

ROHINGYA CRISIS

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, last August, the world watched in horror as Burma's military launched an ethnic cleansing campaign of rape, arson, and mass murder against the Rohingya.

Despite the Burmese military's claims that their operations were in response to attacks on police outposts by extremists, the evidence is clear that the Burmese military had made extensive preparations to carry out these operations. Their preparations included systematically disarming Rohingya civilians, training and arming non-Rohingya communities, and building up an unusually large military and security presence in Rakhine, all in anticipation of attacks that included extrajudicial executions, rape, expulsions, and mass burning of Rohingya villages throughout Rakhine state.

The military's campaign of ethnic cleansing has forced more than 720,000 Rohingya—roughly 80 percent of the entire Rohingya population in Burma—to flee for safety in Bangladesh, creating the world's worst refugee crisis in recent history. The government and people of Bangladesh have shown extraordinary generosity by providing safe harbor to those fleeing violence in Burma and continuing to keep its border open.

Bangladesh is at a tipping point. Already the world's most populous country, there simply isn't enough space or capacity to house this new population. Camp conditions for the Rohingya population are miserable. Refugees are living in plastic and bamboo shelters dangerously perched on the side of clay hills. Children have limited access to education. While many would prefer not to rely on limited humanitarian aid, work is tough to come by.

The day-to-day reality for the Rohingya people in Bangladesh is bleak, and while many 1 day wish to return home to Burma, they rightfully ask for their government to guarantee their safety and to recognize their civil and political rights; yet so far, even these basic demands are unmet.

Equally troubling, conditions for the Rohingya who stayed behind in Burma remain perilous. Andrew Gilmour, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, recently declared that while the nature of their persecution has changed, there persists a "lower intensity campaign of terror and forced starvation."

Burmese officials continue to reject UN and other international findings of ethnic cleansing, crimes against humanity, and, potentially, genocide. In fact, the Burmese Government has relentlessly blocked access to Rakhine state by many humanitarian groups, independent media workers, and UN observers, in an attempt to prevent the international community from assessing the very violations they deny are happening. A New York Times journalist recently gained access to Rakhine state and met Rohingya who described living in a constant state of

fear and repression. She also saw the burnt remnants of what used to be Rohingya villages and visited repatriation centers that appeared more like "concentration camps."

The horrific and ongoing human rights abuses committed against the Rohingya demand a strong response from the United States and the international community. I support the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, DRL, and other offices in conducting fact-finding efforts analyzing over 1,000 interviews with Rohingya civilians and documenting the scope and nature of the atrocities committed. I urge Secretary Pompeo to publicly release the entire report including any findings of crimes against humanity and genocide.

Furthermore, I strongly urge this administration to lead the international community in fully using all appropriate mechanisms to secure accountability for the ethnic cleansing, mass atrocities, and other potential grave crimes the Burmese military has committed against the Rohingya. Accountability is essential if Burma is to continue on a path of democratic reform and genuine national and ethnic reconciliation.

This pathway for accountability includes calling for an international, impartial, and independent investigation to gather evidence on perpetrators, as well as working towards their eventual prosecution. I sincerely hope that robust and legitimate investigations will ensure that those who orchestrated and perpetrated these brutal crimes are brought to justice and that all the people of Burma, including the Rohingya, will one day be able to enjoy the fruits of an inclusive and pluralistic democratic nation.

REMEMBERING POWELL MOORE

Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, today, I want to remember and pay tribute to Mr. Powell Moore, a native Georgian, veteran, and patriot who passed away earlier this month.

Mr. Moore was a native of Milledgeville, GA, and a graduate of both the University of Georgia and Georgia Military College. Over the course of his life, Mr. Moore served in the U.S. Army, aided two U.S. Senators and four Presidents, gave back to the community, and positively influenced those around him.

Mr. Moore served as a U.S. Army infantry officer in Germany. He worked as Senator Richard Russell's press secretary for 5 years, and over 30 years later, he returned to the U.S. Senate to serve as Senator Fred Thompson's chief of staff. He was Deputy Director of Public Information at the Department of Justice. He was a White House aide to President Richard Nixon, President Gerald Ford, and President Ronald Reagan. He was an Assistant Secretary of State under Reagan and an Assistant Secretary of Defense under President George W. Bush. He rep-

resented the Department of Defense in Vienna, Austria, at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and in 2005, he was awarded the DOD's Medal for Distinguished Public Service.

