

When Russia resorts to these cowardly missile attacks on civilian targets, Ukraine has responded in kind with precise strikes on Russian military targets. So Russia is attacking civilian targets, and Ukrainians are responding with targeted attacks on Russian military targets.

For example, explosions have occurred here. This is Ukraine. This is the occupied area. Explosions have occurred deep in Russian territory here.

What are those areas? Well, these are Russian air bases deep inside Russian territory, but they are home to the bombers who have been targeting civilian infrastructure and killing Ukrainian civilians with cruise missiles over the past couple of months.

As the UK Ministry of Defense reported last week, these may be “some of the most strategically significant failures of force protection since [Russia’s] invasion of Ukraine.”

Over the weekend, Ukraine launched a series of HIMARS strikes on the Russian occupied city of Melitopol, which is here, including a strike on Russian military barracks that reportedly killed a lot of the Wagner mercenaries. This is in this area here.

America has been blessed with big, wide oceans on our east and to our west and friendly neighbors to our north and our south. It is hard for us to grasp what they are going through. It is hard for us to grasp what it is like to have a war ravage your homeland and force you to leave your home.

Russia’s atrocities and clear human rights violations against civilians are one compelling reason why supporting Ukraine is the right thing to do, and I hope this week in this Chamber we will once again provide support for Ukraine.

But another reason is that the death and destruction are not likely to end in Ukraine. Vladimir Putin is on record as saying, “The borders of Russia have no end.” He and his senior officials have also talked about recreating the old Soviet empire. They have said that Ukraine is just the first step.

I will tell you, other countries in Eastern Europe get that, and they are understandably quite nervous. That is why they stepped up big time to help Ukraine. That is why they have increased their own military spending. That is why they have expanded their military cooperation with the United States. Think of Poland, Slovakia, Romania, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia—they are all doing that. Finland and Sweden certainly understand how dangerous Russia has become, which is why they have now decided they are going to join NATO after years of neutrality—Finland, Sweden.

In my view, the only way to get Vladimir Putin to back off and to negotiate an end to this ruthless and senseless war is to continue to demonstrate unity among free nations, to tighten the sanctions on the Russian economy, and to continue to help Ukraine win on the battlefield. That is how this thing

ends—through success. U.S. leadership and assistance is key to that strategy.

I am not advocating a blank check, by the way. I hope nobody is. I believe there needs to be accountability for the assistance that we provide, and there is. There is accountability on the state aid, there is accountability on the humanitarian aid, and there is accountability on the military aid.

I have seen it in action in meeting with the 101st Airborne in Poland, how they have end-use monitoring of the equipment we are sending. The Ukrainians themselves want to have transparency. They understand how important that is. That is why they have Deloitte Cincinnati, an American accounting firm, involved in monitoring and providing reports. That is why we are running our assistance through the World Bank, where they are auditing and reporting back to us. That is important to do.

But the alternative to helping Ukraine, to me, is unthinkable. What would have happened if the United States had said “We are not going to help here” and the rest of the world had said “Well, if the Americans aren’t going to step forward and provide some leadership, we are not going to either”?

First of all, it is clear to all of us that this country would be occupied by Russia today. And even if Russia didn’t go ahead and move into all these other countries they say they are going to move into—that Ukraine is just the first step and they want to recreate the empire or the Soviet Union—even if it is just Ukraine and they stopped at the Ukrainian borders, suddenly you would have three NATO countries that have a border with Russia that do not now and really a fourth because all Poland has is a very small outpost of Russia here.

So you would suddenly have NATO country the United States, under article V, is committed to protecting with an aggressive Russia on its border. We would be mobilizing thousands of troops. We would have massive amounts of weapons at the borders of these NATO allies at a tremendous cost to the U.S. taxpayer. Is that a better alternative than helping give Ukraine the tools they need to be able to do their own fighting, which has been successful up to now—more successful than anyone could have imagined?

Finally, I would say that allowing an authoritarian regime to take over an ally and a democracy with impunity—that sends exactly the wrong message to the rest of the world at a time we can least afford to have that happen.

Think about China. China is eyeing a potential military assault on Taiwan. Think about our ally Israel as they continue to face threats from Iran and others in the Middle East.

Both our adversaries and our allies are watching to see if the United States and our allies will help maintain that post-World War II world order or whether it is each country for itself. And if it is each country for itself because we aren’t helping Ukraine, the

militarization around the world increases dramatically, as do the nuclear weapons.

