

Josette Sheeran, executive director of the World Food Program, carries around devastating photos showing what malnutrition does to the brain development of children.

She notes that when a child is born, about 60 percent of that baby's brain is formed and, if in the next 3 years in life they don't have adequate nutrition, their brains will not grow to maturity.

Her photos show the brain of a 3-year-old child who was properly nourished and that of a child who was malnourished. The actual volume of the brain of the malnourished child is as much as 40 percent smaller.

These are the innocent victims of hunger in east Africa and sadly, in still too many other corners of the globe.

I am happy to note that the U.S. is the largest bilateral donor of emergency assistance to this growing crisis. We have responded with over \$431 million in food and nonfood emergency assistance this year alone. And Secretary of State Clinton just announced an additional \$28 million in aid for people in Somalia and for Somali refugees in Kenya.

But more needs to be done and the United States cannot solve this crisis alone.

How did this happen again?

The Horn of Africa is rife with challenges, both natural and man-made. The region has had two insufficient rainy seasons culminating in the driest growing season recorded in 60 years.

Neither crops nor livestock are surviving, so food and commodities now sell at prices well beyond the reach of the country's people.

The price of red sorghum, a staple crop in Somalia, has increased more than 200 percent. In Kenya, the price of white corn has increased 58 percent. And in Ethiopia, the price of yellow corn has increased by more than 100 percent.

Millions of people, including in the neighboring countries of Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Uganda are also at risk of starvation.

It's also a man-made crisis. Somalia's central government collapsed over 20 years ago. And al-Shabaab, a terrorist organization, has controlled much of southern Somalia since 2006.

Not surprisingly, the two areas most acutely experiencing famine are in southern Somalia, which is under al-Shabaab-control. Al-Shabaab recently expelled relief organizations, which effectively destroyed food-aid distribution channels—the lifeline for Somalis trapped under their control.

The mounting food crisis is also creating a refugee crisis that recognizes no borders. Already almost 25 percent of the Somali population—2 million out of 7.5 total million people—are displaced.

Kenya, with 3.5 million people who are vulnerable to food insecurity, is also already home to Dadaab, the largest refugee camp in the world.

This camp was built 20 years ago as a temporary shelter for 90,000 people.

Today it holds 400,000. And another 1,300 refugees arrive every day from Somalia.

In Ethiopia, a refugee camp called Dollo Ado is holding 120,000 people. But with a population of 3.2 million people affected by the famine, this camp is growing by 2,000 people per day.

Mogadishu, the hollowed out capital of Somalia, has become an oasis in southern Somalia because relief organizations are allowed to operate life-saving programs there. This is the city that thousands of people have fled in the past 20 years due to violence.

Can you imagine Mogadishu being an oasis?

Yet the capital city is seeing a daily influx of 1,000 to 1,500 people.

This network of emergency and humanitarian programs is the only hope for millions of people and deserves continued international support.

Stepping in to provide food, water and basic sustenance where there is none is not only the right thing to do, it is the American thing to do. We have always led and joined efforts to help the most vulnerable around the world and should continue to do so.

The House passed its Agriculture Appropriations for 2012 and chose to reduce the aid available for emergencies like these by 49 percent.

Thankfully, USAID is on the ground in Africa providing expertise, and Administrator Shah personally visited the region last week.

And the Feed the Future Program—which is modeled on the Global Food Security Act I sponsored with Senators LUGAR and CASEY—has been undertaken by the Obama administration. The program works to break the cycle of hunger and food insecurity by getting at the root causes and helping countries develop their own viable agricultural sectors.

As Josette Sheeran points out, “for the first time in most people's memory we're in a post-surplus world. There is no surplus of food in the world and you have one bad drought or one bad flood . . . it will impact the price of food globally.”

In the meantime, the international community needs to step up to the plate in east Africa before it is too late. And the United States must continue to show moral leadership even in a time of stretched budgets.

International donors are meeting this week in Nairobi to try to raise \$1.6 billion to help with this crisis in Africa. I urge our friends and allies around the world to help do their part.

ALLIED INVASION OF SICILY

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of the 68th anniversary of the Allied invasion of Sicily.

On July 10, 1943, under orders from GEN Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Fifteenth Army Group, comprised of GEN George Patton's Seventh Army and British GEN Bernard Montgomery's Eighth Army, began the Allied inva-

sion of the island of Sicily, termed Operation Husky.

