

global warming,' I wrote about Paul Homewood, who, on his Notalotof peopleknowthat blog, had checked the published temperature graphs for three weather stations in Paraguay against the temperatures that had originally been recorded. In each instance, the actual trend of 60 years of data had been dramatically reversed, so that a cooling trend was changed to one that showed a marked warming.

"This was only the latest of many examples of a practice long recognised by expert observers around the world—one that raises an ever larger question mark over the entire official surface-temperature record.

"Following my last article, Homewood checked a swathe of other South American weather stations around the original three. In each case he found the same suspicious one-way 'adjustments.' First these were made by the U.S. government's Global Historical Climate Network (GHCN). They were then amplified by two of the main official service records, the Goddard Institute for Space Studies (Giss) and the National Climate Data Center (NCDC), which use the warming trends to estimate temperatures across the vast regions of the Earth where no measurements are taken. Yet these are the very records on which scientists and politicians rely for their belief in 'global warming.'

"Homewood has now turned his attention to the weather stations across much of the Arctic, between Canada (51 degrees W) and the heart of Siberia (87 degrees E). Again, in nearly every case, the same one-way adjustments have been made, to show warming up to 1 degree C or more higher than was indicated by the data that was actually recorded. This has surprised no one more than Traust Jonsson, who was long in charge of climate research for the Iceland met office (and with whom Homewood has been in touch). Jonsson was amazed to see how the new version completely 'disappears' Iceland's 'sea ice years' around 1970, when a period of extreme cooling almost devastated his country's economy.

"One of the first examples of these 'adjustments' was exposed in 2007 by the statistician Steve McIntyre, when he discovered a paper published in 1987 by James Hansen, the scientist (later turned fanatical climate activist) who for many years ran Giss—or the Goddard Institute for Space Studies—"Hansen's original graph showed temperatures in the Arctic as having been much higher around 1940 than at any time since. But as Homewood reveals in his blog post, 'Temperature adjustments transform Arctic history.'

Wow, Mr. Speaker, I need to read that again. I had not seen that.

"Hansen's original graph showed temperatures in the Arctic as having been much higher around 1940 than at any time since."

"Homewood's interest in the Arctic is partly because the 'vanishing' of its polar ice (and the polar bears) has be-

come such a poster-child for those trying to persuade us that we are threatened by runaway warming. But he chose that particular stretch of the Arctic because it is where ice is affected by warmer water brought in by cyclical shifts in a major Atlantic current—this last peaked at just the time 75 years ago when Arctic ice retreated even further than it has done recently. The ice-melt is not caused by rising global temperatures at all.

"Of much more serious significance, however, is the way this wholesale manipulation of the official temperature record—for reasons GHCN and Giss have never plausibly explained—has become the real elephant in the room of the greatest and most costly scare the world has known. This really does begin to look like one of the greatest scientific scandals of all time."

Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if it might be possible that there is a mainstream media reporter out there—with the New York Times, Washington Post, ABC, NBC, CBS, CNN, one of those that have lost so many of their viewers and readers—that might someday, against all of the criticism like Galileo got and others received, pick up that mantle and do a true investigation from a mainstream media outlet, facing the belittling and the criticism of all of the Chicken Littles that are in the mainstream media currently and actually gather accurate data, show the fraud, show the wasted money, show the lost lives, show the suffering by running up the price of energy so high, and show just what Christopher Booker talks about as he finished his article. This really does begin to look like one of the greatest scientific scandals of all time.

As the great philosopher Rush Limbaugh once said, "Follow the money." Many others have said it. If you hear someone saying, "Let's bring Syrian refugees in" when we know there is no adequate data to be assured of who they are, where they are really from, follow the money. See if they are part of those dividing up the 1 billion-plus dollars being paid to people to bring refugees into the United States.

Well, Mr. Speaker, when this administration goes about driving up the prices of energy as it has, despite its best efforts, gasoline prices came down. The last I saw, they had dropped their approval of production from Federal land to about 40 percent of grants that had been approved during the Bush administration's 8 years.

Less production is being authorized by this administration. They are sicing the EPA now with these new regulations on the oil and gas industry, which will ultimately—if they are successful and Congress isn't able to stop them as we should, the price of gasoline will skyrocket as the President said he wanted coal-produced power to skyrocket.

As one of my senior citizen constituents had told me—I think she said she was 80—she was born in a home that

only had a wood-burning stove. Because of the way the cost of energy has gone up, she is worried that she may leave this world in a home that only has a wood-burning stove. The trouble for her is, if this administration has its way, she can't have a wood-burning stove even.

You see the cost of home energy going up as dramatically as this administration has forced it and you realize that doesn't really hurt the rich in America to have higher prices for energy. It does hurt business. It absolutely does. It means they can't give raises because they are spending that money on higher bills. So people are not keeping up with what they should.

