

# [***A U.S. Army Veteran In Ukraine Says Republicans In Congress Are Getting His Trainees Killed. They Are Dedicated To Their Liberation From Soviet Values.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6BC8-V5C1-DXVP-5003-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Byline:** David Axe, Forbes Staff

**Highlight:** 'On the ground in Avdiivka, we felt the results of current American ***politics*** with full force,' John Roberts writes.

**Body**

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The 3rd Assault Brigade in Avdiivka.

Via Militaryland.net

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John Roberts, who goes by Jackie, is a U.S. Army veteran who says he served in Iraq, Afghanistan and South Korea. Now a civilian, he volunteered to advise Ukrainian forces. He s been in Ukraine since at least early 2023.

Inan open letterthat Roberts circulated online via a Ukrainian friend, Roberts claims he accompanied the Ukrainian army s elite 3rd Assault Brigade when, around two weeks ago, it deployed to Avdiivka a former Ukrainian stronghold in eastern Ukraine to cover the withdrawal of the city s garrison.

Roberts doesn t mince words. The Ukrainians retreated from the ruins of Avdiivka after a fierce, four-month defense against a Russian force 10 times its size becauseit ran out of ammunition. And it ran out of ammunition because Republicans in the U.S. Congress have blocked U.S. aid to Ukraine.

On the ground in Avdiivka, we felt the results of current American ***politics*** with full force, Roberts writes.

We are accustomed to fighting with less artillery than the Russians. We have already developed clever ways of using precision fire to counter Russian artillery. Our artillery soldiers use their American-provided weapons efficiently and effectively to batter the second-largest military in the world so that our assaulters have cover while they pierce like needles to rapidly cut the Russian force s critical arteries. This week, our ammunition has effectively stopped. Our precision scalpel cannot cut.

Avdiivka turned into an attrition trap for the Russians. At the likely cost of a few thousand casualties, the Ukrainian garrison in the industrial city anchored by the army s 110th Mechanized Brigade killed or maimed perhaps 30,000 Russians from the 2nd and 41st Combined Arms Armies.

A Ukrainian retreat wasn t inevitable. No, it was a choice by what Roberts describes as a super-minority in the U.S. Congress.

It s a veiled reference to Republican Speaker of the House Rep. Mike Johnson and his far-right allies in the U.S. House of Representatives, who since October have refused to bring to a vote Pres. Joe Biden s proposal to spend another $60 billion on aid to Ukraine. A proposal that already has passed the U.S. Senate with strong bipartisan support.

Johnson s blockade of aid to Ukraine continued as Republican ex-president Donald Trump recently said he told America s European allies he d let Russians do whatever the Hell they want.

I can tell you that here in Avdiivka, we felt the result of Congress actions to defund Ukraine, Roberts writes.

Our Ukrainian partners are not complaining. They are humble and doing everything they can to survive. I am here and I can see what is happening. I am complaining. What happened in Congress over this winter was wrong. Many Ukrainian soldiers wear the American flag into battle out of respect and admiration. Ukrainians who look up to America and our values. Many of whom are now dead.

Roberts is clear about the stakes. A new free nation is being born in the world, he writes. Ukraine is not giving up. Americans, we cannot give up either.

The damage and destruction the Russians are causing is something ISIS couldn t imagine in their wildest dreams. We must support Ukraine. America and Ukraine s goals and futures have suddenly collided towards the same ends. We need only to give Ukrainians the tools they are asking for. Give Ukrainians the weapons they need, and they will succeed.

Read the whole letterhere.

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