

the tower near the fence (exhibits 62, 63). They were well aware of the reported threats and scanned the large and unruly crowd in the canal for individuals "out of baseline" or demonstrating hostile intent (exhibit 62).

(m) At approximately 1730 on 26 August, the crowds at Abbey Gate were desperate and growing agitated (exhibits 76, 77, 80, 84, 89). First Platoon, Golf Company, led by (TEXT REDACTED) were consolidated at the jersey barriers beneath the tower at the outer gate (exhibits 77, 88, 89, 91, 92). The platoon was forced to move nearly all personnel into the corner to hold back the massive and largely recalcitrant crowd from coming over the barriers and breaching the gate (exhibits 89, 91). Three members of the FST, Sgt Nicole Gee, Sgt Johanny Rosario Pichardo, and (TEXT REDACTED) were operating slightly behind the platoon (exhibits 89, 91, 92, 106, 107). (TEXT REDACTED) 2/1's (TEXT REDACTED) were standing to the North of the PSYOP vehicle in the outer corridor (exhibits 53, 76). (TEXT REDACTED) was near the canal, approximately 30–40 meters from the sniper tower (exhibits 77, 89, 92). Several members of Echo Company were in the outer corridor area, escorting civilians or looking for specific potential evacuees (exhibits 61, 62, 63). SSgt Darin Hoover was near the fence at the base of the outer gate tower (exhibit 63). (TEXT REDACTED) was escorting an interpreter to the canal to look for his father in the crowd (exhibit 63). Two corpsmen were also in the outer corridor. HM3 Maxton Soviak was called forward to treat a civilian heat causality and was rendering aid near the canal, but up against the fence (exhibit 92). (TEXT REDACTED) came forward from the inner gate to bring water to the 1st Platoon Marines on the canal wall (exhibit 92). At approximately 1736 local time, 26 August 2021, a single explosion occurred at Abbey Gate (exhibits 66, 98, 72, 121, 236). Overhead persistent infrared systems captured the time of the explosion at precisely 13:06:52Z, or 17:36:52 local (exhibit 236). The STP OIC received notification of the attack from 2/1 Marines by radio at 1738, and used the Signal Application to warn the North HKIA Role II-E of potential casualties at 1739 (exhibit 66, 98).

(n) The blast at Abbey Gate killed thirteen Service Members total, to include eleven Marines, one Sailor, and one Soldier:

(i) SSgt Darin Hoover, USMC, Echo Company 2/1 Marines

(ii) Sgt Nicole Gee, USMC, CLB-24, 24th MEU

(iii) Sgt Johanny Rosario Pichardo, USMC, JTF-CR (TF 51-5th MEB)

(iv) Cpl Hunter Lopez, USMC, Golf Company, 2/1 Marines

(v) Cpl Daegan Page, USMC, Golf Company, 2/1 Marines

(vi) Cpl Humberto Sanchez, USMC, Golf Company, 2/1 Marines

(vii) LCpl David Espinoza, USMC, Golf Company, 2/1 Marines

(viii) LCpl Rylee McCollum, USMC, Golf Company, 2/1 Marines

(ix) LCpl Dylan Merola, USMC, Golf Company, 2/1 Marines

(x) LCpl Kareem Nikoui, USMC, Golf Company, 2/1 Marines

(xi) LCpl Jared Schmitz, USMC, Golf Company, 2/1 Marines

(xii) HM3 Maxton Soviak, USN, Golf Company, 2/1 Marines

(xiii) SSG Ryan Knauss, USA, Bravo Company, 9th Psychological Operations Battalion (A)

(o) Those killed in action were all located in vicinity of the tower at the outer gate standing a security position at the edge of the canal or jersey barriers, with the exception of SSG Knauss and SSgt Hoover (exhibits 63, 91, 92, 105, 129). Three of the 1st Platoon Marines who were killed in the blast were elevated on the canal wall, helping pull potential evacuees into the outer gate: LCpl

Rylee McCollum, LCpl Dylan Merola, and LCpl Kareem Nikoui. SSgt Hoover was in the outer corridor area, on the inside of the fence, near the tower (exhibits 63, 91, 92). SSG Knauss was in the outer corridor area with the PSYOP vehicle, on the passenger's side, to the rear of the vehicle (exhibits 105, 129). The vehicle front was pointed at the jersey barrier and canal intersection below the tower where 1st Platoon was providing crowd control and security. Autopsy summaries provided by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner's Office confirmed all Service Members who were KIA died of blast and ballistic injuries (exhibit 145). There were no gunshot wounds on any of the KIA, but significant penetrating ball bearing injuries (exhibit 145). Injuries sustained to those KIA were primarily lacerations, ruptures, and bruising to the head, torso, and pelvis (exhibits 138, 145). Of the protective gear examined by Joint Trauma Analysis and Prevention of Injury in Combat (JTAPIC), small arms protective insert (SAPI) plates and helmets were effective at stopping fragmentation and ball bearings (exhibit 138).