Then we found out during this administration the unthinkable occurred, and the President even admitted it on camera. For the first time in the history of this country ever, after this President's policies had been fully implemented for 5 years, 95 percent of the Nation's income went to the top 1 percent.

The President, who had talked so much about helping the middle class and helping the poor, has presided over policies that have made the rich—put them in a position where 95 percent of income is going to the top 1 percent. It had never happened before this President's policies, which have made life difficult for people in America.

I mean not for the people that have all the cronyism, crony capitalism, General Electric and all those friends of the President. I am talking about the distance between the rich and the poor has gotten farther with fewer people in between. That is tragic.

So countries swarm to the global warming conferences. Just watch. Follow the money. They hope to leave with an agreement by the United States that will punish American residents and cause them to have to pay more taxes that will be paid to countries around the world.

Of course, they flock to these global warming climate change conferences because they think the President is going to do what he is hoping to do and start sending checks from the American taxpayers to all of these other countries, places where their policies have stifled growth or they don't have the energy we do. How about sending them some energy? Send them some coal. They will be far better off.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, let me just remind that you don't have to pay people to hate you. They will do it for free. We don't have to be sending that money overseas.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2015

UKRAINE UNDER SIEGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ABRAHAM). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as Western Europe strains with more than 1 million refugees fleeing war in the Middle East and enduring terrible conditions, I rise tonight to address another growing humanitarian crisis in Eastern Europe, in Ukraine.

The free world has experienced time and again what happens when it fails to support innocents caught by fate under the brutal grip of war and oppression. Today that reality looms largely over Europe and surely over Ukraine, a nation of freedom-seeking people under siege outnumbered and outgunned due to Russia's invasion on Ukraine's eastern front. So Europe in the western end as well as the eastern faces major displacement and humanitarian needs not seen since World War II.

Ukrainians are fighting to choose their own path, and surely America, with our moral leadership, can find a way to help the beleaguered people of Ukraine survive the siege and the onset of a bitter winter, with climates that can be unforgiving, with temperatures falling as low or more than 25 degrees below zero.

Not to attend to Ukraine now risks Ukraine accessing to the free world. If one looks at the size of Ukraine in Europe, imagine if Ukraine could access to be part of greater Europe. That is all held in abeyance now and also risks millions more potential refugees fleeing from Ukraine to Western Europe for sustenance and more.

I call on the Obama administration to address the growing humanitarian crisis in Europe, not just on the western end, but on the eastern end in Ukraine. This is a challenge that can be met. America has done this before. The humanitarian need in Ukraine is immediate and growing.

I include in the RECORD evidence of this growing crisis by the major religious leaders of Ukraine from all confessions, representing, imagine, nearly 90 percent of the faithful of Ukraine. These denominations include Baptist, Pentecostals, Muslims, Reformed Church, the Lutheran Church, Jewish religious organizations, Evangelicals, the Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Bible Society, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, the Armenian Apostolic Church, the Seventh-Day Adventists, the Christian Evangelical Church. It is a very, very long list.

I am going to read this in the RECORD as well as place it in the RECORD. This was sent to President Obama. A delegation, over this last month, from Ukraine, of its top religious leaders presented the Obama administration with a request. Let me read it.

"We, the undersigned of the All Ukrainian Council of Churches and religious organizations and representing Ukraine's diverse religious community, appeal to you on behalf of the people of Ukraine to help address the humanitarian catastrophe, Mr. President, gripping our country. The needs are enor-

mous, ranging from medical supplies to everyday items, such as food, water, and clothing."

They don't even ask for new clothing. They are willing to take used shoes from the United States of America.

"While the global news media regularly reports on Russia's war against Ukraine, government reforms and financial challenges, there is rarely any mention of the extraordinary dimensions of the human suffering caused by Moscow's aggression. While Ukraine certainly needs greater military, financial, and political assistance, our focus here, as religious leaders, must be on the humanitarian aspect.

"As you know, according to the United Nations, over 5 million people"—5 million—"including 1.7 million children, are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance."

I brought a chart to the floor that shows pictures of just a few of these children.

"8,000 people have died and over 17,000 have been injured and wounded. There are over 1,390,000 displaced people, including 174,000 children."

Here is one child whose only dwelling has been in a bomb shelter since the time of his birth.

"The challenges of this human tragedy are overwhelming. Even the most conservative estimates show that over 65 percent of projected needs have yet to be met—even on the level of pledges.

"As representatives of the interfaith community, we witness on a daily basis the challenges and needs of people suffering because of this war. And with the onset of winter, an already dire situation will only get worse. We pray for their lives and for the future of our country.

