

The Night Stalkers are elite, highly trained fighters who take on the most sensitive missions. They are ready to respond at any time there are serious threats anywhere in the world, and they ground their service in two principles: never quit and never surrender.

Night Stalkers live, breathe, and—tragically—often die by a creed which reads:

I serve with the memory and the pride of those who have gone before me, for they loved to fight, fought to win, and would rather die than quit.

This weekend, five brave men honored their creed. Their memory will live on, carried by Night Stalkers who continue to profess it and by every American who mourns their loss. This tragedy is a stark reminder of the incredible dangers our men and women in uniform face and of the debt we owe them.

So, today, I join our Nation in grieving these fallen warriors, and I extend my prayers to their families, children, and comrades.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Madam President, now, on an entirely different matter, I have been encouraged this year by the progress our Appropriations Committee has made toward restoring regular order to the way we fund the Federal Government. As I have said before, shutting down the government does nothing—nothing—to advance that work.

Regular order requires that Congress provide itself the time for careful consideration and thorough amendment. I am glad to see that Speaker JOHNSON has produced a continuing resolution that would do exactly that.

There is a lot of work left to do, and aside from the remaining full-year appropriations bills, glaring national security priorities continue to demand our attention: from Israel to Ukraine to the Indo-Pacific, and, of course, our southern border.

House Republicans have produced a responsible measure that will keep the lights on, avoid a harmful lapse in government funding, and provide the time and space to finish that important work. I will support their continuing resolution and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

DEFENSE

Madam President, now, on a related matter, as I have said for months, Congress also has a responsibility to help our Nation meet a growing network of serious threats from adversaries like Russia, China, and Iran.

As one recent analysis put it, “Each of these revisionist states aids the others in their goals to . . . subvert or destroy democratic nations.”

Just consider the lengths that authoritarians in Beijing and terror sponsors in Tehran are going to prop up Putin’s brutal war in Ukraine. The PRC has massively ramped up its purchases of Russian energy to help Moscow subvert Western sanctions. And Chinese materials are helping produce 80 million rounds of ammunition for Russian invaders.

Meanwhile, Iran is providing maintenance for Russian aircraft that are subject to U.S. sanctions. And Iranian personnel are on Russian soil training Putin’s forces to use their lethal kamikaze drones.

So, Madam President, our adversaries are showing us by their actions that they are heavily invested in Russia’s war in Ukraine. They clearly understand that their own ability to threaten America and the West is tied directly to what is happening in Eastern Europe.

Our allies understand this reality as well. It is why allies from Japan to Poland are making massive new commitments to modernizing their own defenses and expanding their defense industrial bases. This is good news for burden-sharing and for collective security. In some cases, like Germany, our allies’ investments into Russia’s escalation into Ukraine mark a long-overdue departure from years of neglect for hard power.

Today, as Berlin continues to pour new resources into its own military strength, our German allies have also announced a plan to double—double—their direct military aid to Ukraine in the coming year.

Of course, some of our European allies have never had the luxury of taking a holiday from history. For example, since the beginning of Russia’s escalation, our NATO ally Estonia has allocated a nearly unparalleled share of its GDP in direct assistance. Estonians know that Vladimir Putin does not intend to stop at Kyiv.

America’s friends understand that failing to check Putin’s aggression in Europe would have far-reaching consequences. So do our biggest adversaries. We cannot afford to neglect this reality ourselves, and we cannot deny the clear ways that America’s support for Ukraine is driving our growing readiness to face other threats.

The emergency investments we have made in the U.S. defense industrial base as a result of Russia’s war on Ukraine are doubling production capacity of 155-millimeter artillery rounds. They are driving a 40-percent increase in production of long-range precision fires and nearly doubling our capacity for air-to-air missiles.

Denying the obvious connections between the threats we face can’t obscure the fact that the benefits of investments in Western strength are also connected. Expanding our defense industrial bases means making America and our allies stronger—from Europe to the Middle East to the Indo-Pacific.

The most important thing anyone who is truly concerned about growing threats from China or Iran can do is support investments in American military capabilities and our defense industrial base. That includes both supplemental resources and full-year defense appropriations. If we fail to take these steps, we won’t just be starving our friends and allies but our own military.

