

disability community, and I will stand against any attempt to rip away Medicaid from children who deserve the same opportunity to flourish as any other American, to live out their potential and flourish.

HONORING TROOPER JOEL E. POPP

(Ms. McDONALD RIVET asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. McDONALD RIVET. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a mid-Michigan hero, Trooper Joel E. Popp of the Michigan State Police.

Trooper Popp passed away in the line of duty last year, and this tragedy touched every corner of our community. Family, friends, neighbors, the men and women who served with him, and strangers gathered together to honor his service and his sacrifice.

Joel was an avid outdoorsman. When off duty, he could be found hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, or golfing. He loved being a husband and a father.

Trooper Popp has been added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Wall here in D.C., where he joins other American heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice.

This National Police Week, I thank Trooper Popp and all the other brave men and women who put their lives on the line to protect and serve our Nation and its people. We owe them a profound debt of gratitude.

RECOGNIZING LACEY ANDERSON

(Mr. OWENS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the House Merit Caucus, I am proud to recognize a Utah educator who embodies excellence, Ms. Lacey Anderson.

Lacey is a special education teacher who refused to accept low expectations for neurodivergent students. Instead, she founded Autism Solutions Academy in West Jordan, Utah, becoming a board-certified behavior analyst and building a school that meets the needs of kids where they are.

Her student-first approach provides real options for parents of special needs children. By customizing lesson plans and blending teaching, she makes sure that every student, regardless of ability, has the path to succeed.

During a recent visit, I met Sofia, a student who once was nonverbal and withdrawn. Today, she is reading, writing, and thriving because of a teacher who believed in her.

That is what real leadership looks like. That is merit in action. When we raise the bar, our kids rise to meet it. Every child in America deserves the same chance.

HONORING MICHAEL HOOSOCK

(Mr. MANNION asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mr. MANNION. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during National Police Week to honor the brave men and women who put their lives on the line each day to keep us safe.

I rise to honor Lieutenant Michael Hoosock of the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office and Syracuse Police Officer Michael Jensen, who were ambushed and killed on a quiet street in Salina, New York, just 13 months ago. I also honor Oswego County Sheriff's Deputy Cailee Campbell, who was killed in a motor vehicle accident in my old State senate district last fall. Their names now join others from central New York and the Mohawk Valley like Syracuse Officer Wallie Howard on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

I note briefly that Officer Howard's killer was shamefully released from prison by President Trump at the end of his first term. The Syracuse community, the police department, Officer Howard's family, and the prosecutors who brought this case for justice were all shocked at the decision to release this convicted murderer.

Syracuse and New York-22 will never forget the sacrifices of these men and women regardless of how long their names are up on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial and will always support law enforcement and their families.

I thank Lieutenant Hoosock, Officer Jensen, and Deputy Campbell for their commitment to their community. I rise today to honor their service and to offer my support and condolences to their families and friends. We stand with them, and we grieve with them.

VULNERABLE CHILDREN MUST BE SUPPORTED

(Ms. SIMON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SIMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the House to highlight my support of Head Start.

I most recently visited an organization in my district called the Unity Council that serves families, parents, seniors, and children, providing them with affordable housing, career opportunities, community engagement and, yes, Head Start programs.

I learned from the Unity Council that President Trump and the administration has stopped funding for the Oakland Head Start program. This means that over 600 children will not have daycare, mental health services, dental care, and basic health screenings all provided by this incredible program.

The President promised, recently said he would not touch the Head Start program. Yet here we are. Nationally, over 800,000 children receive daycare support from Head Start. Cutting Head Start funding and stopping early childhood development is not efficiency. It is not trimming the fat. Cutting pro-

grams like Head Start is breaking, literally, the bones of our Nation and of our future.

SUPPORTING OUR FIRST RESPONDERS

(Ms. STANSBURY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, as we honor Police Week, I rise to take a moment to thank all of our first responders who bravely put their lives on the line every day across New Mexico and to honor all of those who have fallen in the line of duty.

As we honor our heroes, we must honor them not just in words, but in action, because our communities deserve real solutions: funding for law enforcement, behavioral health programs, keeping fentanyl off the streets, and real solutions that keep our communities safe.

That is why I have been working with State police, Tribal law enforcement, county sheriffs, and police departments across New Mexico to invest in technologies and tools to fund fire stations and emergency response, to invest in healthcare providers and behavioral health clinics, working with housing and homeless providers to help our veterans, elders, families, and young people, and to keep our communities safe. We do it by investing not only in the people who serve our communities bravely every day, but by investing in the people of our communities.