"While we are grateful for the assistance provided by the United States Government to date, we know that the need is so much greater. Thus, we appeal to you," President Obama, "to increase assistance and to activate the full potential of the National Guard State Partnership Program and the Partnership for Peace as instruments for alleviating the humanitarian catastrophe. One of the stated goals of the Partnership for Peace is to 'provide a framework for enhanced political and military cooperation for joint multilateral crisis management activities, such as humanitarian assistance and peacekeeping.' Ukraine was the first post-Soviet country to join the Partnership for Peace in 1993.

"In addition to the assistance provided by the US government, we, during our travels throughout the United States, have come to personally witness the great generosity of the American people expressed through numerous spontaneous initiatives to ship medical and humanitarian supplies to Ukraine.

"Time is of the essence, Mr. President."

They are begging.

"The people of Ukraine need to know that they are not forgotten in their

time for need. The instruments anticipated by the National Guard State Partnership and Partnership for Peace programs will allow the American people to more effectively and rapidly access and deliver already available medical and humanitarian supplies to Ukraine—literally within days. We each represent distribution networks"—through their various religious confessions—"that cooperate with each other; we now ask for the resources to meet the growing human needs.

"We pray that God grant you guidance, wisdom and bless you and the great American nation. God bless the United States and Ukraine. Sincerely."

And I place all their names in the RECORD.

The people of the world must meet this moral imperative. The United Nations has reported that 2.6 million Ukrainians have been displaced by the current conflict in eastern Ukraine—so unnecessary—because of Russia's invasion. A staggering 5 million Ukrainians currently need humanitarian survival assistance.

I met with one religious leader who came to Washington. I said: What are you finding?

He said: Congresswoman, we are in Kharkiv. We need shoes, even used shoes, for the children.

Currently, less than half of those in need receive any assistance at all. If Russian aggression were to trigger a flight of these Ukrainians westward, it would also add to the dangerous, destabilizing stress to Europe's already-stretched refugee services as a result of what is happening with the immigration and refugee resettlement from the Middle East.

The situation in Ukraine is far from contained. According to a recent report by Refugees International, approximately 2 million Ukrainians live close to the cease-fire lines separating Ukrainian and Russian-backed forces.

It is hard to see some of these pictures that are on this chart, but what they basically show are bombed-out buildings, bridges that are completely destroyed, old women living in buildings where there are no roofs or windows in eastern Ukraine, children living in bomb shelters, and people just, unfortunately, killed because of Russian shelling.

A Ukrainian and Russian peace settlement likely will take a while, but another 2 million people are living under control of Russian-backed forces. The basic needs of these civilians go unmet daily. Shockingly, most international aid work has been suspended there, and there are hardly any news stories about this. Aid workers have been ejected from regions that are called Luhansk and Donetsk by the Russian-backed fighters.

Some refugees, torn from their villages and towns, have managed to stay in Ukraine and survive even after being driven from their homes by violence. How they are doing this, I simply don't

know. But these internally displaced are overwhelming the already limited resources of Ukraine's local governments, which are already stretched thin by Russia's invasion. These 1.5 million internally displaced Ukrainians lack durable housing or jobs to pay for food or support their families.

Don't forget, with Russia's invasion, the value of their currency has just plummeted. Everything is so much more expensive. How people are making it, I simply don't know.

We often talk about refugees in abstract numbers. But inside these numbers are the stories and faces of individuals. I just wish people could see the eyes of these parents looking into the future that is so uncertain and so daunting.

Ukrainian children in these conflict zones are being born under conditions that most Americans couldn't even imagine, never having lived without the imminent threat of death or loss. Many risk becoming stateless, as they have been unable to receive birth certificates, passports, and school certificates. In looking into the eyes of children, I am again reminded of the urgency of this crisis.

As freedom-loving nations grapple with the Ukrainian crisis, let us recall the nations of the European continent remain America's most enduring allies in liberty. To not measure up to meet the current internal challenge for Europe is to walk away from liberty's call at freedom's edge in our time.

Existing efforts to assist Ukraine's eastern regions face a daunting set of challenges. Roads leading to Ukrainians trapped in separatist-held areas are difficult to navigate. There is a photo here. I mean, they are walking across rubble, down very steep embankments.

Making matters worse, many of these routes are now scarred by the ravages of war. Roads and bridges have been completely destroyed. On roads running through conflict areas, Russian-backed fighters require registration by any humanitarian group seeking access to the region. Can you imagine? Can you imagine what life is like there?

The United Nations is the only aid group allowed to even enter the Russian-controlled areas of Ukraine. Even the U.N. was prevented from delivering aid to eastern Ukraine for 3 months as people suffered. And then on November 9, just a couple weeks ago, the U.N. was finally able to deliver a convoy of nine trucks carrying vital aid to the city of Luhansk, including 10,000 blankets, 10,000 towels, 5,000 buckets, and a similar number of jerrycans and plastic sheets, cement and timber for shelter repairs, and other winterization need and domestic items. That was to one town, and it did not completely serve their enormous needs.

