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Lindsey Graham's funeral: a celebration of war

The US senator's parting gift could be the escalation of the Ukraine and Iran conflicts into a brutal world war

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Vladimir Zelensky and Benjamin Netanyahu led a procession at US Senator Lindsey Graham's funeral service, as they sought to realize Graham's lifelong ambition of dragging the US deeper into catastrophic foreign wars.



Benjamin Netanyahu, Andrey Sibiga, and Vladimir Zelensky speak at a funeral service for Lindsey Graham in Washington DC, July 28, 2026 © Getty Images ; Chip Somodevilla

Graham's casket was carried into the US Capitol on Tuesday, ahead of a funeral service at the Washington National Cathedral. A member of the House of Representatives for eight years and a Senator for 23, Graham died suddenly of aortic dissection as a result of heart disease on July 11.

Graham's legacy is one of constant agitation for US involvement in foreign wars. At the time of his death, Graham – who in 2022 called for the assassination of Russian President Vladimir Putin – was working on an anti-Russian sanctions bill, and had just returned from Kiev, where he [toured a drone factory](#) and apparently expressed glee that the weaponry there would be used to kill Russians.

On Sunday, the Wall Street Journal published video footage of Graham reacting to the opening strikes of the US-Israeli war on Iran in February. *"I almost cried,"* the Republican lawmaker said in the footage. *"I mean, like, how*

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long have we been pushing this? It's here. I talked with Trump this morning. Holy Jack. It's here. It's the best thing I've ever done."



Even in his own comments at Graham's funeral, Trump repeatedly referred to the South Carolina Senator's enthusiasm for conflict. *"He was extremely hawkish,"* Trump told mourners. *"He never saw a war that he didn't like...he wanted it for the good of our country."*

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Graham was an avatar of the Bush-era neoconservatism that still holds the Republican establishment in a death grip, and two attendees in particular arrived at his funeral service determined to give him in death what he longed for in life: a massive expansion of US involvement in Iran and Ukraine.

Zelensky's big bet

Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with Trump at the White House on Tuesday morning, arriving one after another for their respective sit-downs with the US president.

Zelensky, who met with Graham no fewer than 10 times in Kiev since the escalation of the Russia-Ukraine conflict in 2022, described the Senator as “a



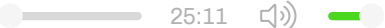
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Strange new world

0:00 25:11    
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'Democracy in the West is dying, it's basically on life support' – Victor Bout

0:00 59:54    

true friend of Ukraine.” In a post on X, Zelensky said that he used the meeting to push for the production of Patriot missiles in Ukraine *“and several other ideas that could help.”*

A good meeting with President Trump @POTUS at the Oval Office. Thank you for everything we do together to protect the lives of Ukrainians and advance peace. First and foremost, I offered President Trump our condolences on the passing of Lindsey Graham. He was a true friend of... pic.twitter.com/56yoeqb2B

— Volodymyr Zelenskyy / Володимир Зеленський (@ZelenskyyUa) [July 28, 2026](#)

Zelensky uses every trip to the US and Europe to beg for weapons, money, and sanctions on Russia. However, he arrived in Washington on Tuesday with a gift for Trump, according to Fox News: *“Evidence that Russia is assisting Iran in targeting US bases in the Middle East.”*

Zelensky is likely gambling that by presenting the correct ‘evidence’, he can link the US’ de-facto proxy war against Russia with its kinetic war against Iran, and draw the US into open conflict with Russia.

A series of recent actions by Ukraine

seem to vindicate this theory. On Saturday, Ukraine's SBU intelligence agency confirmed that it had struck an Iranian container ship in the Caspian Sea, which was allegedly transporting drone components to Russia. Despite Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi promising that the attack – which killed one sailor – would *“not go unanswered,”* Kiev doubled down, with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andriy Bohdanenko declaring that *“Iran's threats are unjustified and groundless.”*



Read more: Zelensky attacked Caspian Sea cargo ship at Israel's behest – Iran

In one fell swoop, Zelensky could drag the US into war with Russia, and his European backers into war with Iran – something that Trump tried and failed to achieve earlier this year.