Clearly, Mr. Moore was a man of accomplishment and service to his country. Perhaps the greatest measure of his accomplishment, however, is the manner in which he conducted himself.

Throughout his career, Mr. Moore was universally respected by both political parties. He was known for investing in those around him, mentoring generations of America's future leaders of all political stripe. Mr. Moore served as president of both the Senate Press Secretaries Association and the Association of Former Senate Aides. He gave back to both of his alma maters, serving on the board of visitors for the University of Georgia's journalism school and as a trustee for the Georgia Military College Foundation and the Richard B. Russell Foundation.

Mr. Moore leaves behind a legacy that his family, friends, and certainly all Georgians and Americans can be proud of. His life is an example of true servant leadership and the American Dream. It is humbling to honor his memory today. My wife, Bonnie, and I join fellow Georgians and Americans in offering condolences and prayers to Mr. Moore's family and friends during this time.

NATIONAL GASTROPARESIS
AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I would like to call attention to the estimated 5 million Americans suffering from gastroparesis in observance of National Gastroparesis Awareness Month in August.

Gastroparesis is a chronic digestive disease in which the stomach cannot empty properly in the absence of any observable blockage. Symptoms of gastroparesis, which include nausea, vomiting, and the inability to finish a normal-sized meal, can lead to malnutrition, severe dehydration, and difficulty managing blood glucose levels. This debilitating and sometimes life-threatening disease can affect people of all ages, but it is four times more likely to affect women than men.

While there is no cure for gastroparesis, some treatments, such as dietary measures, medications, procedures to maintain nutrition, and surgery, can help reduce symptoms. Unfortunately, gastroparesis is a poorly understood condition. Patients often suffer from delayed diagnosis, treatment, and management of this disorder. As such, further research and education are needed to improve quality of life for the millions of Americans, including thousands of Wisconsinites who suffer from this disease.

I want to recognize the important efforts of the International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders, IFFGD, an international organization based in my home State of

Wisconsin, as well as other patient organizations, in providing education and support to help those affected by gastroparesis.

In an effort to improve our understanding and awareness of gastroparesis, I urge my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing August as National Gastroparesis Awareness Month.

Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO DR. PAUL BERAN

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor University of Arkansas-Fort Smith Chancellor Dr. Paul Beran who will be leaving the university at the end of August after more than a decade of service.

Since becoming chancellor in 2006, Dr. Beran has shown himself to be a tremendous advocate for the university. During his tenure, he has overseen the expansion of undergraduate degree programs, as well as a master's degree program, resulting in the graduation of thousands of students over the past 12 years. Under Dr. Beran's leadership, UAFS has tripled its student housing capacity, expanded the school's Boreham Library, constructed the Windgate Art and Design facility, and expanded its athletics program, transitioning from the junior collegiate level to an NCAA Division II athletic program.

Dr. Beran is a champion of all students, notably student veterans. He facilitated the construction of the veteran resource center, which offers veterans a special space on campus. In addition to serving as a communal study space, the center streamlines interactions with off-campus organization and businesses.

He has made a career out of helping students pave the way for a successful future. He has been recognized for his work to advance the academic opportunities of the African-American community, earning the Golden Hands Award from the Martin Luther King Holiday Committee. He was credited as a distinguished graduate of Stephen F. Austin University and was recognized by Texas A&M University's College of Education as an outstanding alumnus. All of these honors are well deserved.

I congratulate Dr. Beran for his outstanding achievements in education and thank him for his service to the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. I appreciate his friendship and enjoyed working with him to improve education opportunities in Fort Smith. UAFS is an excellent school and a great asset to the region, thanks to his leadership and years of dedication. We will miss his guidance, but wish him continued success as executive director and chief executive officer of the South Dakota Higher Education Board of Regents.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO EDGAR E. LEWIS

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Edgar E. Lewis of Golden Valley County for his contributions and impact to the Golden Valley community.