As the U.N. agency head for Ukraine said: "This is a small drop in the ocean of needs . . . in these conflict-affected areas."

Can you imagine, millions of people displaced but only 10,000 blankets? Millions of people, 10,000 blankets.

Delivery of basic medical supplies also faces obstacles. There is a shortage of medications that treat critical and common diseases.

After his organization was forced out of Donetsk by Russian operatives, Dr. Bart Janssens, director of operations at Doctors Without Borders, said the following: "We are almost the only organization providing treatment for tuberculosis in prisons, insulin for diabetic patients, and hemodialysis products to treat kidney failure. Thousands of patients suffering from chronic, potentially fatal diseases will now be left with little or no assistance."

□ 2030

This is the situation Ukraine faces in real time. What will the world do? What will the United States do with so many storehouses of used clothing, used blankets, or anything to help sustain life there?

As temperatures fall across that region, shelter assistance has to be delivered quickly to people living in buildings without windows, without doors, without roofs, and, most often, without heat. Thousands of displaced people need warm blankets, winter clothing, and shoes, as well as coal and heating fuels.

If the free world fails to act, it must prepare for the reality that, come spring, we will discover more elderly who are dead, more who are ill, more children who have fallen into illness and have probably died, simply cut off from assistance, who succumbed to starvation and the cold, needlessly adding to the over 8,000 who have already lost their lives in this Russian-directed invasion.

America, as a nation, has long been one of supporting freedom and economic stability across our world. Let me remind you that in a 1947 speech laying out what would become the Marshall Plan for Europe following World War II's devastation, war-weary America stood the test of liberty.

And one of our greatest Americans, a statesman, a general, and then Secretary of State, General George C. Marshall, observed the dire post-war economic conditions in Europe. And despite America's exhaustion from World War II, he urged American involvement and support of European recovery, noting that:

"It is logical that the United States should do whatever it is able to do to assist in the return of normal economic health in the world, without which there can be no political stability and no assured peace."

Those words apply to Ukraine today, as they did to Western Europe after World War II.

General Marshall continued, saying, "Our policy is directed not against any country or doctrine but against hunger, poverty, desperation, and chaos. Its purpose should be the revival of a

working economy in the world so as to permit the emergence of political and social conditions in which free institutions can exist."

He added that struggling nations must take the lead in their own rebuilding and that America's role should be a supporting one.

It was really remarkable to go back and look at the films of the brilliant airlift from World War II and see what this country did. This crisis is not commensurate with what happens after World War II, but we have a model. We know what to do; we know how to do it. Why aren't we doing it?

I include in the RECORD separate statements from three religious leaders who are begging the United States of America and its President to pay particular attention to the humanitarian needs of Ukraine: remarks by Patriarch Filaret, Ukraine Orthodox Church; the Archbishop of Ukraine, Sviatoslav Shevchuk, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church; and also Rabbi Yaakov Dov Bleich, head of the Jewish faiths that have presence in that country.

TRANSCRIPT OF THE SPEECH BY PATRIARCH FILARET AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB ON NOVEMBER 9, 2015

(Translated live from Ukrainian)

Dear Friends, we just met with the staff of President Obama. We have handed him a letter signed by leaders of All-Ukrainian Council of Churches and International Organizations of Ukraine leaders of different religious denominations of Ukraine. First of all, I want to emphasize that the All-Ukrainian Council of Churches represents 85% of Ukraine's residence. So our statement is on behalf of all those people.

What is that letter about? We are discussing how the humanitarian aid that has been collected for the Ukrainian people here in the United States can be delivered to Ukraine. And we are asking President Obama to implement certain provisions of the Partnership for Peace program.

Why are we asking that? Because, today, Ukraine is defending democracy and freedom for the whole world. If Ukraine had accepted Russia's offer and desired to pull it into the Eurasian Union, there would be no war, but Ukraine would have lost its democracy and freedom—it would have become a totalitarian state.

The United States is the leader of democracy and freedom in the world. And, today, Ukrainians are giving their lives for this democracy and freedom. So do Ukrainians deserve such support from the United States and Europe in standing against Russian invasion and totalitarianism? I think Ukraine does deserve that.

This is why we are making this request for help. We are asking to help deliver the humanitarian aid that the people of the United States have already collected. And we are also asking to increase the levels of assistance of multi-sided assistance.

At this time, the war in Eastern Ukraine has not stopped—it only went down in intensity. Putin has diverted the world's attention by going into Syria—this does not mean that he has given up on Ukraine and military warfare may erupt in Ukraine with new strength anytime. So we are asking—please, help. We are giving away our live and you give us the resources, including the humanitarian assistance.

Thank you.