The threats we face are not divisible, but neither is the progress we are mak-

ing toward restoring American strength.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The senior Senator from Illinois.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, history was made today with the release of a document by the U.S. Supreme Court. Today, for the first time in the history of the United States, the Supreme Court has issued a code of conduct for Supreme Court Justices. Most Americans will be surprised to learn that this was the first time this code of conduct has been issued, but that is a fact.

I know this issue better than most because 11 years ago, I wrote to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, John Roberts—along with several of my colleagues—and told him that the establishment of a code of conduct for the Supreme Court Justices was long overdue.

After years of refusing to act, a series of scandalous disclosures involving several Justices on the Court, and the Senate Judiciary Committee passing legislation sponsored by Senator SHELTON WHITEHOUSE on ethical reform, the Supreme Court has finally responded. Today, for the first time in history, the Supreme Court of the United States is at least saying to the American people: We hear you and understand that the nine Justices on the Supreme Court are members of a democratic form of government, not royalty, and that they should be held accountable as all public servants in the Federal Government are held accountable.

At a glance, this Code of Conduct for Justices of the Supreme Court is similar to the standards that apply to all other lower court Federal judges. The Court’s code of conduct sets forth several important canons of conduct, including canons on upholding the integrity and independence of the judiciary and avoiding impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.

All of these are important steps, but they fall short of what we could and should expect when the Supreme Court issues a code of conduct. The Court’s statement on the code specifically notes:

For the most part these rules and principles are not new.

That is a problem because the Court’s previous practices were plainly inadequate. The Court’s new code of conduct does not appear to contain any meaningful enforcement mechanism to hold Justices accountable for any violations of the code. It also leaves a wide range of decisions up to the discretion of individual Justices, including decisions on recusal from sitting on cases.

I am still reviewing the Court’s new code of conduct. For now, I would note that the Court’s adoption of this code marks a step in the right direction. It may fall short of the ethical standards which other Federal judges are held to, and that is unacceptable. And if it falls

short, the American people will ultimately have the last word, and the integrity of the Court is at issue.

We are going to carefully review this proposed code of conduct to evaluate whether it complies with our goal that the highest court in the land not languish with the lowest standard of ethics in our Federal Government. But this release today, long overdue, begins a dialogue which could end in restoring the integrity of the Court, and that is long overdue.

TRIBUTE TO LEILA DE LIMA

Madam President, on a separate topic totally unrelated, after nearly 7 years—6 years 8 months 21 days—of being unjustly jailed, former Philippine Senator Leila de Lima was finally released. This is a picture of her waving from the window as she was released.

In a moving interview just after leaving the prison camp, she stood by her defense of democracy, human rights, and truth and reflected on the importance of not succumbing to hate—a reminder of courage and grace.

I welcome her release and urge any and all remaining charges against her be immediately dropped. I look forward to seeing her soon. I hope she can make it to Washington.

Several Senators have followed this case carefully and closely, including the Presiding Officer. We have sent letters. We have encouraged her over the years to be strong, and she was. Senator MARKEY was also involved in this effort, and I want to commend him as well.

You often wonder, when you hear about these unjust jailings in lands far away from the United States, whether there is anything we can do on the floor of the Senate Chamber that can change history.

Today, finally, after 6 years 8 months 21 days, history came around for Leila de Lima, the Senator from the Philippines. She is an extraordinary woman who showed extraordinary courage. I am glad to plead her case before the American people and to plead it to the President of the United States before he met with Filipino leadership.

This is an important thing to remember: that each and every one of us have the power to speak out for those who are otherwise voiceless. She was one, and it ended with good news today.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Madam President, on another topic of urgent importance, 45 days have passed since we narrowly avoided a government shutdown by passing a continuing resolution or CR.

And it is hard to believe that we face the same dilemma again now. So much has happened in the last month, all of which only underscores the importance of funding our government. From the outbreak of war in Israel to the tragic murder of 18 people in Maine in a mass shooting, these last 45 days have shown the importance of illustrating to the world that the United States is a responsive ally and illustrating that we

have a functioning government that rises above partisanship to meet the needs of Americans.

