

with the Boys & Girls Clubs—it wasn't until years later that I found out that Herb Kohl, our Herb Kohl, was giving generous support to those Boys & Girls Clubs for years. But did he say a word about it to my colleagues, to me? We talked basketball all the time, but he never talked about how he stepped in to help all those future hoopsters. And that was Herb Kohl in a nutshell. He would see a need for his community, and without any fanfare, without any notice, without any press releases, Herb Kohl didn't act like a Senator; he just acted in the spirit of *tikkun olam*. He stepped up. He wanted to help. He never asked for an award, never saw himself with a picture of himself in a blue suit and a red tie getting some kind of award.

A number of Senators over the years—and I think this echoes what my colleagues have said—they said that Herb was very nice to them and very polite. I heard Senator KLOBUCHAR talk about work on antitrust stuff. But a lot of colleagues would come up to you and they would say our first name and they would say: But I haven't really had a lot of extended conversations with Senator Kohl. Now, we know it was not because he was unpleasant or wished somebody ill but because he was very private, putting in the work each day to make good on his pledges to Wisconsin families and so many others.

All of us read the really wonderful, gracious obituary for Senator Kohl in the New York Times. One of the reasons I wanted to come to the floor today was to mention a couple of things that they didn't even manage to get into that wonderful obituary. It was terrific. But let me give some examples.

My background is working with the Gray Panthers, working with the elderly. I was thrilled to be able to work under him when he was chair of the Aging Committee. When it came to seniors, no issue for Senator Kohl was too small or too insignificant for him to tackle. He tackled end-of-life issues and long-term care, addressing unemployment among older workers, protecting seniors from financial abuse, tried to help them save for retirement. All of us could go through this laundry list of accomplishments. Not all of those ideas might have been on the front page of the paper, but they represented the quiet and thoughtful workhorse that Herb Kohl was.

Older Americans had no better ally than they did in Senator Kohl. Through all the partisan infighting, he always worked on those senior issues because he saw that as ground that was exempt from all the pettiness that drives so much of politics.

I will close with this: I was especially appreciative that Senator Kohl, in his quiet way, had the vision to look down the road at big challenges. For example, he talked to me often—and I am sure my colleagues as well—about how the guarantee of Medicare had evolved over the years. In other words, Senator

Kohl knew that Medicare was not a voucher, that it wasn't some piece of paper, some snippet of paper; it was a guarantee of Medicare. He also knew that it had evolved over the years. It is still continuing with the prescription drug benefit. He knew the program inside out, and Senator Kohl would always say to me: Let's just keep figuring out how to update the Medicare guarantee, protect the elderly, and promote choice and alternatives without compromising the protections that older people deserve.

Let me just say to my colleagues, as chair of the Finance Committee, if you walk into the Senate Finance Committee room today and you talk about the issues relating to Medicare and Medicare Advantage and them spending \$6 billion on garbage advertising, Herb Kohl was telling us years ago there were supposed to be guardrails for that, there were supposed to be protections for that. That was Herb Kohl—thinking down the road as well as helping people today.

So I am really pleased to be here with my good friends, and I will just close with one last point. I think one of my colleagues talked about it. Senator KLOBUCHAR knew that the Senate was kind of a community, and I suspect that there are a few people in the House today who understand that as well. But when staff was working late at night—they might have a bill or an amendment or something or maybe they would be working on a project where staff was helping the bigger campus community—and it would get to be 8 or 9 o'clock at night and people were kind of hoping that somehow, out of the sky, a pizza would arrive—not with Herb Kohl. When it got to be 9 o'clock, we got ourselves a real dinner, and nobody knew where it came from, but a handful of us did.

Until his last days, Herb Kohl practiced *tikkun olam*. That is why you have some of my most thoughtful colleagues—the Senate is made up of a lot of people, but I have just been here a few minutes, and I heard Senator BALDWIN, Senator KLOBUCHAR, and my partner from Oregon, Senator MERKLEY. These are the kind of people who also represent the best of public service. That is why all of us are here—because our hearts are heavy today because we so admired him, we so appreciated him.

I send my love tonight to Sid and Dorothy and Lisa and the whole family because they continue to represent the ideals Herb Kohl stood for.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to someone I was honored to work alongside, and I know that many other Members on both sides of the aisle feel the same way.

Herb Kohl wasn't the most outgoing Senator. Some people might have called him quiet or even shy. But he

was never quiet about fighting for the people of Wisconsin. And he was never shy about standing up for the things he believed in. He was absolutely passionate about protecting our Great Lakes, our land, and the people in Wisconsin and across the country who depend on them for their livelihoods. Wisconsin's dairy farmers and rural communities had no greater champion, and they are so fortunate that Senator BALDWIN has carried on Senator Kohl's good work.