Edgar is a lifelong Montanan. Born on his family ranch in Lavina, he is the youngest of seven kids. Edgar began running the ranch at a young age after his older brothers went off to fight in World War II. It would take Edgar and his father 5 days to move their cattle to the summer grazing range. These trips made Edgar fall in love with ranching and are what made him become a lifelong rancher.

Edgar's heart for his country and community is clear in the ways he has served. Edgar served his country during the Korean war. After the war, he settled down and bought his current ranch, just north of the Snowy Mountains. He served on the board of directors on the Montana Livestock Ag Credit from 1986–1998. Edgar also served as the Golden Valley commissioner from 1989–2002.

At 86, Edgar encapsulates the Montana cowboy spirit that brings so much character to our great State. I thank Edgar for giving back to his community and for continuing the tradition of the Montana cowboy.●

RECOGNIZING POSITIVE STREET ART

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am proud to recognize as the August Granite Staters of the Month the team behind Nashua's Positive Street Art for their work remembering those lost to substance use disorders and supporting those undergoing treatment.

New Hampshire is one of the States that has been hardest hit by the fentanyl, heroin, and opioid epidemic. This epidemic has devastated communities across the Granite State, and far too many people have lost loved ones to substance use disorders. We must continue to honor the memories of those lost and continue to find ways to support individuals who are going through recovery. In Nashua, Positive Street Art is helping to remember those lost and support those on the road to recovery with a mural called "Take Courage."

Since 2012, Positive Street Art has promoted the arts in Nashua through urban and public art projects, including murals, workshops, afterschool programs, and events like the Downtown Arts Festival. Their newest mural, "Take Courage," has come together primarily through the efforts of artists Tom Lopez and Manuel Ramirez, as well as through the support of Ric Everhard, Alison Bankowski, and community volunteers Alyssa O'Mara, Victor Luce, Patrick Paraggio, Blake Bankowski, John Stein, Lance Isaksen, Paul Alvarez, Valerie Galvao, Ashley

Young, and Jessica Ayala. The mural is meant to honor those community members who were lost to substance misuse and inspire those seeking recovery.

When completed, the mural will bear an important and hopeful message for people in Nashua and across the Granite State who have been impacted by this horrific crisis: "Take Courage. When the road is long you must never forget you are never alone."

In addition to their latest work, Positive Street Art has completed numerous other murals. These include the "Hearts and Minds" mural that honors our veterans, the "Gratitude" mural which reminds viewers to be thankful for the blessings in their daily lives, and the "Nostalgia" mural which highlights the vintage theaters that used to occupy downtown Nashua. They have become beloved additions to the streets of the city.

For their efforts to raise awareness and support those who have been impacted by substance use disorders, as well as their general work to support the arts in Nashua, I am proud to recognize the Positive Street Art team as the August Granite Staters of the Month.●

RECOGNIZING SJX JET BOATS, INC.

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, my home State of Idaho is known for its beautiful landscapes, outdoor recreation, and protected wilderness. These natural wonders are enjoyed by native Idahoans and Americans from across the country. Today I would like to recognize an innovative small business that contributes to allowing further exploration of the beautiful, remote areas of our Nation. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize SJX Jet Boats, Inc., as the Small Business of the Month for August 2018. SJX Jet Boat, Inc.'s commitment to the quality and performance of its shallow-water aluminum jet boat exemplifies Idaho's entrepreneurial spirit and appreciation for the outdoors.

After several years of working in the aluminum jet boat building field, SJX Jet Boats owner, Steve Stajkowski, created a concept for a boat that could handle remote, shallow waters while maintaining a strong structural design and functionality. While on a hunting trip in Alaska, Stajkowski saw the need for a shallow-water boat that could navigate the small bodies of water found throughout the State. Inspired by the concept of combining high-speed performance with the offroading aspects of boating, the SJX boat design began to take shape. He began work on the very first inboard tunnel hull in 1998. Less than 10 years later, after years of experimenting with many different designs, Steve started SJX Jet Boats, Inc., in 2007. Located in Orofino, ID, SJX Jet Boats is