Prior to the ground invasion, brave Allied pilots softened the Axis defenses with heavy aerial bombardment. In the early hours of July 10, Allied ground forces successfully landed on enemy shores with little resistance.

Over the next few days Allied forces continued on with much success. On July 11 and 12 enemy forces attempted numerous counterattacks, all of which were repelled by the skill and determination of the American forces. On July 22, an element of GEN Patton's Seventh Army captured the city of Palermo, the news of which so inspired the Italian people that on July 24 and 25 a palace revolt took place toppling the fascist government of Mussolini.

On July 31 Italian and German forces, faced with certain defeat, began a tactical withdrawal from Sicily.

One of the heroes of the action of July 31 received the Medal of Honor. Near Gagliano, Sicily, SGT Gerry H. Kisters, of Bloomington, IN, and nine other soldiers “. . . were advancing ahead of the leading elements of U.S. troops to fill a large crater in the only available vehicle route through Gagliano,” the award citation reads, and “. . . was taken under fire by 2 enemy machineguns. Sgt. Kisters and the officer, unaided and in the face of intense small arms fire, advanced on the nearest machinegun emplacement and succeeded in capturing the gun and its crew of 4. Although the greater part of the remaining small arms fire was now directed on the captured machinegun position, Sgt. Kisters voluntarily advanced alone toward the second gun emplacement. While creeping forward, he was struck 5 times by enemy bullets, receiving wounds in both legs and his right arm. Despite the wounds, he continued to advance on the enemy, and captured the second machinegun after killing 3 of its crew and forcing the fourth member to flee.”

For his actions under fire Lieutenant Kisters received our Nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor.

Lieutenant Kisters, like so many Hoosiers before and since the Battle of Sicily, demonstrated the stalwart courage and self-sacrifice that is necessary to preserve the freedom and liberty that we all too often take for granted.

Lieutenant Kisters, in addition to receiving the Medal of Honor, also received a Distinguished Service Cross and a Bronze Star during WWII, not to mention his Purple Heart, and continues to be remembered and honored in Indiana, where last year July 31 was named Gerry Kisters Day in Bloomington, and in 1945 Monroe County Airport was dedicated as Kisters Field in honor of the Medal of Honor awardee.

As we recognize these historical events, I call attention to the 99,500 military personnel who today are on the ground in Afghanistan, with another 31,000 deployed to the region aboard ships at sea, on bases, and air

stations in the region supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. Mr. President, 48,110 personnel are deployed to Iraq, with another 32,000 deployed to the region aboard ships at sea, on bases, and air stations; 4,469 have been killed in Iraq operations since 2003, and 1,638 have been killed in Afghanistan since 2001. These men and women continue to answer the call to serve a cause greater than themselves as those men did in Operation Husky 68 years ago this month. I ask my colleagues here today to join me in humbly honoring Lieutenant Kisters, and all those who have and continue to serve our Nation in uniform, for their inspirational service, selflessness, and sacrifice.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT NATHAN R. BEYERS

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and heroic service of a young Coloradan, SGT Nathan R. Beyers. Sergeant Beyers died on July 7, 2011, when insurgents attacked his convoy with an improvised explosive device in Baghdad, Iraq. Sergeant Beyers was serving in support of Operation New Dawn. He was 24 years old.

Sergeant Beyers loved the Army and he was proud to be serving our country. Born and raised in Littleton, CO, Sergeant Beyers graduated from ThunderRidge High School. He joined the Idaho National Guard a few years ago, and he was assigned to Bravo Company, 145th Brigade Support Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team.

He is remembered by family, friends, and servicemembers as a brave soldier, dedicated husband, and proud father. Sergeant Beyers and his wife, Vanessa Mary Beyers, recently had their first child. Vanessa said that he died "doing something he loved." Hundreds gathered at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver to honor and remember Sergeant Beyers.

Sergeant Beyers' commanding officers immediately recognized his exceptional bravery and talent. He earned, among other decorations, the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and Iraq Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star.

Mark Twain once said, "The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time." Sergeant Beyers' service was in keeping with this sentiment: by selflessly putting country first, he lived life to the fullest. He lived with a sense of the highest honorable purpose.