He was also a champion for American families and for ensuring that they have access to fresh, healthy food. As chairman of the Agriculture Appropriations panel, he fought to expand nutrition programs for children and to fund the WIC Program, which helps make sure American moms and babies have the food they need to thrive. And as chairman of the Special Committee on Aging, he was laser-focused on the needs of older Americans, including through improving the quality and safety of nursing homes.

Of course, we all know what a huge sports fan he was as the longtime owner of the Milwaukee Bucks and a member of the team that brought the Brewers to Wisconsin. It was wonderful that he was able to watch his beloved Bucks win the NBA title in 2021, and he even rode in the championship parade.

Perhaps he will be most remembered for his generosity. His Herb Kohl Educational Foundation has provided more than \$34 million to support Wisconsin schools, teachers, and students since 1990. And he made a lasting impact at his alma mater, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where the Kohl Center Arena and the Herb Kohl Public Service Research Competition still carry his name.

But beyond the sports teams and beyond his legislative legacy, Senator Kohl was kind. He was humble. He believed in treating everyone with respect. He knew how fortunate he was, and he spent his life ensuring that as many other people as possible could share in his good fortune. I firmly believe that the Senate—and our country—would be a kinder, better place if more of us would follow his lead. Senator Kohl was a statesman, and he was my friend. I am grateful for the time we worked together in the Senate.

I want to offer his family, friends, and the entire State of Wisconsin my deepest condolences.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, we are back in the Senate and kicking off a new year, which will undoubtedly be busy and certainly challenging. There is a lot of work for us to do, and one of our most crucial tasks is to address the national security supplemental appropriations bill that President Biden has requested.

As you know, that bill includes relief for not only Israel but also additional

assistance to Ukraine and provides additional money for the Indo-Pacific—hopefully to deter potential Chinese aggression in that region—and, of course, the border, which is another story for another day.

But today, I would like to talk about the challenges we face in the Middle East. Today, the global threat environment is unlike any we have seen in recent memory, perhaps in our lifetime.

I just returned from a trip to the Middle East with a bipartisan group of colleagues from the Senate Intelligence Committee. We had an extremely busy schedule, but it was very productive. We had 22 separate meetings with leaders across the region, from Jordan to Saudi Arabia, to Israel.

We also had the opportunity, as I indicated, to travel to Israel to meet with Prime Minister Netanyahu and the Minister of Defense, Galant, and also members of the intelligence community there in Tel Aviv—the Shin Bet, which is responsible for domestic security, and, of course, Mossad, the legendary intelligence agency of the Israeli Government.

We all know that on October 7, the world shifted and changed in a dramatic way in Israel when Hamas entered Israel by air, land, and sea. They committed horrific acts of murder of babies and children and innocent civilians. They raped and tortured and beheaded innocent people—beheaded innocent people. They dismembered the bodies of their victims and captured hostages to use as human shields and bargaining chips. It was a day of infamy that will live in the minds of Israelis for the rest of their lives, and it should be a warning again—if we need another warning—to the rest of the region and the rest of the world.

For the people of Israel, this was not unlike our experience on September 11, 2001, when nearly 3,000 Americans were killed by a terrorist attack here in Washington, DC, and, of course, the plane lost in Pennsylvania when brave passengers on that plane prevented an attack, perhaps on the very Capitol Building here in Washington. Of course, on September 11, thousands of families lost husbands, wives, parents, and children because of evil terrorists in pursuit of a fanatical ideology. That is what Israel experienced 3 months ago.

Compared to the United States, of course, Israel is a very small country. It is home to roughly 9.3 million people. I represent a State of 30 million people. So Israel has roughly about a third of the population of the State of Texas. But in Israel on that day, October 7, the lives of 1,200 people were lost. Based on the population, this would be equivalent to roughly 36,000 Americans dying on 9/11—an absolutely mind-boggling thought.

Just as most Americans can remember where they were and what they were doing on that terrible day of 9/11/2001, nearly every single Israeli who is old enough to remember the attack

will forever recall the events of that terrible day. They will never—they will never—forget the pain that their country and their people have endured and the threat to their very existence that the terrorist attack represents.

As might be expected, I am proud to say that over the last 3 months, the United States has stood strongly in support of Israel—one of our closest allies; the only democracy, really, in the Middle East. We provided military assistance and repeatedly affirmed that Israel has a nonnegotiable right to defend itself.