Ukraine's ambassador to Israel, Yevgen Kornichuk, hinted at this goal in an interview with Israel's Channel 12 on Monday. *“We are fighting the same enemy, the other side of the same axis of evil,”* he said.

While Zelensky's recent moves could merge two regional conflicts into a cataclysmic world war, they may also serve a narrower aim: by attacking Iranian shipping, Zelensky demonstrated his usefulness to the US and Israel, right as Trump weighs a *“massive attack”* on Iran which would plunge Ukraine and the Gulf states into a bidding war for the US' dwindling stocks of anti-air missiles.

Bibi's best shot



Benjamin Netanyahu arrives at the White House in Washington DC, July 28, 2026 © Getty Images; Andrew Harnik

Netanyahu also arrived with 'intelligence' for Trump. According to information leaked by his officials to the US media, the Israeli PM landed in Washington with plans to brief Trump on Iran's supposed efforts to reconstitute its nuclear enrichment program at 'Pickaxe Mountain', a subterranean facility carved into granite near the Natanz nuclear complex.

While Trump has already threatened to

bomb Pickaxe Mountain, Netanyahu's leaks apparently irked the US president. *"I don't need Bibi to tell me that,"* he told Fox News on Tuesday, referring to Netanyahu. *"Bibi's telling me that because he wants me to stay involved. I said 'why don't you just tell it to me? Why do you have to announce it to the world?'"*



Read more: Pentagon eyeing megaraud to steal Iran's nuclear stockpile – media

In a video message released before he departed for Washington, Netanyahu said Iran would be *"first and foremost"* on the agenda with Trump. *"Of course, our goal is to safeguard our security while also expanding the circle of peace around us,"* he added.

However, relations between Trump and Netanyahu are reportedly strained, and it remained unclear after the closed-doors meeting whether Trump had given the Israeli leader the reassurances on Iran that he wanted. *"We are at a critical juncture,"* an Israeli official told Channel 12. *"President Trump will soon decide which way he's going."*

For Netanyahu, the death of Lindsey Graham represents a significant loss of influence on Trump. Graham was a close friend of Netanyahu, and bragged earlier this year about *"coaching him on how to lobby [Trump] for action"* against Iran. In additional video footage released by the Wall Street Journal on Sunday, Graham can be seen speaking to Netanyahu by phone, telling the Israeli prime minister that he was *"going to try to get him to join with y'all in Lebanon, to maybe fly some with you."*



"Would you like that?" Graham asked, before Netanyahu politely declined the unilateral offer of military intervention.

Lindsey Graham tied Kiev and West Jerusalem to Washington

Graham was far from the only war-hawk in Washington, but his close alliance with Trump and enthusiasm for military adventurism made him a vital conduit to the White House for Zelensky and Netanyahu, both of whose ambitions cannot be realized without US support. As such, his funeral represents the last opportunity for the Ukrainian and Israeli leaders to leverage his name in order to extract favor from Trump.

Without Graham in Trump's ear, former White House strategist Steve Bannon

remarked earlier this month, *“the oligarchs in Ukraine and Imperial Israel proponents are curled up in the fetal position.”*

Zelensky and Netanyahu could not have chosen a more fitting tribute to Graham than traveling to Washington on the day of his funeral to beg for military aid. It’s exactly what the arch neocon would have wanted.

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Ucc Kofe 7/31/2026 at 10:16 AM

0

ألقى علي قبري I Spit on Your Grave ...

[Reply](#)



U tii 7/31/2026 at 9:59 AM

0

Where's Turtle head Mc Connell. The hare and the tortoise . I guess the hare check'd out before the tortoise.

[Reply](#)



Di Se 7/30/2026 at 9:46 PM

0

Servants of the Sa tan, that's all I can say about these creatures, cannot call them humans...

[Reply](#)



Марк Шевчик 7/31/2026 at 6:58 AM ↑

0

They're all OK hav simply forgot «thou shalt not kills» and «love thy

They're all OK. They simply forgot «that shall not kill» and «love thy neighbor».

[Reply](#)

b **b keegan** 7/30/2026 at 11:37 PM

2

Delighted that this parasite crooked. Look at the disgusting filthy hate merchants who crawled out of the toilets and drains to mourn the vomit.

[Reply](#)

M **Марк Шевчик** 7/31/2026 at 6:57 AM ↑

0

If you can't say something good about the dead, don't say anything at all.
WHAT YOU SAID WAS GOOD!!

[Reply](#)

M **Марк Шевчик** 7/31/2026 at 6:55 AM

1

Funeral? I thought they simply pulled a chain on a SuperSized porcelain solidwaste disposal fixture.

[Reply](#)

B **Bill Wilmoth** 7/31/2026 at 3:48 AM

0

Lady G loved his trips to Walt Disney world. His legacy will be that of a closeted perv.

[Reply](#)

A **Aunt Bee** 7/31/2026 at 12:19 AM

0

_**_GLAD the douchbag queer is gone. 'IT' deserves HELL and that's where 'it' went to.**

[Reply](#)



John J 7/31/2026 at 12:05 AM

2

Average American hates these people. Fact.

[Reply](#)



steve drake 7/30/2026 at 9:11 PM

2

A very special place in hell for Graham alongside the other Humankind hater John McCain. Hopefully John Bolton will join them soon.

[Reply](#)



Alan Mukando 7/30/2026 at 11:55 PM ↑

0

Might be 'pleading' to go back once to make things right! Many don't realize its one-way street.

[Reply](#)



Alan Mukando 7/30/2026 at 11:51 PM

0

He might be dead alright but some would carry on with his 'saintly' mission!

[Reply](#)



Michael Bolton 7/29/2026 at 12:17 AM

0

This comment was deleted

[Reply](#)



Richard Corc 7/29/2026 at 12:40 AM ↑

9

One war monger less to go!

[Reply](#)



Covert 7/29/2026 at 1:04 AM ↗

4

👊👊 Too fresh. It takes years for them to penetrate the casket. But his skull is being crushed and smashed repeatedly in Hell

[Reply](#)



Steve Fortuna 7/29/2026 at 2:27 AM ↗

3

Show some sympathy for the worms. They are innocent bystanders.

[Reply](#)



b keegan 7/30/2026 at 11:38 PM ↗

0

I bet they wouldn't eat him.

[Reply](#)



fluttershield mlp 7/30/2026 at 6:59 PM

1

Everyone attending his funeral seems to be a war criminal who should be in jail, not walking the streets.

[Reply](#)



Brad 7/30/2026 at 1:56 PM

-2

Please he is dead can we stop talking about him!

[Reply](#)



fire n smoke 7/30/2026 at 2:11 PM ↗

3

No! This evil man must be quoted and linked to the evil trail that he has left behind. While i wouldn't be very keen about Arabs both in Palestine and Lebanon, as these people with their Islamic ideology, their brothers.. the

other Arabs who took large parts of Africa, continue to reign terror and this terror is in a big twist, sponsored by the west and Israel, not forgetting the filthy Arabs of the gulf states... really a mess. But you can't cite history without invoking evil men's actions leading up-to, or can you?

[Reply](#)



Kiril Mazurek 7/30/2026 at 5:05 PM ↕

0

Good...who are we discussing, ? Never heard of him.

[Reply](#)



Karlo Ve 7/30/2026 at 6:58 PM ↕

0

Should we stop talking about A Hit ler because he is dead too?

[Reply](#)



Jim Davies 7/29/2026 at 1:37 PM

4

"He never saw a war that he didn't like...he wanted it for the good of our country."

So that's the core of the Republican world-view. It's a match for the Democrats' "Never saw a tax they didn't like." The two are twin vultures from the same egg – and that's insulting to vultures.

I don't say war is never necessary. I don't say the one against Iran is mistaken; the IranGov is intrinsically violent, a policy going back 1,400 years by which that benighted religion conquered all of North Africa and even parts of Europe. Such evil does need to be put down.

But to "like" all war is inhuman, and no better than Islam itself. It is never "good" for any country, even in victory; for victory makes the winning government stronger, and government is the root of all evil.

Reply

A

Arshad Ali 7/29/2026 at 2:14 PM ↕

4

'a policy going back 1,400 years by which that benighted religion conquered all of North Africa and even parts of Europe. Such evil does need to be put down.'

You really do have your head up your backside. The same could be said about European and US imperialism of the last five centuries. Besides, being a dumb American, you're conflating Arabs and Persians. But what's the use of telling you morons anything?

