

exist alone on this globe? Do my colleagues on the other side of the aisle know no history?

Let me assure my colleagues that they cannot retreat to sheltered little corners where they will remain safe. When the field to tyranny is ceded, when my colleagues whet its appetite, it will find them.

Could some of these Members among us hold their fanciful ideas because their families have been protected from the raw edge of tyranny? Could my colleagues not know the terrorist face of forced subjugation. Our family knows the face of Russian terror. Believe me, no person should ever have to endure its cruel, murderous, soulless apparatus.

Perhaps the lack of mandatory conscription in our Nation's military for a generation means that we as a country are yielding very naive candidates for Congress and even for the Presidency of our country, with some having no veterans in their own families.

Do Members of Congress genuflecting before Vladimir Putin actually not know that my colleagues are making our world a much more dangerous place in which to live? Are Members absent any veterans in their families who fought on the Continent of Europe in the last century and know the stakes?

For the first time in recorded history, the structure of a free world and the means to defend it hangs in the balance. In Europe, well over half a million lives were sacrificed to the vision of what we now call the free world. When our soldiers fought, the shield of liberty they bequeathed to each and every one of us and Members of this body that have royally blessed us, as they fought, they didn't have a name for the free world. There was no NATO. However, they understood when they met an enemy to liberty, and they fought against it with everything they had.

Anyone in this room, anyone listening, we have been blessed, living during the longest period of peacetime history among great powers that the world has ever known. We are blessed, not for anything we did ourselves, but for what those who came before us did for us. We can't squander that legacy.

Liberty's shield was created out of the profound sacrifices of our citizens, enabling all of us to live more comfortable lives, maybe too comfortable, about which the people of Ukraine can only now dream and fight.

I will ask my colleagues who oppose assistance to Ukraine: Have their lives perhaps been too comfortable? Do they know nothing of what our forebears sacrificed and fought for? Do they not know the face of tyranny?

Could Members of Congress be so vapid and unaware of America's critical role in the history of liberty? Do they not understand their dithering threatens liberty? Do they not understand, if one naively retreats into their comfortable corner of the world for

safety, there will come a day when the mean forces of evil will find them and us?

Read about Stalin's Black Raven squads to understand who is empowered through ignorance. There is no safety in retreat. Our colleagues appease but do not understand what it takes to maintain a free world.

What a sacrilege to reward murderous dictators like Vladimir Putin. He operates in the style of his idol, Joseph Stalin, the most vile, crazed, savage Russian dictator. Stalin butchered millions upon millions of innocent human beings as their blood soaked and sanctified the holy land of Ukraine, as its Black Raven squads sought out any person who got in the way. They were starved by Russia, shot in the back of the head by Russia, smothered to death in church basements, buried in nameless mass graves, in forests, frozen and starved by the millions.

Did my colleagues not observe the recent torturous death of Russian freedom fighter Alexei Navalny? That is Putin's way of operating, *modus operandi*, kill the opposition.

By acquiescing to Russia, you reward murderers, despots, and tyrants. Parroting the talking points of Vladimir Putin and the Kremlin isn't just a sign of our colleagues' lack of knowledge on the subject. It is simply un-American.

Are my colleagues too blinded by full bellies, media distractions, and their own self-satisfaction and attention to miss the predator on the march?

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Are my colleagues too consumed with the attention they draw by playing with the Devil that they foolishly hasten the day when the winds of oppression burn them and us?

Only time will tell, but as the hours, days, and weeks tick by, Ukrainian lives hang in the balance. Ukrainian soldiers valiantly resist the third largest military in the world.

I urge my colleagues to support funding for ammunition and weapons for Ukraine. I call upon the majority to bring the legislation to the floor immediately. Time is of the essence. The winter months over 2 years have been so, so difficult for the people of Ukraine and her soldiers.

Liberty hangs in the balance on our watch. Give us a chance to vote for liberty. Don't hold back the legislation another month and then another month and then another month. Meet the moment. Protect the national security of the United States and of Europe. Meet our obligations. Let's vote for support of Ukraine. I pray we can do that next week.