In recent months, as has occurred throughout America's history, some Americans have voiced skepticism: Why should we care? Why should America be involved in these conflicts so far away from our shores? They ask, and it is a fair question: Why should we care about the outcome of a war that is happening thousands of miles away? Given the challenges we face here at home, they ask, why should the United States invest in Israel's victory and the defense of Ukraine against the invasion by Russia? The threats that are occurring in the Indo-Pacific—why should we care about those threats?

Well, the answer when it comes to Israel is simple: Terrorism will not be confined to Israel or the Middle East as a region. What happens there will not stay there.

Now, I know that sometimes we have to relearn the lessons we learned the hard way many years ago, but the lesson of 9/11 is that our oceans, the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, do not protect the United States against terrorist attacks on our own soil. That is the hard lesson we learned on 9/11, and we should not forget it.

The evil that the world witnessed on October 7 is not limited to Hamas. Hamas, of course, is a terrorist organization committed to the destruction of Israel and the elimination of the Israeli people from the map. This is a sickness, a perversion of a great religion that is shared by terrorist organizations throughout the Middle East.

But we should not be distracted by looking at just Hamas because it is Iran that is the head of the octopus. Its tentacles of terror—its proxies—extend throughout the region and threaten to destabilize the Middle East and potentially start a much larger war.

Iran's terrorist proxies include not only Hamas but also Hezbollah in Lebanon, to the north of Israel; the Houthis in Yemen, on the Arabian Peninsula; the Palestinian Islamic Jihad in Gaza and the West Bank; and, of course the Shiite militias in Syria and Iraq, who have attempted as many as 100 different attacks on American troops and America's interests in the region. Iran provides these groups with funding and with weapons and training to enable these attacks like the one that was committed by Hamas on Israel.

But that is only one example. Iranian-led proxies in Iraq and Syria are

attacking U.S. forces, as I said. Hezbollah is launching consistent assaults on northern Israel. The Houthis are disrupting global commerce and freedom of navigation in the Red Sea, as well as launching unmanned aerial vehicles in an attempt to essentially assault and bomb Israel.

Iran is a country driven by an ideology that calls for the destruction of Israel, but Iran would not stop there.

The Supreme Leader of Iran once labeled the United States as Iran's "No. 1 enemy." We see that view borne into action today as Iran supports Russia in its ongoing war on the people of Ukraine and through its strategic cooperation with China.

Yes, this war is about the future of Israel, but it is also about the future of Iran. Tehran stands to gain a lot from Hamas's war against the Israelis, and the United States must continue to stand for the unequivocal defeat of Hamas. Anything less would embolden Iran and its terrorist proxies and aid them in their ambitions for regional hegemony.

Our colleagues are working hard to reach an agreement on a national security supplemental appropriations bill that will include aid for four security national priorities, as I mentioned: Israel, Ukraine, the Indo-Pacific, and the southern border.

When it comes to Israel, some want to set conditions on U.S. aid and thus attempt to micromanage Israel's fight for its very survival. This, I would suggest, is nothing but hubris, plain and simple.

Imagine if other countries tried to tell the United States how we should have conducted our fight against al-Qaida after 9/11, right after the smoke had cleared and after the bodies of 3,000 Americans had been buried; if other countries had told us "No, you can't go after the terrorists' threat this way; you have to do it that way." Our Nation had just lost 3,000 innocent lives through a series of terrorist attacks. Imagine if others tried to dictate the means by which we defeated that threat and protected our country. Would we have allowed them to tie our hands when it comes to our own defense? Absolutely not. We would have chided them for their naivety and dismissed any attempt to treat terrorist organizations with kid gloves or to treat them as a rational power.

A number of Americans are concerned—we are all concerned, I would suggest—by the number of civilian casualties in Gaza.

But the primary cause of civilian casualties in Gaza and in Israel is Hamas, the terrorist organization. There is no question that when war is declared as Hamas declared war against Israel on October 7, that innocent people will be hurt, perhaps even killed. But there is no question that Hamas's own tactics are the reason the loss of life in Gaza is so high.

These terrorists have a long history of using Palestinian civilians as human

shields to protect themselves. Hamas operates a vast network of tunnels beneath Gaza—some 500 kilometers by one estimate—and they shield their terrorist overlords in those tunnels from the dangerous fighting above ground. This is where they store critical supplies like water, food, and fuel, which are being kept from the Palestinian civilians who need that humanitarian assistance. It seems likely that these tunnels are the hiding place for more than 130 remaining hostages.

I met with the grieving families here in Dallas, TX, who lost loved ones to this conflict on October 7, whose loved ones are hostages of Hamas today in Israel. And we also met with another group of Americans who have family members who are currently hostages of Hamas in Gaza.

