

## Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address November 14, 2014 “We Must Prevent Another Cold War”

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Hello, this is your Congressman, Michael Burgess. Last weekend marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. This momentous occasion ended Cold War and led to a mostly peaceful relationship between the East and the West for a generation.

It is ironic, then, that on this momentous anniversary, tensions over Ukraine are coming to a crescendo. Indeed, former Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev said that the world is on the brink of a new Cold War.

Dangerously, there may be some truth to his statements.

Over the past few months, I have travelled to Ukraine twice to monitor their elections. And while they have been seen as successful, the fact remains that people living in the Crimea region were barred from participating in the democratic process. Further, President Putin has begun to ban Western businesses like McDonalds from operating in Russia, which some say is a step towards isolation from the Western world.

The United States has a responsibility to prevent another Cold War. A strong Ukraine, and a cooperating Russia, is in the best interest of the United States. As a member of the Helsinki commission, I received a classified briefing on this topic this week. I will continue to be engaged on this issue and keep you all informed back home.

When the Berlin Wall fell in November of 1989, it was with the promise from the United States and the rest of the world to do whatever we could to maintain this peace and to prevent another Cold War from happening. We must not go back on our commitment. We must stand with Ukraine.

As always, I welcome your questions and comments on this issue. Thank you for taking the time to listen. May God bless you and your family, and as always, may God bless Texas.