

In other words, there are some 80,000 wounded people in Gaza and hundreds of thousands of people who are sick. According to the World Health Organization, as of May 5, there were hundreds of thousands of cases of acute respiratory illness and diarrhea, including 110,000 children. Yet, despite all of the injuries caused by the bombings, despite all of the sickness caused by the lack of clean water, there is virtually no healthcare available to these people because the healthcare system in Gaza has been almost totally destroyed.

You know, there are 12 universities in Gaza where kids are able to get an education. In fact, the people of Gaza and the Palestinian area take education very seriously. Every single one of these 12 universities has been bombed, as have 56 schools. Today, 625,000 children in Gaza have no access to education.

I would ask the American people just to think about what is going on psychologically to the children of Gaza. Imagine being in a place where drones are flying all over the place, maybe there with weapons, maybe not. Buildings have been destroyed. Your relatives have been killed. You don't have any water. You don't have any food. You are driven from one place to another. What kind of permanent damage will occur to virtually every one of these children? What a horrible experience it is.

Maybe—maybe most importantly—when we think about the wisdom of Mr. Netanyahu being invited to address both Houses of Congress—an honor to address both Houses of Congress and the American people—we should remember that his government, according to virtually every humanitarian organization functioning in Gaza, has intentionally blocked humanitarian aid—that is, food, water, medical supplies—from reaching the desperate people of Gaza, which has created, on top of everything else, the conditions for starvation and famine.

I would tell you, as you probably already know, that blocking humanitarian aid and creating the conditions for famine is not only an act of extreme cruelty—using starvation as an act of war—but it is a violation of both American and international law. It is a war crime. That is what it is.

Let me say a word about what is going on in Gaza right now in terms of malnutrition. According to the United Nations, since mid-January, at least 30 children—30 children—have starved to death. More than 93,000 children under 5 have been screened for malnutrition, and 7,280 were found to have acute malnutrition, including 5,600 with moderate acute malnutrition and 1,676 with severe acute malnutrition. But, importantly, that is just what we know. The full reality is likely much, much worse. But Israel has prevented journalists and the media from getting into the most desperate areas in Gaza.

Mr. President, you know we, as we all know, are in campaign season, and

I would say to Speaker JOHNSON that when you attend your fundraising dinners with your billionaire friends and you eat your fine steaks and your lobsters and your other wonderful food, please remember these pictures from Gaza.

This is a photograph of a child in Gaza taken by Getty.

This is a photograph of a child and his or her mother taken by Reuters, and one doubts very much whether that child is alive today.

This is a photograph taken by Al Jazeera.

This is another photograph taken by Getty of a child who I can't imagine is alive today.

These children and thousands more are the direct result of Netanyahu's policies, Netanyahu's demands. Speaker JOHNSON has invited him to address Congress.

No, Mr. President, I will not be in attendance for that speech.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL DENNIS WILLE

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to COL Dennis Wille, a devoted and accomplished member of the U.S. Army, who has dedicated nearly 29 years of exceptional service to our Nation. Colonel Wille is completing over 4 years of service on the U.S. Space Command staff, where he has served in the Pentagon as both the chief of the Washington Liaison Office and the chief of legislative affairs.

Colonel Wille's career began as an armor officer in 1995, serving in armored cavalry units at Fort Carson, CO, and Fort Stewart, GA. In 2005, he transitioned into the U.S. Army's cadre of space professionals, taking on roles as a space operations staff officer at various locations, including Fort Hood, TX; Fort Leavenworth, KS; Peterson Air Force Base, CO; and Wiesbaden, Germany.

Throughout his career, Colonel Wille demonstrated remarkable leadership and dedication, participating in deployments to Bosnia, Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan. In Iraq, he served as a space operations staff officer for the Multi-National Division—Baghdad, integrating space and technical capabilities into counterinsurgency operations.

His yearlong tour in Afghanistan at ISAF Joint Command focused on integrating nonmilitary applications into NATO's combat operations.