TRANSCRIPT OF THE SPEECH BY MAJOR ARCH-BISHOP SVIATOSLAV SHEVCHUK AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB ON NOVEMBER 9TH 2015

Dear Friends, I speak on behalf of Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, which is present in Ukraine and worldwide. I would like to convey to you good news from Ukraine.

First good news is that Ukrainian nation is united as never before in its history. You see that righteous society of Ukraine, The Council of Churches and Religious Organizations, which represent 85% of the citizens of Ukraine, are united. Different religions, different churches, religious denominations, but we are the heart of Ukrainian civil society, and we are together.

The second good news is that we did not have a civil war in Ukraine. We are facing the foreign aggression against Ukraine. And again, that aggression is a catalyst of Ukrainian unity. Seventy percent of the soldiers who are defending free and independent Ukraine are Russian-speakers. And I think this very important sign, that even those who are in the occupied territories, as Rabbi Bleich mentioned, are not supporting war. Even people in Russia will not support a war. It is why Putin is trying to be silent about that the Russian troop and its presence on Ukrainian territory.

The third good news from Ukraine is outstanding solidarity. Today, we have more than two million refugees in Ukraine. But international society, until now, could only help four hundred thousand refugees. But what is happening to the rest? Their Ukrainian fellows are helping them. But our resources are short because economic crisis is striking us in Ukraine. Nevertheless, we are united in our desire to rebuild, to transform Ukraine.

The next good news from Ukraine, we all together are fighting against corruption, because corruption it not only political issue, is a deep moral issue. It is a part of the post-Soviet mentality. But we all together are trying to reform and transform the very heart of Ukraine. To transform the interpersonal relationships, because corruptions strike those kinds of relationships between person in Ukraine. But, nevertheless, we are here to be a voice of the millions who are suffering the biggest humanitarian crisis in Europe after the Second World War.

It is a pity that Ukrainian politicians until now did not declare the state of the humanitarian emergency in Ukraine. Until now we've received an answer that this is a political quest. Nevertheless, Ukraine needs worldwide international support, especially in order to solve the humanitarian situation in our country. So it is why we are here—to speak on behalf of those millions who will suffer terrible winter in few months.

But we have a hope in Ukraine. You know, politicians will come and go, presidents will come and go, all political visions will change, but Ukraine will remain, churches will remain. And today we are building our future fostering the reconciliation and cooperation between the nations.

Thank you very much.

TRANSCRIPT OF THE SPEECH BY RABBI YAAKOV DOV BLEICH AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB ON NOVEMBER 9TH 2015

Thanks for coming and for showing some interest in what's going on in Ukraine. It is important for us in Ukraine to know that it's not only politicians that get together and talk about Ukraine, but that it interests civil society too.

First of all, the message comes from a coalition called the Council of Churches and Religious Organizations of Ukraine, which is a very unique organization anywhere in the world probably, where the Heads of all religions in the country get together and work

for the benefit of all of the people of the country.

Our message is from civil society, from people to people. We spoke today with politicians because they can do things we can't do. But we can do a lot more than they can. We feel that civil society has an obligation to try help and do what they can. We come together with other NGOs in the United States trying to make things happen, change things. And I want to point something out: the help that we may get paying for transportation of containers of aid that was collected here to send to Ukraine is very very symbolic. The money is not the most important thing.

What is much more symbolic is that the people in the United States care about what's happening in Ukraine, they understand the war.

The need for help in Ukraine is a direct result of a democratic choice, a choice that the people of Ukraine made. They want to be a part of the western family of nations. They want democracy, they want to be free, they want to be a part of Europe, they want to live like people in the West live. Because of that they are suffering, and it's important for people in the United States to know that the front of the war between democracy, democratic life and brutality, communism, putinism, that front is taking place now in Eastern Ukraine. That fight, which is a fight of entire world for democracy, is taking place right there. It's not only a fight for Ukraine, not only a fight for Ukraine's freedom, it's a fight of freedom over putinism. This is our message.

You could see people who are willing to sacrifice themselves for their freedom. People who are sacrificing their lives on the front are not sacrificing for their freedom, they are sacrificing for the freedom of their country, for freedom of their people, for freedom of all peoples throughout the world to have that democratic choice, to choose how they want to live, and to be able to live the way we take for granted here, in the United States.

Today, actually, President Poroshenko signed a decree for organizing a committee for the 75th anniversary of Babij Yar. This is important! We don't have to talk about this now, but a year and a half ago we were still trying to counteract the propaganda that was coming out of Russia about the fascism in Ukraine and the anti-Semitism, which is a bunch of baloney. Basically, we won that war.

