

I have had problems with both Democratic and Republican Presidents over this issue over the years: Clinton, Bosnia; Bush, obviously in a number of cases; and then Obama in Libya and other things that they did, also based on the fake intelligence in the 2002 authorization.

So let's first vote today. That is just a starting point in reasserting our constitutional duties.

IRAN IS A TERROR STATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, as a terror state, Iran is no friend of the United States or our allies. For three decades, Iran has been a leading state sponsor of terrorism and an eager empire builder. Its history of money laundering, terrorism, and murder of U.S. soldiers is undeniable.

Last week, the President, as Commander in Chief, took the legal and decisive action when he eliminated terrorist combatant leader Qasem Soleimani from the battlefield. Across the years in the region, this man of murder has the blood of hundreds of thousands of innocents on his hands.

To refer to this combat operation as an assassination or to offer moral equivalence between Soleimani and a state-sponsored terror organization with a rule-following nation actively engaged in the family of nations is laughable.

In my view, Soleimani ranks up there with the worst exporters of terror in the region, including the likes of Osama bin Laden or al-Baghdadi, the most recent demised head of ISIS.

Over these three decades, the United States and our allies have faced greater and more violent Iranian or Iranian proxy attacks orchestrated by the terror general Soleimani against the United States and our allies, dating as far back as 1983, when Iran's proxy Hezbollah committed the Beirut, Lebanon, bombing, killing 241 marines.

Soleimani, Iran, Hezbollah, and their thirst for violence is well documented and undeniable. In the face of this record and their very aggressive actions of the last few weeks, including the killing of an American contractor, targeting of U.S. forces, attacking Saudi Arabian oil operations, disrupting shipping in the Persian Gulf, shooting down an American drone, and then blatantly and aggressively attacking our Embassy in Baghdad, President Trump has been quite restrained during the course of that record.

However, the killing of an American contractor and orchestrating that storming and destruction at the American Embassy in Baghdad and the eminent planning of additional threats that this Congress learned the details of yesterday and attacks potentially on American troops or diplomats was the final straw.

Mr. Speaker, the provocateur is Iran, not President Trump. The assassin is Soleimani, not President Trump. The destabilizing force in the region is Iran, not the United States.

Yesterday, President Trump reiterated that the United States does not seek to start a war with Iran. His recent actions have sent an unambiguous signal to Iran and their proxies: Harm Americans, pay a price.

President Trump's objectives are clear: End Iran's export of terror; end its advancing regional ballistic missile capabilities; and prohibit their obtaining a nuclear weapon.

Instead, President Trump encourages the Iranian people to assert their own aspirations and form a more open and pluralistic future for their children and their children's children. This rich, historic land deserves to return to a time when the beautiful, intelligent Iranian people chart their own course for good, as citizens of a country eager to be part of the family of nations.

SAY NO TO ANOTHER WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with the thousands of patriots who are taking to the streets of towns and cities throughout our Nation later today, taking to the streets to stand up, to speak out, and to say no to yet another war in the Middle East.

Less than 48 hours ago, our Nation was gripped by fear as we watched missiles rain down on our servicemembers and other allied forces in Iraq, an attack that was a direct response to this administration's reckless and impulsive decisions to assassinate a high-ranking military leader in Iran.

Like so many of my colleagues, I prayed. I prayed for all of the servicemembers and their families. I prayed for the innocent civilians in Iraq who once again find themselves in the crossfire in a battlefield of our own making. I prayed for peace.

But I also know perfectly well that the people of the Massachusetts 7th did not send me to Washington, D.C., to just pray. As a woman of faith, I will continue to send prayers up and to work for peace. But what this moment demands and what this country deserves is a strategy.

For more than 3 years now, this administration has been devoid of a coherent approach, instead implementing our Nation's foreign policy like a game of Battleship. They have actively incited further conflict in the region, abandoned diplomacy, and isolated our country from even our strongest allies.

