America and Israel in the region, Russia is the beneficiary.

It is a symbiotic relationship for the bad guys, and it has only continued to grow. Russia defends Iran at the U.N., and Iran is now providing the same lethal drones its terrorist proxies use to attack American forces in Syria and Iraq directly to Russia for use against Ukraine.

The world's largest state sponsor of terror—with American, Israeli, and Arab blood on its hands—is also sponsoring Russia's war against our friends in Europe.

As one good analysis put it recently, "When Hezbollah terrorists, Hezbollah mercenaries, and Iranian theocrats chant 'Death to America' after murdering Israelis, they're not confused." And it is hardly surprising that Putin has aligned his regime with this terror, given the devastation his forces inflict on civilians in Ukraine.

Meanwhile, China isn't just keeping a close eye on the West's resolve to resist

Russian aggression and Iran-backed terrorism; they are actually getting more directly involved. Just yesterday, for example, a summit of the PRC's so-called Belt and Road Initiative—a massive influence operation aimed at bringing more parts of the world under Beijing's thumb—featured Vladimir Putin as the guest of honor—yet another sign that Russia and China are serious about their "friendship without limits."

Beijing has released a flurry of statements responding to terrorist savagery by condemning Israel's self-defense operations and conspicuously avoiding any mention of Hamas.

The PRC is stepping up its coordination with and support for Iran. It is no surprise that the regime that wants to break the will of the free people of Taiwan is eager to see its fellow travelers in Tehran and Moscow do the same to Israel and Ukraine.

Our adversaries know the challenges they pose to us are linked. The belief that we can abandon allies in one part of the world and not hurt allies elsewhere simply doesn't hold water. In fact, it is naive and dangerous.

The people of Israel have a right to defend themselves, and the United States has an interest in our closest ally in the Middle East rooting out terrorists like Hamas.

Ukraine has a right to sovereignty, and the United States has an interest in Europe—our largest trading partner and strongest ally—not facing an emboldened thug at its gates.

Taiwan and other Asian democracies have a right to self-determination, and the United States has an interest in helping Asian partners stand up to Chinese aggression.

We need to remember America is a superpower. Our interests are global, and with global interests come global responsibilities. Our alliances matter. Our credibility matters. Our friends on the frontlines of authoritarian aggression and terrorist savagery don't have the opportunity to take a holiday from history, and America can't afford to either.

In the coming days, it will be the Senate's responsibility to take strong and decisive action to put maximum support behind Israel's self-defense, equip Ukraine for victory as it defines it, and help Taiwan deter growing threats.

The prosperity America has known for the better part of a century is the direct product of our leadership. Preserving it means standing with our friends and investing in our own strength.

TRIBUTE TO BETTY K. KOED, SENATE HISTORIAN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Now, one final matter, I would like to take a minute to thank an all-star member of the Senate community as she departs on a well-deserved retirement.

For the past 25 years, recording, preserving, and sharing the stories of the

U.S. Senate has been Betty Koed's top responsibility. As Senate Historian, Betty has immersed herself more than pretty much anyone in the lore of this remarkable institution.

Betty joined the Senate as Assistant Historian in 1998, in time to witness history with the impeachment trial of President Clinton. And her intelligence and determination came in handy immediately as the Historian's office phones rang off the hook with questions about the complex rules, procedures, and precedents that surrounded the first such event in more than a century.

But as much as Members of this body are prone to make history, Senators also tend to like consuming history. I myself am no exception. So back in 2009, when former Senate Historian Richard Baker retired, I invited Betty to start visiting the Republican conference lunches to deliver weekly presentations on Senate history.

By all accounts, Betty's "History Minutes" were the highlight of many a lunch. In fact, they were always so popular that we asked her to turn these stories into a book, and I am glad to say that an impressive volume illustrating some of the most dramatic and significant events in the Senate's history was actually published earlier this year.

Over her time in the Senate, Betty has been a fierce advocate for the preservation of Senate records. Her colleagues describe her as a role model and mentor who is highly knowledgeable, considerate, and persistent. It would be no exaggeration to call Betty Koed's tenure as Senate Historian a historic milestone in its own right.

So I would like to thank Betty, with heartfelt thanks for her loyal service to this institution, and I know our colleagues join me in wishing her all the best.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, yesterday, I came down to the floor to discuss the importance of military preparedness to our national security. The most basic requirement of national security is a strong military, but it is not the only requirement. Maintaining our Nation's strength and our ability to deter threats and discourage our enemies from tangling with us also involves things like a strong economy, energy security, and border security.

And, today, I want to spend a few minutes talking about border security. Border security is an essential part of