People, most people, understand that Ukrainian Government and Ukrainian people today are not fascists and anti-Semites, they are just people who want to live free, democratically, but part of that is that Ukrainian Government also coming through and showing time and again, proving as much as possible, as many times as possible that Ukrainian people are united no matter what ethnicity, no matter what their background, what their religion is. They want to be free, they want to be democratic. Even the Russian-speaking people want to be free. That was part of the failure of Putin in the east that he didn't have the support. He doesn't have the support of the people in Donbas to become a part of Russia. They are not interested in becoming a part of Russia. They want to be free as well. Everyone wants to be free.

Thank you.

Ms. KAPTUR. The United States has more than just a moral and strategic duty to the sovereign people of Ukraine. Twenty years ago, the United States, Ukraine, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom came together to sign the Budapest Memorandum.

This agreement reaffirmed the common commitment of those signatory nations "to respect the independence and sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine." And in return for that promise of protecting those borders, Ukraine dismantled its vast nuclear weapons complex, the third largest in the world.

With that memorandum in hand, Ukraine did what it promised, but what about the other signatories to that agreement?

Today, the Budapest Memorandum appears to be a hollow promise. It comes as little surprise that Russia would break that promise, but it disappoints me to no end that the free world, led by the United States of America, seems reluctant to honor its promises to take a more effective role as a coalition of nations and civil society organizations to help Ukraine stand on its own in the face of internal carnage perpetrated by Russia.

NATO's Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, General Philip Breedlove, a man who knows an enormous amount about that continent, recently expressed his deep concern that our focus has been pulled away from Russia's proxy invasion of Ukraine. "Folks have taken their eye off of Ukraine a little bit because of Syria," he said.

According to him, the situation is similar to how the world lost focus on the Russian invasion of Crimea, which the United States still considers Ukrainian territory, after Russia invaded eastern Ukraine and triggered the current war.

Fighting in the Donbass region of Ukraine has fluctuated, but skirmishes continue and Ukrainian territory remains under Russian occupation, with no withdrawal in sight.

Congress took initial steps to address Ukraine's need last year, just about a year ago, with the Ukraine Freedom Support Act—legislation we fought hard to pass and which most of our colleagues voted to support. However, conditions continue to worsen.

A report done by the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe acknowledges that the fighting in the east, which began in the spring of 2014, has resulted in extensive damage to schools and medical facilities, leaving the local population increasingly dependent on outside aid. Assistance is needed to meet basic needs and access to clean water, which is a problem already for 1.3 million Ukrainians at a minimum.

Two weeks ago, I sent a letter to Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland to call for the United States to work with the Ukrainian Government and Russia to restore access to humanitarian workers and to allow aid to proceed.

In particular, I identified a need for access to—and this is in working with the religious leaders of Ukraine across confessions for these items—winterization activities, including blankets, quilts, kerosene, heating stoves; direct

financial assistance to these religious groups to help them help others; water pumping station equipment to prevent freezing; electrical repair kits and tools; coal; batteries; clothing; and everyday necessities, including medical equipment, basic and specialized medicines, emergency medical kits, shoes, socks, long underwear, coats, mittens, hats; redevelopment assistance, including economic aid and tools as well as equipment to repair homes, bridges, and roads.

They don't even request new material. They just request help. I just think to myself, how much is thrown away in landfills across this country, items that still have good wear and good possibility? How much is thrown away at construction sites? And what we can do to help the people of Ukraine? These items are more than just objects to the people of Ukraine. They are life itself right now.

The people of Ukraine want desperately to stand on their own, access to the European continent, and to govern themselves in the light of liberty. I have seen it in their eyes. Let us help them weather this terrible storm now when they need it most.

My heavens, if the United States of America could lead the Berlin airlift after World War II in those old, tired planes, sending goods to the people of Europe, to the people of Western Europe, and to give them hope and sustenance, you mean to tell me that the America of the 21st century can't figure this out, especially when Congress has put money in the budget of the Department of Defense and the Department of State to carry this out, working in cooperation with organizations across this great land?

Last month, the All-Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations, a globally unique coming-together of diverse religious faiths which represent 85 percent of the Ukrainian population, presented President Obama with a letter I referenced earlier, appealing on behalf of the people of Ukraine to help address the humanitarian catastrophe gripping that Nation.

Each is a daily witness to the challenges and needs of the people suffering because of this unnecessary, brutal war, where over 8,000 have already been killed; 17,610 wounded—that was a figure as of October—2.6 million people internally displaced; 5 million in need of aid, including 1.7 million children, and one in five homes of displaced families damaged or destroyed. Surely, the free world can figure this out.

I do have to say a word about this. A few weeks ago, I stood here in Washington with many distinguished Ukrainian leaders, including the First Lady of Ukraine, Maryna Poroshenko; His Holiness, the Patriarch of Kyiv and All Rus'-Ukraine Filaret; and my dear friend and fellow Ukraine Caucus co-chair, Congressman SANDER LEVIN of Michigan, to dedicate a memorial here in our Nation's capital to the 1932-1933

Soviet Union's forced starvation of between 2.5 million and 7.5 million Ukrainians whose names are lost to history forever.