The administration tore up the international agreement keeping Iran from developing nuclear weapons. The administration then engaged in a maximum pressure campaign that has rav-

aged the Iranian economy and harmed innocent civilians.

Yesterday, the White House had the opportunity to change course. Instead, we heard more of the same.

Let me be clear: We cannot allow our country to be lied into another war. We have the opportunity to learn from the mistakes of our past.

For nearly two decades, endless wars have claimed the lives of hundreds and thousands of civilians and servicemembers alike. An entire generation has only known war. Millions of refugees have been permanently displaced.

I remind my colleagues today that war is never inevitable. We reject the false choice between peace and security.

The 116th Congress is a fundamentally different Congress, and it is time to advocate for a fundamentally different foreign policy: foreign policy centered in the dignity and humanity of all people.

Prayers alone will not suffice. We need prayers and strategy. This is our chance. Let me be abundantly clear. The American people do not want war.

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WAR POWERS RESOLUTION DOES NOT LIMIT THE PRESIDENT'S POWER TO ACT WITHOUT CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to a dangerous and partisan resolution offered by my Democrat colleagues designed to handcuff our President and limit his constitutional authorities as Commander in Chief to defend our Nation against Iranian aggression.

The resolution before us today needlessly politicizes our national security and shows that Democrats have once again put their partisan agenda ahead of the American people simply because they do not like President Trump.

Let's be clear. President Trump's decisive and defensive action to eliminate the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Quds Force commander, Qasem Soleimani, is not the reason for the recent escalation between the United States and Iran. The President ordered the strike because of Iran's own escalation and aggression, for which General Soleimani was largely and personally responsible.

For over 40 years, Iran and its proxies have been attacking U.S. interests and our allies, but since the flawed Iran nuclear deal, under which the regime received billions of dollars in sanctions relief, the Islamic republic has used that economic windfall to accelerate its support for terrorist proxies, restart its ballistic missile program—in violation of U.N. resolutions—and cheat on its denuclearization aims.

My colleagues have heard the quote of the late Senator Arthur Vandenberg,

chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that: "We must stop partisan politics at the water's edge."

Senator Vandenberg, a Republican, who worked across the aisle with Democrat President Truman in the early days of the Cold War was right.

This resolution is not safeguarding our Constitution, but attacking our Constitution by attempting to divest a duly elected President of his Commander in Chief powers, and in the process, emboldening our enemies.

In fact, President Trump has demonstrated enormous restraint in his targeted action against Soleimani making this vote entirely unnecessary. There was no invasion of Iran, but a strike against a terrorist in a country we had the legal authority to operate in under the 2002 Authorization for the Use of Military Force.

Mr. Speaker, you have heard many of my colleagues doubt the applicability of that AUMF, so for those colleagues who are unconvinced that that is a sufficient authority, consider the fact that even in the absence of explicit congressional authorization for the Soleimani strike, here is a helpful reminder: Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution provides that: The President shall be Commander in Chief. And it is true that the Constitution gives Congress the sole power to declare war and the sole power of the purse to either fund or defund military action, but dating back to the Prize cases in 1863, the Supreme Court has long held that the President may act without Congress to defend the Nation.

In recent years, the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel has opined that the Constitution authorizes the President as Commander in Chief to order military action without congressional permission if the President determines that the action would be anticipatory self-defense or otherwise serves the interest of the United States, at least where the nature, scope, and duration of the anticipated hostilities are limited.

And that was what was the case here.

Specifically, the OLC has said the President's inherent constitutional authority as Commander in Chief, his broad foreign policy powers, and his duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, empower him to deplore the armed forces abroad, without a declaration of war by Congress or other congressional authorization.

The courts have generally declined to review the exercise of such unilateral executive power.

The War Powers Resolution does not limit the President's power to act without Congress. At most, it imposes a reporting and consultation requirement that this President has complied with.

Furthermore, the War Powers Resolution applies only to the deployment of significant bodies of military personnel and would not apply to a drone strike.

