

**FL-28: Retired U.S. Navy Cmdr. Phil Ehr Condemns Republican Blockade of Ukraine War Support as Rep. Gimenez & MAGA Speaker Johnson Prepare to Vacation;  
"As Republicans Go AWOL, Putin Smiles and American Honor is Lost"**

**DATE:** December 13, 2023

**MIAMI** – On Wednesday, retired U.S. Navy commander Phil Ehr, a Democratic candidate for Florida's 28th Congressional District who served with NATO in Europe, flew against Soviet jets and has made multiple humanitarian missions to Ukraine, condemned Congressman Carlos Gimenez and his Republican House leadership for plans to appease Russia by adjourning without passing an aid package to Ukraine that has broad bipartisan support.

Following is his statement on the Rep. Gimenez and Republican leadership appeasement of Putin and abandonment of Ukraine:

**"Even after hearing directly yesterday from the mouth of Ukrainian President Zelenskyy about the urgency and necessity of American aid to hold the line against the illegal Russian invasion, MAGA Speaker Mike Johnson and his supporter Carlos Gimenez remain unmoved. They continue to hold aid to Israel, Ukraine, Taiwan and border security hostage to their very narrow and extreme demands. There is broad bipartisan support for Ukraine aid and there can be no doubt aid would pass with broad majorities.**

**"Instead of supporting our allies and ensuring we are fighting for democracy at home and around the globe, Republicans are going AWOL and preparing to leave their jobs for holiday vacation. Meanwhile, Vladimir Putin smiles and American honor is lost. But that's not the worst of it: Republicans are even proposing appeasement plans in which the self-governing nation of Ukraine would give up their territory to their Russian invaders. I am proud to have served in support of our NATO allies who all know the costs of appeasement. Our World War Two generation knows only too well the costs of appeasement. My Ukrainian friends know the costs of appeasement as they endure Russian shells and Iranian-made drones. Carlos Gimenez should know the costs of appeasement.**

**"Congressman Gimenez has tremendous power as a member of the House Armed Services Committee. He should know better than to do Putin's bidding and allow the sabotage of American war aid to Ukraine and the abandonment of the NATO alliance. He should remain in Washington, do his job, and stay there until our allies Ukraine - and Israel - get the American support they need to defend their homeland, or step down as a member of this committee. Congressman Gimenez should stand up NOW to Putin - or wait until that fateful day, directly forced by MAGA Republicans like him, when the United States and our NATO allies will pay a much higher price."**

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