During his 2 years as the Army's senior space officer at U.S. Army Europe, Colonel Wille's expertise extended to supervising the integration of space, cyber, and electronic warfare capabilities into NATO and joint land operations and exercises. Notably, he also served as a military fellow at New America, a D.C.-based think tank, through the Chief of Staff of the Army's Senior Fellowship Program.

A lifelong learner, Colonel Wille earned several advanced degrees, including a master of science in space systems operations from the Naval Postgraduate School in 2006, a master of military art and science from the School for Advanced Military Studies in 2012, and an additional MMAS from the U.S. Army War College in 2016.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to COL Dennis Wille for his exceptional service and unwavering dedication to our Nation's security. His remarkable career and leadership in space operations have significantly contributed to our defense and global security efforts. We commend him for his achievements and wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

COL Dennis Wille's outstanding contributions and unwavering commitment have left an indelible mark on the U.S. Army and our Nation. His dedication to duty serves as an inspiration to all who follow in his footsteps. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him a happy retirement as we celebrate his legacy of selfless service to the Nation.

REMEMBERING SARAH "SALLY" SCHNAITER LUGAR

Mr. YOUNG. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life of Sally Lugar, who passed away peacefully amid the love of family and friends on May 2, 2024.

Sally was a proud, lifelong Hoosier. She was born in Martinsville, IN, on June 12, 1934. After graduating high school, she attended Purdue University and earned a degree in home economics. While at Purdue, she was a varsity cheerleader, president of her dorm, and spent 3 years on the Debris, the Purdue yearbook. After graduating, she taught english, health and science, and physical education at Muncie Central High School.

Sally married Thomas R. Lugar on April 12, 1958, and they were blessed with three children, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. When Tom passed in 2018, they had been married for 60 years. Sally and Tom were avid travelers who loved experiencing new cultures and creating new lifelong friendships. She loved connecting with people and serving her fellow Hoosiers. In the last 60 years, Sally served more than 30 central Indiana nonprofit organizations. She did this while managing

a family farm in Morgan County and raising three children.

Her service included active engagement with the tennis community and extensive involvement with the greater Indianapolis community. In the tennis world, she served as the president of the Central Indiana Tennis Association; held leadership positions with the Western Tennis Association, WTA Junior Development Committee, National Junior Tennis League; and co-founded the Indianapolis Junior Development Fund.

Sally was a leader in central Indiana, holding positions with the Junior League of Indianapolis, Day Nursery Auxiliary, Methodist Hospital Task Core, WINS, Teachers' Treasures, Purdue Consumer and Family Sciences Alumni Association, Purdue President's Council, YWCA, Progressive Club, WFYI, Propylaeum Historic Foundation, Kappa Kappa Gamma Alumnae Association of Indianapolis, and Daughters of the American Revolution, and she was an active participant in many other civic and charitable organizations.

Sally loved her family and relished every family gathering. She loved Tom and her children deeply and was extremely proud of their accomplishments. She taught right and wrong, honesty, fairness, and respect. I know Sally will be missed dearly by her family, her community, and the whole State of Indiana, and we celebrate her remarkable life.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DANIELLE ALFORD

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize Danielle Alford, the 2024 Armed Forces Insurance Air Force Spouse of the Year.

From an early age, Danielle was shown an example of helping others as she watched her mother care for her ailing grandmother and her involvement in the court appointed special advocates.

She brings this spirit of volunteerism into service alongside her husband Maj. Lionel Alford.

While stationed at Yakota Air Base, Japan she joined the Red Cross as a hospital chairman and logged nearly 900 hours placing other volunteers in positions within the hospital. She also served as an English teacher to the local Japanese community and helped military families adjust to their life in Japan as a member of the welcome committee. As a Key Spouse, Danielle developed a community by creating events that fostered unity and supportive relationships among the spouses and children.

This is a role she continued at Little Rock Air Force Base—LRAFB—supporting communication between unit leadership and families on base. She was quick to get involved in Arkansas. Danielle organized meal trains for

military families who recently welcomed new babies and led efforts to collect items for Afghan evacuees during relocation efforts at the 41st Airlift Squadron.