And yet, 45 days after passing the short-term spending bill to keep the government's lights on, here we are again . . . with another government shutdown looming. In order to avoid a shutdown at the end of this week, Congress must pass a bipartisan CR to keep the government open so we can continue to do our jobs and fully fund the government for the next year. At this point, folks are probably tired of hearing the term "government shutdown." But it is not just a political buzzword. It is a quickly approaching reality that would have devastating impacts on our Nation.

Recent reports show that our economy is recovering from the depths of the pandemic. However, a government shutdown would have disastrous effects on it. It has been estimated that the last shutdown in 2013 reduced GDP growth by \$20 billion and the 5-week partial shutdown in 2018 reduced economic output by \$11 billion.

A government shutdown would mean that essential social services would be slowed and federal employees and military service members would go without paychecks for their families as the holidays approach. But more than just hurting those who work for the government, a government shutdown would also hurt every American who relies on the government to get by. It would halt small business loans, stall life-saving medical research, and jeopardize nutrition assistance for low-income women, infants, and children. Further, ahead of one of the busiest travel weekends of the year, a shutdown would cause travel delays, because thousands of air traffic controllers and TSA officers would work without pay.

And as Israel continues to defend itself against Hamas and Ukraine against Russian aggression, a government shutdown would jeopardize America's ability to support our allies and keep Americans safe. It also would hamper our life-saving foreign assistance programs, keeping us from providing food and medicine to those desperately in need, from Gaza and Haiti to the DRC and Sudan.

That is why it is essential that Congress pass another short-term spending bill ahead of the shutdown deadline on November 17. The United States of America must prove to our allies and enemies that we can rise to the occasion when the world needs our leadership most and to our own people that we can keep the lights on to govern. And after we pass a short-term CR, the only path forward to fund the government for the next fiscal year is one of bipartisanship and cross-chamber unity.

For 3 essential weeks during the current short-term funding period, the Republican-led House was without a Speaker. While the House was paralyzed, the Senate was busy negotiating bipartisan funding bills. Two weeks

ago, we passed three spending bills with the support of 82 senators, and we continue to work across the aisle on the remaining bills.

The Republican chaos has finally ended in the House—but while there may be a new Speaker, House Republicans are still plaguing the Chamber with their old problems. Unlike the Senate, the only funding bills they've passed are deeply partisan ones that do not adhere to the budget agreement Congress passed earlier this year.

It is time for *both* parties in *both* Chambers to come together and fund our government. And I sincerely hope that my Republican colleagues in the House will approach that task in good faith—without hard-right proposals and drastic budget cuts that they know Democrats, and the American people, will never support.

Funding the government is one of the essential parts of this job. It is time to fulfill our basic duties in a way that doesn't disrupt Americans' livelihood and well-being during what should be a joyous time of year. We need to finish the full-year appropriations process. And to do that in a responsible way, we need to keep the government open and operational.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, shortly after President Biden took office, I gave a speech wondering whether this new President Biden's tough-on-Russia rhetoric would be matched by his administration's actions. I wondered about President Biden because the actions of the Obama-Biden administration were dangerously weak.

We all know that when it comes to Russia, weakness is provocative. It encourages aggression. Russians follow the maxim attributed to Lenin:

You probe with bayonets: If you find mush, you push. If you find steel, you withdraw.

The same is true when dealing with Iran and China. Only 6 months after Russia invaded and occupied portions of the Republic of Georgia, then-Vice President Biden went to Munich to deliver a speech calling for the United States to hit the "reset button" with Russia. When Russia invaded, the Republic of Georgia was westernizing and had gone out of its way to cement close ties with our country.

Georgia even sent soldiers to fight and die alongside American soldiers, but that support from Georgia was quickly forgotten in order to reset relations with Russia. Secretary of State Clinton actually did hit the "reset button" in an embarrassing, chummy ceremony with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

As part of the Obama-Biden reset, the United States unilaterally canceled planned missile defense cooperation with our allies the Czechs and the Poles, and the administration did so on the anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Poland.