HONORING SHERIFF'S DEPUTY BERNARD ROBERTS

(Mr. RILEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, during National Police Week, I rise to honor Columbia County Sheriff's Deputy Bernard Roberts. He was a marine, a husband, a father, and a member of the CCSO for 18 years.

I was so honored to see Deputy Roberts' name added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial wall this afternoon.

Bernard is survived by his wife, Fulgencia, and their six children: Jayden, Tristin, Tristina, Adriana, Niya, and Hillary. Speaking with them today, it is clear Deputy Roberts was an exceptional man, a dedicated officer, and a loving father.

He had a playful side. His friends called him Cupcake B. He was also a very serious student, which is a trait that he has passed along to his daughters.

His legacy of service and love endures through his family.

Mr. Speaker, as we honor all of our law enforcement heroes this week, let us especially remember Deputy Bernard Roberts. We are forever grateful for his service, his sacrifice, and his beautiful family.

GAZA NEEDS IMMEDIATE
HUMANITARIAN AID

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, there is a catastrophic humanitarian crisis in Gaza. It is happening before our eyes.

Tons of food, medicine, water, shelter, and other urgent humanitarian aid remains blocked from entering Gaza by Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu. The World Food Programme and NGOs have been forced to close their programs or are using the last of their dwindling supplies.

For the first time, lab technicians with the American Near East Refugee Aid organization are detecting signs of starvation in the lab work of one-third of all blood and urine samples of their patients in Gaza.

Israeli officers charged with monitoring conditions inside of Gaza have told their commanders that it is on the brink of starvation.

Mr. Speaker, for too long Congress has been complacent and complicit about the suffering of the Palestinian people in Gaza. We need to speak out and demand the rapid, unimpeded, impartial, neutral, and independent delivery of humanitarian aid today. Tomorrow may be too late.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to enter additional materials into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

[From The New York Times, May 6, 2025]

THIS IS THE MOMENT OF MORAL RECKONING IN
GAZA

(By Sean Carroll)

A full-blown humanitarian emergency in Gaza is no longer looming. It is here, and it is catastrophic.

It's been more than two months since Israel cut off all humanitarian aid and commercial supplies into Gaza. The World Food Program delivered its last stores of food on April 25. Two million Palestinians in Gaza, nearly half of them children, are now surviving on a single meal every two or three days.

At makeshift clinics run by my relief organization, American Near East Refugee Aid, signs of prolonged starvation are becoming more frequent and alarming. In the past 10 days, our lab technicians began detecting ketones, an indicator of starvation, in one-third of urine samples tested, the first time we have seen such cases in significant numbers since we began testing in October 2024. Food, fuel and medicine are exhausted or close to it.

Every hour is a race against time—but without the access and political will needed to aid to deliver aid, save lives and end the unimaginable suffering, our hands are tied.

This is the longest continuous total siege Gaza has endured in the war. Israel is now openly exploiting aid as a tool of war; senior Israeli officials have declared what effectively is the intent to use starvation as a tactic to pressure Hamas to release the remaining hostages—a clear violation of international law. Many Palestinians fear it is

also part of a plan to expel them from Gaza, and aid groups warn that Palestinians could end up in a “de facto internment conditions.”

Israel's blockade—and the deliberate delays, denials and excessive security procedures that surround it—is not just a failure on logistics. It is an engineered system of deprivation. The short-lived cease-fire in January proved inadequate to meet humanitarian needs. Aid increased beginning of Jan. 19, but was again cut off entirely by March. The intent to use hunger as leverage is explicit, and it is unconscionable.

As food stocks vanish, leaders including President Trump, Canada's new prime minister and Israel's allies in Europe and around the world are calling for the immediate resumption of humanitarian aid. Yet their words remain no more than that: just words, empty and ignored. On Sunday, Israel's security cabinet approved plans to step up its military campaign in Gaza.

Just as ominously for Palestinians, Israel also approved a plan to entrench its control over aid, through Israeli-established hubs with private companies handling security. This appears part of a broader effort that includes the continued closure of Gaza's crossing with Egypt and a ban on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, the main source of humanitarian support for Palestinians. The clampdown on aid would also undermine Arab-led regional efforts for genuine recovery and reconstruction by ignoring or putting off feasible and legitimate security and governance plans. The danger for relief workers is constant. This March, the Israeli military killed 14 aid workers and a U.N. official. For my organization, the war became deadly in March 2024, when an Israeli airstrike killed our colleague Mousa Shawwa and his young son. At least 418 humanitarian staff members have been killed in Gaza over the past 18 months, making it the deadliest region in the world for aid workers.