I think America should also consider doing this humanitarian lift to Ukraine because, frankly, no place on Earth suffered more in the last century from brutal tyranny than did Ukraine. Perhaps something is owed to those sacrificial people for what they endured and for the spark of liberty that still breathes so strongly in their hearts and minds.

In marking the brutal tragedy of the forced famine, called the Holodomor, I am reminded of the importance of teaching about the cost of liberty, the need to fight for it, and the legacy of that sacrificial people.

Through this memorial, we seek to better guard against any oppressive regime that would seek to rule over any people, for, at that time, our Nation failed to reveal and respond to that ongoing brutality of forced starvation in Ukraine. Had the free world acted then, we might have changed the fate of millions, but that did not happen.

Let us not repeat the blindness of the past. America must act with dispatch to support the freedom-loving people of Ukraine. Time and again, in moments when the world has found itself at a crossroads, American leadership and action has made the difference.

We must be prepared to join with others in this effort to save the children, to save the families, to save the people of Ukraine, and, in doing so, to let liberty march forward. We must do the right thing for our brothers and sisters in liberty. America must act, and we must act as leaders. Ukraine is waiting. The world is waiting.

I call upon the President of the United States and the Obama administration to do what is necessary and achievable to meet the growing humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, to relieve the unnecessary suffering of their people, and to prevent a gigantic refugee crisis from spilling over and impacting European stability.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO), who could not be here tonight for this Special Order, supports these efforts. His formal statement includes the important role that the people of southeastern Pennsylvania have played in keeping a focus on Ukraine and this ongoing tragedy and what the United States of America can do at very little cost to the people here by the mobilization of the hearts of the American people to provide humanitarian assistance to help save Ukraine in our own time and day.

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA,
The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We, the undersigned of the All Ukrainian Council of Churches and religious organizations, and representing Ukraine's diverse religious community appeal to you on behalf of the people of Ukraine to help address the humanitarian catastrophe gripping our country. The needs

are enormous, ranging from medical supplies to everyday items such as food, water, and clothing.

While the global news media regularly reports on Russia's war against Ukraine, government reforms and financial challenges, there is rarely any mention of the extraordinary dimensions of the human suffering caused by Moscow's aggression. While Ukraine certainly needs greater military, financial and political assistance, our focus here must be on the humanitarian aspect.

As you know, according to the UN, over 5 million people, including 1.7 million children are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance. 8,000 people have died and over 17,000 have been injured and wounded. There are over 1,390,000 displaced people, including 174,000 children. The challenges of this human tragedy are overwhelming. Even the most conservative estimates show that over 65% of projected needs have yet to be met—even on the level of pledges.

As representatives of the interfaith community, we witness on a daily basis the challenges and the needs of people suffering because of this war. And with the onset of winter, an already dire situation will only get worse. We pray for their lives and for the future of our country.

While we are grateful for the assistance provided by the United States government to date, we know that the need is so much greater. Thus, we appeal to you to increase assistance and to activate the full potential of the National Guard State Partnership Program and the Partnership for Peace (PfP) as instruments for alleviating the humanitarian catastrophe. One of the stated goals of the PfP is to "provide a framework for enhanced political and military cooperation for joint multilateral crisis management activities, such as humanitarian assistance and peacekeeping." Ukraine was the first post-Soviet country to join the PfP in 1993.

In addition to the assistance provided by the US government, we, during our travels throughout the United States, have come to personally witness the great generosity of the American people expressed through numerous spontaneous initiatives to ship medical and humanitarian supplies to Ukraine.

Time is of the essence, Mr. President. The people of Ukraine need to know that they are not forgotten in their time for need! The instruments anticipated by the National Guard State Partnership and Partnership for Peace programs will allow the American people to more effectively and rapidly access and deliver already available medical and humanitarian supplies to Ukraine—literally within days. We each represent distribution networks that cooperate with each other; we now ask for the resources to meet the growing human needs.

We pray that God grant you guidance, wisdom and bless you and the great American nation. God bless the United States and Ukraine!