(p) Those interviewed during the investigation could not provide a number of civilian casualties caused by the attack. Most were only aware of open source reporting and concurred the number would be substantial. Open source reporting estimates casualties at 160–170 (exhibits 251, 252).

(q) Numerous Marines were wounded because of the attack, with most being part of 1st Platoon, Golf Company or members of 2/1 Marines positioned in the canal or in the outer corridor area, near the physical gate and PSYOP vehicle (exhibits 63, 91, 92, 105, 129, 224). The initial list of wounded is best captured by the 2/1 S2 blast and injury analysis, sketches from Echo and Golf Company NCOs, and Aeromedical Evacuation Critical Care Air Transport Team (AE-CCATT) TRANSCOM Regulating and Command and Control Evacuation System (TRAC2ES) flight data (exhibits 92, 137, 236). There appear to be 27 service members reported as initially wounded during the attack, but eight were not medically evacuated and instead redeployed with the unit (exhibits 68, 92, 93, 95, 131). The remaining nineteen were redeployed due to their wounds (exhibit 68). However, since redeploying, units have reported additional TBI and concussion related wounds for 12 more Marines, for a total of 39 Service Members wounded in the attack (exhibits 68, 92, 93, 95, 164). This new number does not include members of the 82nd Airborne who were conducting a leader's recon at Abbey Gate for the RIP, and 24th MEU personnel, who were also in the outer corridor area (exhibits 107, 124, 129). The number of wounded from the attack at Abbey Gate will almost certainly continue to grow.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING ENTERTAINMENT FORT SMITH

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and thank the creators and staff at Entertainment Fort Smith magazine for 22 years of championing arts, entertainment, and the people of western Arkansas.

Lynn Wasson and Linda Seubold launched Entertainment Fort Smith, more commonly referred to as E-Fort Smith, in 2000 to showcase the area's vibrant arts and entertainment scene and keep local residents informed about upcoming events. Within its pages, they covered everything from international mural art found through the Unexpected Project and the annual

Peacemaker Music Festival, to the Fort Smith Little Theatre's latest productions and story-time schedules for the local library.

The magazine printed 30,000 issues every month that were distributed at over 200 locations in Fort Smith, Van Buren, Greenwood, Alma, Barling, Charleston, and throughout the region.

Not only was E-Fort Smith a calendar of events, but the magazine's features also spotlighted the lives of local people that make western Arkansas unique. In addition, Wasson and Seubold used their platform to show their great love for the State of Arkansas.

Brandon Chase Goldsmith, executive director of the Fort Smith International Film Festival, praised E-Fort Smith for its support and for being a driving force behind the region's creative economy over the years. Likewise, the magazine has been recognized as a critical partner in helping secure Fort Smith as the site for the U.S. Marshals Museum, which will honor the over 230-year history of the Marshals Service and is expected to open in 2023.

E-Fort Smith published its final edition in July 2022 after more than two decades of promoting local businesses and artists.

I would like to thank the founders and all the staff of E-Fort Smith who inspired the community and highlighted Arkansas's rich culture. Their efforts made a difference and the magazine's legacy will live beyond its final printing.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER VIDRINE

• Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of our strongest and valued leaders in municipal government from my home State of Louisiana, Mayor Jennifer Vidrine. On July 30, Mayor Vidrine will become the first African-American woman to lead the Louisiana Municipal Association—LMA. She will also be the third woman to serve in this prestigious position in the LMA's 96 years of service to municipal government in Louisiana.

While Mayor Vidrine will undoubtedly lead this fine organization for the next year with great loyalty and enthusiasm, she will also continue to serve her most beloved residents of Ville Platte. Since her election in 2011, Mayor Vidrine has not stopped working to bring improvements and investments to her city. She remains at the forefront of local government officials developing new approaches to solving complicated problems.

Mayor Vidrine is a woman of great faith who believes in serving her community wholeheartedly. She is a lifelong member of her hometown congregation of the Ninth Missionary Baptist Church, where she serves and assists in a number of leadership roles.

Her commitment to the elderly and youth are quite noteworthy and deeply rooted in her beliefs. Among her many accomplishments, she is the founder of the Ville Platte Girls and Boys Place where afterschool and summer programs teach children culinary skills, music appreciation, improved communications, and writing techniques. During the summer, Mayor Vidrine is a regular presence at the Girls and Boys Place offering encouragement to the children to expand their thinking, explore their passions and to be a good citizen. She works tirelessly to provide unique opportunities for these young minds, many of which come from very low-income homes. This, in turn, allows parents to feel more hopeful that their children will have a better life.

When it comes to technology, Mayor Vidrine has practically taken her community from "worst to first" as she likes to say, by developing critical partnerships with public and private broadband providers. In the very near future, the city of Ville Platte will begin enjoying internet speeds like they have never seen before, thanks in large part to the mayor's efforts. She knows the importance of technology and how it has an immediate impact on the lives of every resident.

I consider Mayor Jennifer Vidrine as a most accomplished stateswoman, and I am extremely proud to call her a friend.

