

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 927

By Faison

A RESOLUTION to honor the brave people of Ukraine for defending their country against the communist aggression of Russia.

WHEREAS, Russia's heinous, unprovoked invasion of Ukraine has brought death and despair to the Ukrainian people and threatened the peace and security of Europe; and

WHEREAS, Russia's communist aggression against Ukraine cannot stand, and the world's nations have joined together in condemning the Russian invasion; and

WHEREAS, meanwhile, Ukraine has been on alert for war for many months and was prepared for this communist aggression; the Ukrainian armed forces are fighting fiercely to defend their country, and despite having superior numbers, the Russians have gained no foothold in this free and sovereign nation; and

WHEREAS, in the face of Russian aggression, the people of Ukraine have responded courageously by assisting the war effort in every imaginable way, setting up checkpoints, building fortifications, collecting donated supplies and clothing, and assembling homemade weapons with which they will greet the invading forces, instead of the flowers predicted by Russian propaganda; and

WHEREAS, Ukrainian civilians fleeing the violence have selflessly donated their vehicles to the territorial defense units that are effectively protecting the perimeters of major cities from Russian attack; one Ukrainian erected a wooden cross inscribed with the words "Save and Protect"; and

WHEREAS, a fifteen-year-old boy too young to fight joined a group making homemade weapons, proudly stating, "It's my duty to help my army."; and

WHEREAS, in another instance, a musician traded in his guitar for a rifle, affirming his patriotism with the statement: "I'm no longer a musician. I'm a soldier now."; and

WHEREAS, a Ukrainian medic transporting wounded soldiers from the front to receive medical attention said most poignantly, "Either we fight them off or we will die. We're hanging on to the end."; and

WHEREAS, as always in war-time, the defenseless have been the first to suffer; Ukraine's State Emergency Service has reported that more than 2,000 civilians have been killed in Ukraine over the last week, soberly stating that "Children, women and defence forces are losing their lives every hour."; and

WHEREAS, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who is Jewish and had family members perish in the Holocaust, fiercely condemned a recent Russian airstrike that destroyed the Holocaust memorial site, Babi Yar, in Kyiv, angrily stating: "This is beyond humanity. Such missile strike means that, for many Russians, our Kyiv is absolute foreign. They know nothing about our capital, about our history. They have orders to erase our history, our country and all of us."; and

WHEREAS, President Zelenskyy sounded a patriotic note in stating: "We are in our native land. And for the war against us there will be an International Tribunal for them."; and

WHEREAS, Russia's indiscriminate bombing of Kharkiv and the capital city of Kyiv has earned comparison with the Nazi's assaults on Ukraine during World War II; Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba rightfully stated: "Last time our capital experienced anything like this was in 1941 when it was attacked by Nazi Germany. Ukraine defeated that evil and will defeat this one. Stop Putin. Isolate Russia. [Sever] all ties. Kick Russia out of [everywhere]."; and

WHEREAS, in the face of the Ukrainian people's courage and resolve, this completely immoral invasion by Russia cannot and will not succeed; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and applaud the brave people of Ukraine for defending their

country against the communist aggression of Russia as they repel this completely unjustified invasion of their free and sovereign country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States; the Speaker and the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives; the President and the Secretary of the U.S. Senate; and each member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation.