

I saw the bullet holes pierce their flesh  
 I saw the places where they died and their  
 spirits left their bodies onto a heavenly  
 place  
 Far from a war-torn country of our design  
 which orchestrated their demise  
 On the darkened brick walls splashed with  
 stucco  
 Metal bars on windows each home a fortress  
 from the violence that hovers in wait  
 across the thresholds  
 Street vendors who compete for our  
 Starbucks money to feed their souls  
 and nourish their dreams  
 I saw the places they died in the tears behind  
 the eyes of a priest who saw too much  
 Mental memorials to the expressions of  
 horror and sadness on the face of a  
 mother who died trying to save their  
 daughter's life captured in the space  
 between his eyes and the weight of  
 their loss  
 Their state-sanctioned murders designed to  
 leave no witnesses behind  
 Ordered bullets to fillet her face to ensure no  
 viewer could recognize their own moth-  
 er's eyes in her frozen gaze  
 I saw the places where they died, where the  
 children were not spared  
 No life too precious to halt corruption and  
 gang warfare  
 Daily genocides where there are no sacred  
 spaces or sanctuaries in which to hide  
 I saw the places that they died in the cobble-  
 stone streets  
 Where people are pawns in a corruptors  
 endgame  
 The depth of the violence bears no shame  
 I saw the places where they died when I  
 heard the women speak of the terror  
 that they face every day,  
 Every week  
 The normalcy of rape, the dignity decimated,  
 the beatings meant to break and the  
 constant earthquakes that shake the  
 fragile state  
 I saw the places they died in the hopeful  
 smiles of the proud feminists who carry  
 the burdens of their sisters as a shield  
 To protect the dignity of their humanity  
 which too often is forced to yield  
 I saw the places they died, float off into still  
 air  
 Laden with promises unfulfilled and hidden  
 ambitions laid bare  
 I craft petals with poem to form a bouquet  
 dropped off in a history of genocide  
 With the hope the path these roses display  
 will propagate a garden in honor of the  
 many places they died.

#### TRIBUTE TO MAJOR BRAD CATON

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to MAJ Brad Caton for his exemplary dedication to duty while serving as a Department of Defense congressional fellow and a congressional budget liaison for the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Financial Management and Comptroller. This month, he will begin his transition to serve as a budgetary analyst in the Army's Budget Office.

As a native of Libby, MT, Brad was commissioned as an infantry officer upon graduation from the University of Montana, where he earned a bachelor's of science degree in business administration. A dedicated scholar, Brad went on to earn his master of business administration from the University of Montana and later a master's degree in legislative affairs from the George

Washington University. Brad has been very successful in his Army career and has served in a broad range of assignments.

His billets have spanned from serving as an infantry platoon commander with the 4th Infantry Division with a deployment to Iraq to assignments managing the Army's financial resources. Brad exemplifies what it means to be a Montanan with his leadership, perseverance, and versatility. This was evident during his first assignment as a budget analyst for U.S. Army Central Command and while he commanded the Pontiac Recruiting Company in Eastern, MI. Following command, Brad continued to display his Montana Resolve as the support operations officer at Camp Carroll, Republic of Korea. Additionally, he was deployed to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan while serving as the deputy assistant chief of staff, financial management for the 1st Armored Division.

In 2017, Brad served as my Department of Defense congressional fellow. For a year, I had the privilege of working closely with Brad. He was extremely passionate about serving and representing Montanans. He consistently went above and beyond his immediate responsibilities to work in areas outside of the veterans and defense realm. He used his insight as a Montanan to provide critical local feedback on rural Montana priorities, including Tribal and energy issues. He was always thinking of Montana while representing the Department of Defense in my office. Following his fellowship, Brad transitioned to serve as a congressional budget liaison for the U.S. Army. In this capacity Brad arranged and escorted me over to visit the Montana National Guard while they were deployed to Afghanistan over the holidays. He continued to work tirelessly with all Members of Congress and their staffs to accurately articulate the Army's budget positions to the Appropriations Committees. His professionalism, diligence, and commitment to the mission are unmatched, and his work both as a fellow and as a liaison was outstanding and represented the Department of Defense and U.S. Army to the U.S. Congress well.

The foundation of Brad's military success is his family and his Montana roots. In fact, Brad bought a house in Red Lodge during his fellowship which he hopes to retire to 1 day. He is a devoted husband to his wife, Eryn Beckman of Colstrip, MT, and a committed father to his children, Isabel, Evan, Pierce, and Audrey. Brad and Eryn's attitude of service, sacrifice, and care for others permeates every organization and activity they participate in, and they are truly examples of servant leaders in the Army and their communities.

Throughout his career, Brad has exemplified what it truly means to be a Montanan as he positively impacted soldiers, peers, and superiors. Our country has benefited tremendously

from his extraordinary leadership, judgment, and passion. I join my colleagues today in honoring his dedication to our Nation and his invaluable service to the U.S. Congress as an Army congressional liaison.

It has been a genuine pleasure to have worked with MAJ Brad Caton over the past 3 years. On behalf of a grateful nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Brad for his service to our country, and we wish him all the best as he continues service in the U.S. Army.

#### TRIBUTE TO JEREMY WHEELER

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I rise to formally express my appreciation to Mr. Jeremy Wheeler. Jeremy is a congressional relations officer in the Department of Veterans Affairs. However, over the last year, he served as a fellow on my national security and veterans team.

Jeremy has supported my work helping the veterans of Indiana and the Nation using his exceptional knowledge of the Veterans Affairs system and his experience working with many of the veterans service organizations. A dedicated public servant, Jeremy has spent much of the last two decades serving our Nation. He served in the U.S. Army for 6 years, including two combat tours in Iraq in 2003 and 2005. After 5 years working in Hollywood, he returned to government service at the Department of Veterans Affairs and has spent much of this decade working to improve the quality and access to care for our Nation's heroes, establish deeper relationships with veterans service organizations, and strengthen the VA's outreach and communications capabilities.

In my office this year, he has provided valuable insight into how the legislation before this Chamber would be implemented and how it would impact the VA's ability to continue serving our veterans. And perhaps most impressively, I am not sure how many offices on Capitol Hill can boast an Emmy-winning staff member. This is just one of the many unique contributions Jeremy has brought to my office. In the last year, I have continually been impressed with Jeremy's work ethic, professionalism, candor, and knowledge.

Next month, Jeremy will be returning to the VA, where I have no doubt he will continue seeking innovative ways to caring for veterans. I wish him the best in all his endeavors, and I look forward to working with him in the future.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VETERANS GUEST HOUSE

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I come forward today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Veterans Guest House.

The Veterans Guest House has long been one of Reno's best kept secrets. This "home away from home" is one of the only facilities of its kind in the country serving U.S. military veterans and their families, providing temporary overnight accommodations for veterans receiving treatment at a medical facility in the Reno-Sparks area. In the early 1990s, veterans visiting the Veterans Administration Medical Center of the Sierra, VAMC, in Reno noticed that the family members of veterans were sleeping in their cars because they couldn't afford lodging while their loved one was in the hospital. Even some veterans were sleeping in their cars so they could arrive for appointments and other treatments. It was clear that this was not acceptable, and so our generous Northern Nevada community went to work to do better for our veterans.

In 1994, Reno's Spouse House opened its doors in an old bungalow-style home right near the VAMC in Reno. It had a handful of beds, and in those early years, the House provided lodging to about 800 guests each year. In the 25 years since that time, the Veterans Guest House has evolved and expanded to better meet the needs of our veterans and their families. In 2002, the nonprofit took the name "Veterans Guest House" to reflect its broader mission of assisting both veterans and their families, and in 2004, a new 12-bed home was built. By 2012, the nonprofit had acquired another property and expanded the bed total to 17, allowing them to provide more than 5,000 guest nights that year. Recently, construction concluded on the latest expansion bringing total capacity to 33 beds.

The Veterans Guest House is key to connecting our community to our veterans, providing a variety of ways to show our support for our veterans and their families and the sacrifices made by both. Volunteers are welcome at the Veterans Guest House to help provide the organization ongoing support doing everything from cleaning rooms, to assisting in small repairs, to helping with fundraisers. Community groups, families, and businesses also are encouraged to provide a home-cooked meal for the guests or help fill the needs of the agency's "Wish List." Most guests reside more than 30 miles away from the hospital, and so having that support for them and their families is crucial. Guests are asked to make a donation to support the work of the House, but no one is turned away because they can't pay. The organization relies completely on donations and receives no Federal or State funding.