Ukraine just wants to live in peace with its neighbors, including Russia. But when attacked by Russian missiles and drones, Ukraine has fought to ensure that the flame of freedom here is not going to go out. From visits, I can say with certainty that they will never give up. And we must not give up on them.

The Ukrainian people tasted freedom when they embarked on their own Revolution of Dignity, as they call it, back in 2014. They threw off a Russian-backed corrupt government and, instead, embraced the West, the European Union, the United States of America, freedom, democracy, free markets. Ukraine chose to stand with us, with Europe, the United States, and other free nations. This is not the time for the United States and its allies to stand down.

So for my current colleagues and the Senators just elected, I urge you: Let’s continue our support for Ukraine in this worthy cause of protecting freedom.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

JAMES M. INHOFE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

House message to accompany a bill (H.R. 7776) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill.

Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with Schumer (for Manchin) Amendment No. 6513 (to the House amendment to the Senate amendment), to provide for American energy security by improving the permitting process.

Schumer Amendment No. 6515 (to Amendment No. 6513), to add an effective date.

Schumer motion to refer the bill to the Committee on Armed Services, with instructions, Schumer Amendment No. 6516, to add an effective date.

Schumer Amendment No. 6517 (to the instructions) Amendment No. 6516), to modify the effective date.

Schumer Amendment No. 6518 (to Amendment No. 6517), to modify the effective date.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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 motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 7776, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes with amendment No. 6513.

Charles E. Schumer, Joe Manchin III, Jon Tester, Martin Heinrich, Thomas R. Carper, Brian Schatz, Amy Klobuchar, Kyrsten Sinema, Tammy Baldwin, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse, Angus S. King, Jr., Sherrod Brown, Michael F. Bennet, Christopher Murphy.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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 motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 7776, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Tammy Baldwin, Mazie Hirono, Tim Kaine, Richard Blumenthal, Gary C. Peters, Jeanne Shaheen, Christopher A. Coons, Jacky Rosen, Richard J. Durbin, Margaret Wood Hassan, Joe Manchin III, Angus S. King, Jr., Benjamin L. Cardin, Mark Kelly, Chris Van Hollen.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, December 14, be waived.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider calendar No. 861, Musetta Tia Johnson, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces for a term of fifteen years to expire on the date prescribed by law; that there be 10 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form on the nomination; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon

the table; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD, and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

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

JUSTICE AND MENTAL HEALTH COLLABORATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 3846.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 3846) entitled "An Act to reauthorize the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program, and for other purposes", do pass with an amendment.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment, and I ask unanimous consent that the motion be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

LANCE CORPORAL DANA CORNELL DARNELL VA CLINIC

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5943.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5943) to designate the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Greenville, South Carolina, as the "Lance Corporal Dana Cornell Darnell VA Clinic".

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 5943) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RECOGNIZING INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS' DAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 872, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 872) recognizing Interscholastic Athletic Administrators' Day on December 14, 2022.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 872) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

AUTHORIZING THE PRODUCTION OF RECORDS BY THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE AND THE SENATE SERGEANT AT ARMS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 873, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 873) to authorize the production of records by the Secretary of the Senate and the Senate Sergeant at Arms.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the Secretary of the Senate and the Senate Sergeant at Arms have received from the Department of Homeland Security subpoenas for personnel records of a Sergeant at Arms employee sought in connection with an administrative investigation.

In keeping with the Senate's practice under its rules, this resolution would authorize the Secretary and the Sergeant at Arms to provide these personnel records to the Homeland Security Department for use in this matter.

U.S. SENATE,
OFFICE OF SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL,
Washington, DC.

To: The Hon. Charles E. Schumer and The Hon. Mitch McConnell.

cc: The Hon. Soncerria Ann Berry and The Hon. Karen Gibson.

From: Patricia Mack Bryan and Morgan J. Frankel.

Re: Production of records of the Secretary of the Senate and the Senate Sergeant at Arms.

Date: December 6, 2022.

The Secretary of the Senate and the Senate Sergeant at Arms have received from the Department of Homeland Security subpoenas for personnel records of an employee of the Sergeant at Arms. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is conducting an administrative investigation in an immigration marriage fraud matter focusing on a third party and has determined that the personnel records of a Senate employee are needed for the proper adjudication of that matter.

Both the Secretary and the Sergeant at Arms would like to cooperate with these