Finally, according to OLC, "... if our Armed Forces otherwise lawfully

stationed in a foreign country were fired upon and defended themselves, we doubt that such engagement in hostilities would be covered by the consultation and reporting provisions of the War Powers Resolution."

Of course, that is precisely the scenario here involving the President's decisive strike against Soleimani in response to an attack on our embassy.

Thank goodness we have a Commander in Chief who will not allow another Benghazi on his watch. Don't forget, the Framers of the Constitution specifically rejected a proposal that Congress be empowered to "make war," and implied power for the President to "repel sudden attacks."

This was in recognition of the slow pace and inefficiency of legislative proceedings under the Articles of Confederation. As Members of Congress, we have a special duty to jealously guard legislative prerogatives, including the power to declare war, and to provide a check on the executive branch for overreach. But we also must have the humility to acknowledge that Congress lacks the power to divest the President of his Commander in Chief powers under Article II.

RECOGNIZING ASSISTANT CHIEF LAURA QUATTLEBAUM FOR HER YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that on National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, I rise to recognize California Highway Patrol Assistant Division Chief Laura Quattlebaum for her years with the California Highway Patrol and congratulate her on her retirement.

Assistant Chief Quattlebaum is a shining example of the selflessness and courage our Nation's law enforcement possesses. She is truly an amazing woman, full of passion, character, and integrity. I am humbled to have worked alongside her in our community, and I am honored to call her my friend.

For more than 30 years, Assistant Chief Quattlebaum has served as a dedicated public officer for my constituents, as well as countless other Californians. After graduating from the CHP academy she went on to act as public information officer for the city of Indio.

From this critical position to her current role as California Highway Patrol assistant chief, she has answered the call to defend our public safety many times. Throughout her career, Assistant Chief Quattlebaum has been recognized on numerous occasions for her outstanding work. As lieutenant in the Indio area, she received the Commissioner's Commendation for Leadership and Cultural Awareness and Racial Profile training.

Six years later, Assemblyman Brian Nestande awarded her the 2013 Women

of Distinction award, and in 2014, Assemblyman Manuel Perez presented her with the Woman of the Year award in recognition of her service to the people of California.

Assistant Chief Quattlebaum is known to her colleagues as a hard-working and selfless leader. Her commitment to bettering the lives of others is reflected in her tireless advocacy for those she served alongside and for peace officers throughout the country.

I have witnessed this commitment firsthand on multiple occasions, notably, when we worked together to more than double our Nation's funding for mental health services for our local law enforcement agencies just last year.

Assistant Chief Quattlebaum's career in public service is a true testament to her devotion to community, country, and public safety. Her unwavering dedication to the people of California is admirable.

On behalf of California's 36th Congressional District, I thank Assistant Chief Quattlebaum for her years of service and thank all of our law enforcement agents who work tirelessly to uphold the safety of our communities.

I congratulate Assistant Chief Quattlebaum on her retirement. We must carry the spirit of National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day with us every day by showing our gratitude for our public safety officers year-round.

CONFLICT WITH IRAN

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of Americans in my district and across the country who are anxious that the events of this past week are sending us down a path to war with Iran.

Over the past week, I have been thinking most about our servicemembers and their families, the people whose lives will be immediately and irreversibly affected by the decision to go to war: sons, daughters, mothers, fathers, siblings, our neighbors and our friends, who will put at risk their lives; families worried about their loved ones put in harm's way; servicemembers who have seen multiple deployments and are now faced with the prospect of being sent overseas yet again.

Our veterans and their families have dealt with the human toll of war for nearly 20 years. It is time for a new approach. Americans don't want another endless war in the Middle East. After 19 years of conflict, America doesn't need another war. We do not want reckless, high-risk provocations of war that make Americans less safe for years to come.

That is why I urge President Trump to deescalate the situation and pursue a diplomatic path forward. In the meantime, I hope everyone will join me in continuing to pray for the servicemembers overseas defending our Nation and for a strategic, peaceful solution to avoid another costly war in the Middle East.