Sincerely,

Antoniuk Valery Stepanovich—Chairman of the Union, Senior Bishop, All-Ukrainian Union of Churches of Evangelical Christians—Baptists; Panochko Michael Stepanovich—President of the Union, Senior Bishop, All-Ukrainian Union of Christians of the Evangelical Faith—Pentecostals; Ablaev Emirali—Chairman of the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Ukraine, Mufti Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Crimea; Ahmad Tamim—Head of the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Ukraine, Mufti of Zan-Fabian Alexander—Head of the Consistory of the SCRC, Bishop, Transcarpathian Reformed Church; Sergey Mashevskyy—Bishop, German Evangelical Lutheran

Church of Ukraine; Yaakov Dov Bleich—President of the Association, Chief Rabbi of Kyiv and Ukraine, Association of Jewish Religious Organizations of Ukraine; Peter Malchuk—Head of the Commission on the Relationship Between State and Church; Raichynets Vasily Fedorovich—Senior Pastor, Union of Free Churches of Christians of Evangelical Faith of Ukraine; Macarius (Maletich)—Primate of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church Metropolitan The Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church; Commandant Grigory Ivanovich—President, Ukrainian Bible Society; Sviatoslav (Shevchuk)—Archbishop, The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church; Marcos (Oganesyan)—Bishop, Ukrainian Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church; Vyacheslav Horpynchuk—Bishop, Ukrainian Lutheran Church; Onufry (Berezovsky)—Metropolitan Ukrainian Orthodox Church; Filaret (Denisenko)—Patriarch Filaret, Patriarch of Kyiv and All Rus-Ukraine, Ukrainian Orthodox Church Kiev Patriarchate; Nosov Stanislav Viktorovich—President, The Ukrainian Union Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists; Padun Leonid Nikolaevich—Senior Bishop, Ukrainian Christian Evangelical Church.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, all Members will have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD on the topic of this Special Order.

There was no objection.

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

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Ohio, Ms. KAPTUR, for organizing this Special Order this evening and bringing this important alliance with Ukraine to the forefront.

The Ukrainian heritage, and its people, play a critical role in the cultural fabric of South-eastern Pennsylvania.

Just this morning, I had the privilege to meet with Ukrainian Ambassador to the United States Valeriy Chaly and reaffirm our support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and freedom of Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, our relationship with Ukraine is vital to our national security interest and we must continue to foster strong bilateral relations as Ukraine continues to face threats to its status as a sovereign nation.

So long as Russia continues to pose a destabilizing force at Ukraine's borders and supports rebel groups in Eastern Ukraine, Congress and the Administration must remain steadfast in our support for the Ukrainian people and their freedom.

The Administration must follow through on the commitment set forth in the Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014 to provide Ukraine with much-needed military aid, both lethal and non-lethal.

Reportedly, not even half the aid authorized last December has been delivered. Further, a recent article in the Washington Post noted that the quality of the U.S. supplied gear, including Humvees, is "little more than junk"—there is barely any protection on the windows and doors—while the non-lethal military aid provided to protect Ukraine military forces is obsolete.

Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable and our allies deserve better.

In an effort to keep our nation safe and to provide assistance to our allies, the National Defense Authorization Act was recently signed into law. This includes an authorization for \$300 million in military aid, including lethal, to support Ukraine.

And currently stalled in the House is bill H.R. 955, that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to provide assistance (including training, equipment, lethal weapons of a defensive nature, logistics support, supplies and services) to the military and national security forces of Ukraine through the end of the next fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues to act on this legislation in an expeditious manner and bring it to the Floor for a vote.

We cannot let our Ukrainian allies on the frontlines defend their freedom and sovereignty without meaningful support. The Administration must follow through on our word.

Again, I thank Congresswoman KAPTUR for organizing tonight's special order and her unwavering dedication to Ukraine and the Ukrainian-American community.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 611. An act to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reauthorize technical assistance to small public water systems, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, December 2, 2015, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3576. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability Minority and Women Outreach Program Contracting (RIN: 3064-AE35) received November 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3577. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Legal, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Removal of Transferred OTS Regulations Regarding Safety and Soundness Guidelines and Compliance Procedures; Rules on Safety and Soundness (RIN: 3064-AE28) received November 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3578. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Legal, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Filing Requirements and Processing Procedures for Changes in Control With Respect to State

Nonmember Banks and State Savings Associations (RIN: 3064-AE24) received November 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3579. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Legal, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program; Unlimited Deposit Insurance Coverage for Noninterest-Bearing Transaction Accounts (RIN: 3064-AE34) received November 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3580. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Legal, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Removal of Transferred OTS Regulations Regarding Fair Credit Reporting and Amendments; Amendment to the "Creditor" Definition in Identity Theft Red Flags Rule; Removal of FDIC Regulations Regarding Fair Credit Reporting Transferred to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (RIN: 3064-AE29) received November 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3581. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final regulations — Program Integrity Issues [Docket ID: ED-2010-OPE-0004] (RIN: 1840-AD02) received November 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

3582. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — General Schedule Locality Pay Areas (RIN: 3206-AM88) received November 25, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3583. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program Eligibility Changes (RIN: 3206-AN05) received November 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3584. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries [Docket No.: 150121066-5717-02] (RIN: 0648-XE242) received November 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3585. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; 2015 Management Area 1A Seasonal Annual Catch Limit Harvested [Docket No.: 130919816-4205-02] (RIN: 0648-XE292) received November 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3586. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic; 2015 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South