Since breaking the cease-fire with intensified bombing on March 18, the Israeli military has pushed Palestinians in Gaza into smaller and smaller enclaves, expanding “no go” military or evacuation zones to about 70 percent of their territory.

Israel must be required to create open and secure humanitarian corridors. Without them it is impossible to scale up relief because every delivery is a gamble with civilian and aid workers' lives. And while an immediate cease-fire and influx of aid are urgently needed, that will not be enough.

There must be a plan not just for relief but also for recovery, which cannot happen in a war zone or under permanent siege. True recovery requires a political agreement that guarantees Palestinian presence, security and self-determination. Humanitarian access is not just a moral imperative; it is a prerequisite for any hope of a better future.

Imagine instead a Gaza where homes are rebuilt, clean water flows, children return to school and families can once again harvest food from their own land. This vision may seem distant after decades of Israeli military occupation, blockade and repeated wars that have severely damaged infrastructure and essential services.

But we've helped improve the lives of Palestinians in Gaza before and we can do it again. What stands in the way isn't capacity; it's deliberate policy blocking the path to basic human dignity.

When we talk about peace, we must ask: What kind of future are we envisioning if an entire people is left to suffer starvation? Israelis will not be safer while Gaza remains under siege. Sustainable peace is built not through domination, but through dignity, freedom, opportunity and mutual security.

This is the moment of moral reckoning. Will the world be complicit in Gaza's collapse, or part of its recovery?

IN PRIVATE, SOME ISRAELI OFFICERS ADMIT
THAT GAZA IS ON THE BRINK OF STARVATION
(By Natan Odenheimer and Ronen Bergman,
May 13, 2025)

Israel's government has publicly dismissed warnings of extreme food shortages after it blocked aid deliveries, but an internal analysis concluded that a crisis looms if food supplies are not restored.

Some Israeli military officials have privately concluded that Palestinians in Gaza face widespread starvation unless aid deliveries are restored within weeks, according to three Israeli defense officials familiar with conditions in the enclave.

For months, Israel has maintained that its blockade on food and fuel to Gaza did not pose a major threat to civilian life in the territory, even as the United Nations and other aid agencies have said a famine was looming.

But Israeli military officers who monitor humanitarian conditions in Gaza have warned their commanders in recent days that unless the blockade is lifted quickly, many areas of the enclave will likely run out of enough food to meet minimum daily nutritional needs, according to the defense officials. They spoke on the condition of anonymity to share sensitive details.

Because it takes time to scale up humanitarian deliveries, the officers said that immediate steps were needed to ensure that the system to supply aid could be reinstated fast enough to prevent starvation.

The growing acknowledgment within part of the Israeli security establishment of a hunger crisis in Gaza comes as Israel has vowed to dramatically expand the war in Gaza to destroy Hamas and bring back the remaining hostages—twin aims that more than 19 months of war have yet to achieve. On Tuesday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was defiant, and said the military would resume fighting in the coming days “in full force to finish the job” and “eliminate Hamas.”

Mr. Netanyahu's statement came on the same day that President Trump landed in Saudi Arabia, as part of his first major foreign trip since his re-election. Mr. Trump, however, is not visiting Israel, underscoring a growing divide between two leaders who increasingly disagree on some of the most critical security issues facing Israel.

The military officials' analysis has exposed a gulf between Israel's public stance on the aid blockade and its private deliberations. It reveals that parts of the Israeli security establishment have reached the same conclusions as leading aid groups. They have warned for months of the dangers posed by the blockade.

The analysis also highlights the urgency of the humanitarian situation in Gaza: Most bakeries have shut, charity kitchens are closing and the United Nations' World Food Program, which distributes aid and coordinates shipments, says it has run out of food stocks.

On Monday, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, a U.N.-backed initiative that monitors malnutrition, warned that famine was imminent in Gaza. If Israel proceeds with a planned military escalation in Gaza, the initiative said in a summary report, “The vast majority of people in the Gaza Strip would not have access to food, water, shelter, and medicine.”

The Israeli military and the Israeli ministry of defense declined to comment on the Israeli officers' predictions that Gaza is nearing a food crisis. Oren Marmorstein, a spokesman for Israel's foreign ministry, said