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

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF METRO CITY KIDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 9, 2023, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Pastor Terry and Reverend Cynthia Horn on celebrating their 50th anniversary of active children's ministry aimed at teaching good citizenship, along with biblical moral values.

Dr. Terry Horn, as you can see here beside me, is affectionately known as Uncle Sam, and he and his wife Cynthia began their ministry, as I said, 50 years ago to teach Christ's love, hope, and healing in poverty stricken areas. The Horns have brought the Gospel message to major cities throughout the United States before finally being called to relocate to Jacksonville in 2011. It is that time that I was sheriff in Jacksonville, Florida, and got to know their program well.

Their current organization, Metro City Kids, is a faith-based mission serving Jacksonville's inner-city children. Their efforts have had notable and tangible importance in our northeast Florida community. Metro City Kids works to connect children living in public-assisted housing to Christ and encourages them through weekly mentoring, Bible study, and prayer to live a Christian lifestyle. The Duval County's Sheriff Office, which I was sheriff, reported that juvenile crime in public housing areas where Metro City Kids operated saw a 40 percent reduction in their first 5 years of service. That was an amazing, amazing accomplishment.

Metro City Kids' impact on Jacksonville is far-reaching, and hundreds of children and families have been blessed by their dedication to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Pastor Terry Horn, "Uncle Sam," and his wife, Reverend Cynthia Horn, for their ministry in the parts of our community that were most in need. Their investment in our next generation has made northeast Florida a safer, more loving place to live, and I thank them for that.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PONTE VEDRA HIGH SCHOOL AND CREEKSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the exemplary athletic achievement of the girls' soccer teams from Ponte Vedra High School and Creekside High School, both located in my district.

On Saturday, March 2, these two varsity teams became 2024 Florida High School Athletics Association State champions, following playoff wins at the Spec Martin Stadium in DeLand, Florida.

The Ponte Vedra Sharks won the Class 6A State championship against East Lake High School with a pair of second-half goals. Hadley Conway, Jenny Dearie, and Elle Anderson scored for the Sharks, earning them a 3-1 victory.

Over the course of the team's five playoff games, Ponte Vedra outscored their opponents 22-2. I have to mention

that this is the fourth State championship for Ponte Vedra's powerhouse soccer program since the school's inception in 2009, all under amazing Coach Dave Silverberg.

Now, the Creekside Knights triumphed over Boca Raton in the Class 7A league, also securing their spot as State champions. This is the second time in that program's history that the Knights have claimed the title, both in the past 3 years, again under amazing Coach Joe Soto's leadership. Goals from Chloe Iliff and Sarah Weisberg cemented the well-deserved 2-1 win that concluded their fantastic season.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to congratulate the hardworking student athletes of Ponte Vedra and Creekside High Schools for their great achievements. I thank Coaches Silverberg and Soto, their parents, the entire Ponte Vedra and Creekside communities for supporting these champion athletes. Florida's Fifth Congressional District is truly proud to have such determined and dedicated students. I wish them the best in their continued endeavors, and I wish both of their programs great success.

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

SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE LIVES LOST IN GAZA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise.

I rise proud to be an American, proud to have the opportunity to stand here in the Congress of the United States of America and address issues of importance to the world.

I am proud to say that as an American, I salute the flag. I say the Pledge of Allegiance. I sing the national anthem. I stand for the anthem, but, Mr. Speaker, as I always remind people, as a liberated Democrat, I remind them, the greatness of America will not be measured by whether the AL GREEN's of the world will stand and salute the flag or will stand and sing the national anthem.

The greatness of America will be measured by whether the AL GREEN's of the world will defend those who choose not to stand, who choose not to sing, who choose not to salute. I will defend their rights as Americans not to participate in many things that I participate in.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that when I tell people I love my country, a good many would say to me, why would you love a country that segregated you? Why would you love a country that required you to sit in the back of the bus, the balcony of a movie? Why would you love a country that has treated you so badly and so poorly when you were a child?

I was the son of a segregated South. The laws that the Constitution recog-

nized for me, my friends and neighbors denied access to those laws, if you will.