Well, a video was shared online of a Hamas gunman who was captured and interrogated by Israeli officials. He said that Hamas shelters in tunnels and basements under clinics, schools, and hospitals because they know the Israelis will not target those locations because of their concern about collateral damage and the injury and, perhaps, death of innocent people. So Hamas deliberately places innocent Palestinians between its terrorist foot soldiers and incoming rockets.

We should remember that it was Hamas that initiated this war with their brutal massacre of Israeli civilians, including women and children—even infants—that were just going about their daily lives that represented no threat to them. It is Hamas that knowingly uses the Palestinian people as human shields. It is Hamas that rejoices at every Palestinian killed because it broadens their support and strengthens their narrative and helps them recruit more support.

The world should not condemn Israel for defending itself against terrorist attacks, just like the world did not condemn the United States when we defended ourselves against al-Qaida following the terrorist attacks of 9/11. The world should condemn Hamas for its indiscriminate use of civilian infrastructure to protect its own foot soldiers.

As the fighting continues, we can't lose sight of the jarring difference between two sides of this conflict. There is no moral equivalence between Israel and the terrorist organization known as Hamas or, as I mentioned earlier, the head of the octopus, which is the regime in Iran.

This is not a battle between two nations. This is a battle between good and evil. Additional assistance for Israel is crucial to not only the future of the Jewish State but to the stability of the region and the future ambitions of Iran. If Hamas emerges from this war with nothing more than a black eye, it will send a message to Iran and its terrorist proxies that their war against Israel and the Western world is worthwhile. And it will continue and it will intensify and it will expand.

Given the chaos that is unfolding in the Middle East today, the very last thing the world needs is an emboldened Iran. I hope in the coming weeks, the Senate can finally make progress on the need for assistance for Israel. The House passed an Israel aid bill on November 2—November 2, more than 2 months ago—and the Senate has done nothing except preach to Israel on the means by which some believe it should defend itself from those determined to wipe it from the face of the Earth.

This is not a time for preaching to Israel, our most steadfast ally in the Middle East, about how to defend themselves. It is a grave disservice, I believe, to do so.

So there is a lot at stake, and the eyes of the world are on the United States. Again, as I said earlier, no American wants to see us involved in conflicts around the world. But, unfortunately, it is our responsibility, not just because we come to the aid of others who have been innocent civilians and people who have been viciously attacked by terrorists but because this virus, this contagion, will spread beyond Israel, beyond the Middle East, and to other parts of the world, including the United States.

If there is a lesson we learned from 9/11, it is that our oceans—the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans—will not protect us. So what happens in Gaza, what happens in Israel will not stay there.

Taking action to ensure our top ally in the Middle East has its back would be a great place for us to start this new year. The clock is ticking, and the Senate needs to act soon to ensure that Israel has what it needs to defeat Hamas and confront the growing threat from Iran.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Ms. DUCKWORTH. I also ask unanimous consent for the scheduled vote to begin immediately.

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

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 376, John A. Kazen, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Tina Smith, Alex Padilla, Jack Reed, Patty Murray, Christopher A. Coons,

Sheldon Whitehouse, Mazie Hirono, Peter Welch, Richard Blumenthal, Jeanne Shaheen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Chris Van Hollen, Brian Schatz, John W. Hickenlooper, Robert P. Casey, Jr.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of John A. Kazen, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Washington (Mrs. CANTWELL), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 73, nays 15, as follows:

#### [Rollcall Vote No. 1 Ex.]

##### YEAS—73

Baldwin	Grassley	Reed
Bennet	Hagerty	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hassan	Romney
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Rosen
Booker	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Brown	Hirono	Sanders
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Butler	Johnson	Schumer
Capito	Kaine	Shaheen
Cardin	Kelly	Sinema
Carper	Kennedy	Smith
Casey	King	Stabenow
Collins	Klobuchar	Tester
Coons	Lankford	Tillis
Cornyn	Manchin	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Markey	Warner
Cramer	McConnell	Warnock
Crapo	Menendez	Warren
Cruz	Merkley	Welch
Daines	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Duckworth	Murphy	Wicker
Durbin	Murray	Wyden
Ernst	Ossoff	Young
Fischer	Padilla	
Gillibrand	Peters	

##### NAYS—15

Braun	Lummis	Scott (FL)
Britt	Marshall	Sullivan
Hawley	Mullin	Thune
Hoeven	Paul	Tuberville
Lee	Schmitt	Vance

##### NOT VOTING—12

Barrasso	Cotton	Moran
Boozman	Fetterman	Risch
Cantwell	Graham	Rubio
Cassidy	Luján	Scott (SC)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). On this vote, the yeas are 73, the nays are 15.

The motion is agreed to.

The majority leader.