I am so pleased to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Veterans Guest House and the critical services and support it provides to our veterans and their families.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ALYSSA LIEDLE-CAISSEY AND KAI BAUER

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing

the first set of graduates from Anaconda Junior/Senior High School's Copper Academy, Alyssa Liedle-Caissey and Kai Bauer.

The Anaconda Junior/Senior High School's Copper Academy allows students to learn at a different pace and in a unique environment which includes the use of online programs that have visual demonstrations and explanations for different educational requirements.

Alyssa and Kai both took a chance participating in this program, and it paid off. They both graduated 6 months early. I am very proud of these two young Montanans for pushing themselves and showing the Anaconda community that this new, individualized program allows students to thrive. Congratulations to Alyssa and Kai on their graduation from the Copper Academy. I wish them the best of luck as they transition into the next steps of their lives.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MELISSA MATTHEWS AND BELLE RAE ZACHESKY/COPP

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am proud to recognize Melissa Matthews and Belle Rae Zachesky/Copp of Raymond as December's Granite Staters of the Month for seeking to turn their own grief into positive change and mental wellness for their community.

In the last few months, both Melissa and Belle have lost someone dear to them. Melissa lost her husband, Graham, to suicide on September 30, 2019; and her niece, 8-year-old Belle, lost her father, Jesse, to an opioid overdose the next day, on October 1.

In response to their shared grief and to distract from their sadness Melissa and Belle are seeking to raise awareness about the importance of mental wellness in their community. Belle and Melissa have started promoting wristbands with the slogan "Lets change the 'I' in mental illness with 'WE' for mental wellness," to help spread this important message to others.

The two have also started a Facebook page to try to create an online community of support and positivity. The group's name, MW Warriors—MW standing for mental wellness—was inspired by the song "Warrior" by singer Demi Lovato, who has struggled with drug addiction and depression.

Their story is another inspiring example of how people across New Hampshire come together during difficult times to support one another. This is particularly true as the opioid crisis continues to ravage our State, and it is crucial that we continue to be there for the loved ones of those whom we have lost.

Melissa and Belle are trying to do the challenging but important work of promoting positive change, all while battling their own loss and channeling their energy to help others.

Thank you, Melissa and Belle, for your strength and courage.●

#### 100 SEASONS OF THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

● Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 100th season of the National Football League.

Ohio has a rich football history. In 1920, 10 teams gathered in Canton, OH, to form the American Professional Football Association. Of those original 10 teams, Cleveland, Canton, Akron, Columbus, and Dayton were all in the lineup. Further, the Dayton Triangles hosted the first-ever NFL game in 1921 against the Columbus Panhandles.

Home to the Cleveland Browns and the Cincinnati Bengals, Ohio has continued to embrace the legacy and tradition of America's game. The birthplace of the NFL, Canton's Pro Football Hall of Fame sees 225,000 visitors annually. Additionally, Ohio natives Don Shula, Chuck Noll, Paul Brown, Roger Staubach, and Cris Carter are among the 326 players who have been inducted into the Hall of Fame. Further, Cleveland looks forward to hosting the 2021 NFL draft, and I was proud to advocate for this selection last year.

Since its first season in 1920, the NFL has grown from humble beginnings to a national pastime known as America's game. Represented in 22 States by 32 teams, the NFL has united communities across the Nation through live games and televised events. In fact, the Super Bowl has become the single most-watched annual television event in the United States.

I commend the NFL for their continued philanthropic and volunteer efforts. Through working to honor veterans, promote cancer awareness, and encourage healthy lifestyles, the league has embraced community through sport. I applaud the commitment of the NFL, its staff, and all who were involved in reaching this milestone and making the first 100 seasons of the NFL a success.●

#### TRIBUTE TO NANCY WHITWORTH

● Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, today I would like to take a moment to recognize Ms. Nancy Whitworth of Greenville, SC, for her over 40 years of service to Greenville County. I extend my congratulations to her on her upcoming retirement and wish to reflect on her successful career.

As the longtime economic developer and deputy city manager for the city of Greenville, Nancy was responsible for commercial and neighborhood revitalization, downtown development, business recruitment and retention, planning and zoning, and building codes. She has also authored articles on Greenville's award-winning downtown and meets frequently with other cities to share Greenville's success story. Last year, she was awarded with the 2018 Local Economic Developer of the Year award.

Ms. Whitworth is to be commended for her role in spurring the dramatic growth and revitalization Greenville