I ask all of Louisiana to join me in congratulating Mayor Vidrine for reaching this important milestone in her career.●

#### RECOGNIZING WHAS RADIO

● Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor WHAS Radio on entering its 100th year of service to the city of Louisville and Commonwealth of Kentucky. WHAS started broadcasting on July 18, 1922, and has covered numerous historical moments, including the first live broadcast of the Kentucky Derby, Pearl Harbor, and Presidential interviews. As one of the longest running radio stations in the country, WHAS has won countless awards, including the Associated Press and Peabody Awards.

During these past 100 years, WHAS has solidified its reputation as a leader in crisis coverage, specifically severe weather. When an F4 tornado hit Louisville in 1974, WHAS traffic reporter Dick Gilbert followed the tornado in his helicopter, giving listeners live updates of the storm's location and resulting damage. During the Ohio River flood of 1937, WHAS aired 115,000 messages, despite the electrical power shutdown.

Since 1954, WHAS has served as the flagship station in the Crusade for Children, which raises millions of dollars for children's charities throughout Kentucky every year. In the 2022 telethon, WHAS helped raise \$5,133,684.69, making the Crusade one of America's most successful local telethons.

A dedication to informing and enlightening the city of Louisville has defined the first 100 years of broadcasting for WHAS. As we look toward the future, I have no doubt that WHAS will continue to play an integral role in keeping listeners all around the Commonwealth informed.●

#### RECOGNIZING DENNISON'S ROADSIDE MARKET

● Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Dennison's Roadside Market of Horse Cave, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Sometimes, a great idea will just present itself, as it did for Kathy Dennison in her garden over 30 years ago. A tomato stand, she suggested, right there on their front lawn. Though her husband was skeptical at first, the first few years of their little tomato stand business proved successful, so much so that the grass in their front lawn was worn away from all the foot traffic. As the years went past, their popularity continued to grow, and eventually, the Dennisons realized they needed to expand their operation. The Dennisons, ever resourceful, looked to their own land when considering expansion. Thus, the couple renovated the old tobacco barn on their property to facilitate their ever-growing business. Fast forward 20-some years later, and the couple now owns and operates a full-fledged country store, featuring in-season produce, jams, salsas, salad dressings, baskets, mums, and other home decorations.

The Dennisons take special care to only sell local produce; so local that much of it is grown on their own property. The store offers a full bounty of goods, and if the produce is not grown on their own property, it is grown on one of their neighbor's farms, making this market not only a community attraction but a communal effort to serve Kentuckians the finest produce available in Horse Cave. The selection of produce offered at Dennison's Roadside Market changes throughout the year depending on what is in season, so customers know that all the food in the store is sold at their optimal condition. Dennison's Roadside Market prides itself on selling fruits and vegetables within a week or so of being picked from the farm. Their inventory is not confined to food; they also sell pottery, candy, baskets, and other products made locally, always adhering to the Dennison's philosophy of home-grown and high-quality.

In the years between their little tomato stand and the large country store it has grown into, the public response to Paul and Kathy's business has been overwhelmingly positive. Dennison's Roadside Market has been a great suc-

cess, serving as the go-to store for locals in need of groceries and acting as a prominent destination for tourists visiting Kentucky. Tourists from as far as Australia have come to Dennison's seeking authentic local produce.

As if operating their own store were not already enough work, the Dennisons also run their own farm. When February rolls around each year, Paul and Kathy begin their cultivation process, starting in the greenhouse where they first sow their seeds. Some days, the couple work as late as 8 or 9 p.m., maintaining their crops in order to maximize the amount of fruit and vegetables available at harvest. Moreover, the couple strives to make Dennison's a welcoming environment not for only its customers, but for its employees as well. Those who work at Dennison's Roadside Market describe it as "an amazing place to work" and "something new all the time."

Selling locally sourced goods is not the only way Dennison's supports their local community. Dennison's often welcomes other small businesses to utilize the open space on its property. Local food trucks will drive from all around to offer their fare to the many customers shopping at Dennison's Market. Their reach expands beyond the community of Horse Cave, with Bucky Bee's BBQ of Cave City, KY, and Hawaiian Shave Ice of Glasgow, KY, coming over to Dennison's to set up shop alongside the market. Collaborating with other Kentucky small businesses not only provides a fun and friendly atmosphere to their market, it also allows Paul and Kathy Dennison to share in the bounty of their wonderful Horse Cave community.

When a small business is as beloved as Dennison's Roadside Market, it is hard for critics to ignore. Paul and Kathy's business has received widespread acclaim, earning Best Farm Produce by the News-Herald, second place in Best Farm Tourist Attraction by Kentucky Living, and is currently a finalist for Best in Kentucky by Kentucky Living. Paul and Kathy's resolute dedication and immense passion for their business is the reason why Dennison's is able to offer the highest quality goods each consecutive year. I want to commend this hard-working couple for their dedication and resourcefulness, as they took what was a fertile garden and grew it into an esteemed venture treasured by the entire community. Congratulations to Paul and Kathy Dennison and to the entire team at Dennison's Roadside Market. I look forward to watching your continued growth and success in Kentucky.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Swann, one of his secretaries.