But I have found that the best opportunity to make a difference in the world and change these things resides here in the United States of America. I love the country because I love the ideals, the ideals, what it stands for in its Declaration of Independence, what it stands for in its Constitution. I know that the Constitution did not apply equally to all when initially written, but I also know that there have been changes and there is still much change to take place.

I love my country, but I still believe that there must be things that we can do and there are things we can do to make the country a better place for all.

Therefore, today, I rise, Mr. Speaker, to speak on behalf of the many persons who have lost their lives, who have suffered in Gaza. The United States funds, funds the country that has purchased the weaponry, much of it, that has been used to harm people in Gaza. We have our fingerprints on these weapons. We have our fingerprints on the destruction that is taking place in Gaza.

I rise to stand with the innocent Palestinian men, women, and children, especially children, as well as others who were in Gaza who have suffered.

I rise, Mr. Speaker, with a resolution that I will be filing, a resolution that will be commemorating the innocent civilian lives lost in Gaza.

I plan to read this resolution, but before I read it, I will remind people, those who would think that I only commemorate the lives of Palestinians and those who lost their lives in Gaza who happen to be Palestinian. No. I was right here on the Capitol grounds just outside this building—you walk out, you walk over, you don't really walk down to the place where we stood to present our belief that we should bring back the hostages.

I participated in this with the Honorable FREDERICA WILSON from Florida to bring back the hostages, to say to the world that we support bringing the hostages back. They should never have been taken. You don't take babies as hostages.

I stood there, and before that, I was out in front of the Capitol with the Speaker of the House and many Representatives from this House to indicate that a certain number of days had passed and people were still being held hostage. I have spoken on the floor of this House on behalf of Israel. I have voted for more than \$50 billion in support to Israel. So don't in any way conclude that I am a person who has not supported Israel and the people of Israel.

But today, I have a resolution that deals with the innocent civilian lives lost in Gaza, and that would include, by the way, the seven people who were wounded, who were the World Central Kitchen workers. They were there to bring relief. It is a relief organization, but I say they were great humani-

tarians who lost their lives, and their lives have to be commemorated as well.

Please, hear now the resolution commemorating innocent civilian lives lost in Gaza:

"Whereas, this resolution may be cited as the 'Original Resolution Commemorating Innocent Civilian Lives Lost in Gaza.'"

By the way, it hasn't been filed. If someone wants to file a resolution similar to this before I file mine, please do so. I don't file it because I am trying to be first in time. I file it because there is a necessity to talk about the lives that have been lost in Gaza.

"Whereas, this resolution may be cited as the 'Original Resolution Commemorating Innocent Civilian Lives Lost in Gaza.'"

By the way, one of the reasons that I filed this resolution, Mr. Speaker, is because I believe we must do more than statisticize these lives that were lost. We must do more to humanize the suffering that is taking place in Gaza. Statisticizing does not give you the essence of the human beings that have lost their lives and been wounded.

I will say more about that as we progress.

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"Whereas, on October 7, 2023, Hamas conducted a heinous attack on Israel, leading to Israel declaring war on Hamas."

This is not in the resolution, but you need to hear this: War on Hamas, Mr. Speaker. Not war on Palestinians, war on Hamas. Even the Prime Minister of Israel, Mr. Netanyahu himself, has said that the Palestinians are victims. War on Hamas declared by Israel, not war on Palestinians.

Continuing with the resolution: "Whereas, in 2020, the population of Gaza was over 2 million, with approximately half being children under the age of 18."

Half, more than half being children under the age of 18. I repeat a lot of things for emphasis. This is one of those things.

"Whereas, because of the war, homes, schools, businesses, and hospitals within Gaza have been decimated."

I will say more about that in a moment.

"Whereas, hundreds of thousands of innocent civilian men, women, and especially children in Gaza have suffered through the loss of mothers, fathers, brothers, and sisters"—family members, families have lost their lives in Gaza; innocent people, I might add—"while starving and suffering the mental anguish associated with war."

Can you imagine what it would be like for the persons who survive this war, what their lives will be like? Will there be counseling for them as we provide counseling for ourselves when we have suffered some sort of mental anguish? Or will they just have to suffer for the rest of their lives and never get the proper medical treatment that they richly deserve?