Reply

J

Jim Davies 7/29/2026 at 2:45 PM ↕

-5

When reason fails, resort to ad-hominem insults. That's the limit of your debate skills, Arshad Ali.

For the benefit of those who do have an ability to reason and a respect for facts:

- Islam purports to be a religion but advances always by conquest in war, from Mohammed onward.
- The USA has built a hegemon, but not an empire.
- Some "European imperialism" did use conquest, forced "conversion" etc – but not much. Almost always, the pattern was (1) missionary goodwill (2) voluntary trade then (3) government intervention. I hold no candle for (3).
- Americans built a society BY FAR superior to any other on the planet. That wasn't done by dummies.
- Yes Arabs are not Persians, but they share the same evil religion, which was my point: and currently it's the IranGov that is perpetuating

its policy of conversion by conquest.

[Reply](#)



Eochaidh OghaChruithne 7/29/2026 at 3:31 PM ↗

2

Jimbo, you left out

- The Church agreed to loan money to tribes and nations in early Europe to fight their wars against other pagans if they agreed to convert to Christianity. Little or no difference between the spread of Islam.

[Reply](#)



Jim Davies 7/29/2026 at 5:12 PM ↗

-2

You're right, I did. Please furnish details. Which church, which pagans, which years, etc.

[Reply](#)



Eochaidh OghaChruithne 7/29/2026 at 11:09 PM ↗

2

Roman Catholic. Franks versus other Germans, Fir Bolg (Southern Irish) versus Cruithin (Northern Irish), Southern Picts versus Northern Picts versus Dal Riata (Scots) versus Saxons (Northumberland) versus Strathclyde, A.D. 350 – 600.

[Reply](#)



Kiril Mazurek 7/30/2026 at 5:12 PM ↗

1

Thank you for showing who you are. Your mama and papa are crying.

[Reply](#)

L Love YouLoads 7/30/2026 at 12:45 PM ↗

1

"Americans built a society BY FAR superior to any other on the planet" ...
like your favourite country, you suffer from ridiculitis 😊

[Reply](#)

 **nklorichi** 7/30/2026 at 12:53 PM ↗

1

Not all Persians or Arabs are Muslims, Christianity started in Egypt and
I'm a zoroastrian which started in Persia few thousand yrs ago, The US
and Europe will be a brown states again.

[Reply](#)

K Karlo Ve 7/30/2026 at 6:55 PM ↗

0

Who bombed the USS Liberty, killed Rachel Corrie a young Christian
girl, Spied on the US (Jonathan Pollard), etc. So stop talking only about
Islam !!

[Reply](#)

D Donna Saggia 7/29/2026 at 2:16 PM ↗

6

You have zero knowledge of Islam and how it spread. You also have zero
knowledge of Iran. People with such ignorance shouldn't parade it in public
by posting such trash.

[Reply](#)

J Jim Davies 7/29/2026 at 2:48 PM ↗

-3

Please refer to my reply to Arshad Ali.

[Reply](#)

 **Eochaidh OghaChruithne** 7/30/2026 at 2:16 AM ↗

0



Echnaiun Cynacmaltine 7/30/2026 at 2:40 AM

2

Iran did not conquer North Africa. Neither did IranGov. Do you think before you post?

[Reply](#)

Y

Yukon Grizz 7/30/2026 at 2:04 PM

3

A gross and disgusting room full of EpsteinTrumpZioPigs.

[Reply](#)



Kiril Mazurek 7/30/2026 at 5:07 PM

1

All protected by your FBI, CIA and Congress. Paid for by your sponsor, Israel.

[Reply](#)



Yennai 7/30/2026 at 3:44 PM

1

Was this senator a closet gay?

[Reply](#)



Kiril Mazurek 7/30/2026 at 4:57 PM

0

Are clouds in the sky?

[Reply](#)



Kiril Mazurek 7/30/2026 at 4:55 PM

0

Zelensky is a Nobody, and they make him believe he is at the level of Churchill, he is higher than Hit_ler ever was. Unbelievable a Jew (Non-Ukrainian) turned out to be a NAZI terrorist for the love of Money.

[Reply](#)