Danielle exemplifies what it means to serve. She is a remarkable military spouse, mother, and advocate for military families, as evidenced in her selection as a voice for military spouses in discussions with high-ranking administration officials, and continues to use her expertise and enthusiasm to support all who serve.

Her efforts have been recognized by her peers, and she has a long list of accolades for her public service including the President's Volunteer Service Award, the Joan Orr Spouse of the Year Award, in addition to honors from the Red Cross.

Danielle has been an Air Force spouse for more than 11 years, and she continues to pursue new opportunities and programs to assist fellow military families. I applaud her dedication to our country and willingness to go above and beyond to help other spouses navigate the life of service.

She is a role model for her daughters whom she aims to instill a passion for volunteering. Her husband is assuming a new role in Germany, and, while we will miss her leadership at LRAFB, I am confident military spouses will continue to be benefit from her wisdom and guidance no matter where her family is stationed.●

TRIBUTE TO FRED BUTLER, JR.

• Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I rise to pay tribute to retired Sergeant Fred Butler, Jr., who is celebrating his 85th birthday with his family in New Orleans, LA.

Mr. Butler was born on May 31, 1939, in Greensburg, LA. In 1960, Mr. Butler enlisted in the U.S. Army. During his 6 years of service, he was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division and completed an astonishing 99 parachute jumps. He also received two field promotions from General Westmoreland who commanded the American forces in the Vietnam war.

Mr. Butler's legacy extends beyond his individual achievements. His service ignited a sense of duty in three of his brothers, who proudly joined the military and served alongside him during his tenure.

Mr. Butler's sacrifice, courage, and unwavering commitment to our Nation is nothing short of inspiring. On behalf of the people of Louisiana and all Americans, I extended my heartfelt thanks to Mr. Butler for his selfless service and dedication to our country. May his birthday celebration be filled with joy, love, and appreciation.

I ask that all of Louisiana join me to thank and honor Mr. Butler.●

RECOGNIZING MUSTARD SEED COMPANY

• Ms. ERNST. Madam President, as ranking member of the Senate Com-

mittee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Mustard Seed Company of Albia, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 2017, Sarah Hopkins and her husband Curt transformed a former car dealership located on Albia's Main Street into a home decor, furnishings, and gift store. The store started as a 1,500-square-foot storeroom before expanding in 2020 with a 3,000-square-foot addition. In 2017, Sarah hired two employees and began selling rugs, throws, and pillows. Today, they have seven full- and part-time employees and have expanded into selling home decor essentials including mugs, vases, and furniture.

In addition to running Mustard Seed Company, in 2021, Sarah Hopkins opened a sister-store two doors down called The Seedling. The Seedling is a boutique offering stylish clothes for women and babies. They also offer gift cards, bridal registries, and wedding registries for customers.

Mustard Seed Company is an exemplary family business. Curt Hopkins handles the store's deliveries and routine maintenance. Sarah and Curt's children—Olivia, Sophia, Cameron, and Avery—have also spent time working at both stores, including running the store's social media and handling shifts when needed.

Sarah Hopkins is actively involved in the Albia community as well. Mustard Seed Company and The Seedling are proud members of Albia Chamber Main Street. Mustard Seed Company is a supporter of Circle of Freedom women's residential recovery home. Since 2022, Sarah Hopkins has been a member of the Albia Chamber Main Street's Promotions Committee. She is also involved in Albia's Restoration Days, a yearly community event to celebrate Albia's Historic Square.

Sarah and Curt Hopkins and the Mustard Seed Company team are well-recognized for their hard work. In February 2023, Curt and Sarah Hopkins won the 2022 Excellence in Design and Placemaking Award from the Albia Chamber Main Street for their continued community development work. In December 2024, Mustard Seed Company will celebrate its seventh business anniversary.

Mustard Seed Company's commitment to providing high-quality home decor in Albia is clear. I want to congratulate Sarah Hopkins, the Hopkins family, and the entire team at Mustard Seed Company for their continued dedication to the Albia community. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

RECOGNIZING THE TEDDY & FRIENDS INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND

• Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the new welcoming gathering place the Teddy &