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Amy Vilela's statement on Russia's invasion of Ukraine

LAS VEGAS—In response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine last night, and to the broader geopolitical conflict that has slowly but steadily escalated over the past few years, Amy Vilela, an active duty military spouse and 2022 congressional candidate for Nevada's First District, released the following statement:

Let me be very clear: I strongly and vehemently condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine—just like I condemn our own government when we invade other countries across the globe. In every case, it is regular, working people who suffer the consequences of this violence, while the elites and oligarchs who are responsible for these conflicts remain insulated.

As an active duty military spouse, I am keenly aware of what is at stake as our political leadership considers embroiling our military in another foreign war. Instead of fomenting coups, aggressively trying to expand NATO to Russia's borders, or otherwise further escalating tensions, the United States government must work towards de-escalation and diplomacy in this delicate moment.

It was only a few short months ago that the U.S. finally withdrew from Afghanistan, ending the longest and most protracted war in our history. I cannot begin to describe the sense of relief that my family—and families like ours—felt after more than twenty years of conflict and uncertainty. Throughout the course of our marriage, my husband David was deployed, primarily to Afghanistan, more times than we can count. In fact, for many years, he spent more time overseas than he was able to here at home with us. And for what?

My heart aches at the thought of our service members and their loved ones across the country suddenly being thrust back into that perpetual state of uncertainty and fear. It is time to finally put our interests ahead of those advanced by the Military Industrial Complex. We must work to avoid entering what would undoubtedly become another endless and bloody foreign conflict at all costs.

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Amy Vilela grew up in poverty, relying on programs like WIC and SNAP in order to make ends meet as a single-mother. She took classes at night while working multiple jobs to become the first in her family to earn a degree. She became a national advocate for Medicare for All after her daughter Shalynne died at the hands of our nation's profit-driven healthcare system. After working her way up to become a CFO, Amy has since retooled her professional experience to provide vital campaign services to other progressive candidates. In 2020, serving as a State Co-chair, Amy led the charge for Bernie Sanders' landslide victory in the Nevada caucuses.

Amy and her family first moved to Nevada when her husband, Major David Vilela, was transferred to Creech Air Force Base. If elected, she would be the first ever active duty military spouse to serve in Congress. In addition to Congresswoman Cori Bush and Senator Nina Turner, Amy's campaign has attracted national attention and has been endorsed by Brand New Congress, Sunrise Movement Las Vegas, the Center for Biological Diversity, and more.



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