Mr. President, I stand with Colorado and people nationwide in profound gratitude for Sergeant Beyers' tremendous sacrifice. He served proudly and honorably in Iraq when his country needed him most. We are humbled by his service and his sacrifice. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending heartfelt sympathy and condolences to Sergeant Beyers' family.

MARDI GRAS INDIANS HALL OF FAME DAY

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, most of my Senate colleagues are aware of the rich culture and heritage that is on display in Louisiana during the days and weeks before Lent. Parties and parades mark the end of the Mardi Gras season and the beginning of fasting and sacrifice. But few outside of Louisiana are familiar with the unique tradition of the Mardi Gras Indians.

I rise today to celebrate this unique Louisiana tradition and recognize the Mardi Gras Indians Hall of Fame Day to be celebrated at Oretha Castle Haley Elementary School in New Orleans, LA, on August 7, 2011.

The history of the Mardi Gras Indians dates back to the late 1800s, but their origin remains a mystery. Because most of their history and practices have been passed from generation to generation orally, we may never know if the Mardi Gras Indians came about to pay homage to Native Americans for hiding runaway slaves or simply as an expression of the connection between Native Americans and African Americans. What we do know is that their tradition adds an incredible story to the history of New Orleans and Mardi Gras.

Today, the Mardi Gras Indians consist of more than 40 individual tribes. These tribes compete against one another using chants and music along with their elaborately decorated costumes called "suits." The suits are each hand sewn by the tribe members and typically take an entire year to complete. Ornaments on the suits can include feathers, ostrich plumes, beads, velvet, rhinestones, and sequins, all beautifully sewn together to tell the story of the individual tribe member and contribute to the tapestry of whole tribe. Native American, Aztec, Caribbean, and West African cultures have all greatly influenced the work of art that is the Mardi Gras Indian suit.

The traditions of the Mardi Gras Indians also include a hierarchy structure consisting of a "big chief," a "big queen," "chiefs," "spy boys," "flag boys," and "wild men," just to name a few. Every member of the tribe has a specific set of duties culminating in the big chief who represents the tribe against all other tribes.

In addition to being a key part of Mardi Gras, Mardi Gras Indians are strong community leaders in New Orleans and the surrounding areas. The Mardi Gras Indians have worked to preserve, celebrate, and advance the cultural arts and music of their tribes and communities. By doing this, the tribes have also continued to encourage the younger generations to learn and embrace the tribes' histories. One tribe, the Guardians of the Flame, has established a nonprofit called Guardians Institute to educate New Orleans children on the importance of art, music, and history in order to keep these traditions alive.

Dr. Roslyn Smith, former principal of Oretha Castle Haley Elementary

School in New Orleans, summarized the Mardi Gras Indians best by saying, "the Big Chiefs are community leaders, and in many ways they are social warriors, struggling to preserve traditions of beauty in the community while working to make the communities better places." Please join me in honoring and celebrating the Mardi Gras Indians and especially the Mardi Gras Indians Hall of Fame Day on August 7, 2011.

CAMPBELL COUNTY, WYOMING

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the Centennial of Campbell County, WY.

The citizens of Campbell County are blessed to live in this beautiful environment. Located in northeastern Wyoming and nestled in the Powder River Basin, the county is bordered by the Black Hills and the Big Horn Mountains. Its 39,000 residents live in the communities of Gillette, Wright, Weston and Rozet. Land was taken from previously established Weston and Crook counties to create the new district. Officially recognized on May 23, 1911, the county was named after John A. Campbell, Wyoming's first territorial Governor.

Campbell County as we know it today is vastly different from 100 years ago, but it is this shared history between today's residents and those of the past that creates a special bond. It has been host to Native Americans, fur trappers, mountain men, homesteaders, ranchers and oil men. The basin area was first used by members of the Sioux, Crow and Arapaho Native American tribes. They used the wide plains and grasslands as hunting grounds, and evidence of their presence can still be found today. Fur trappers and mountain men also traveled in the county. One such frontiersman, Robert Campbell, was a successful trader and explorer of the Rocky Mountains. He travelled through the county on his way to the Wind River Mountains.

The construction of the railroad had a major impact on the development of Campbell County. As the desire to move west increased, the residents of the county recognized the need to lay tracks of their own. Incorporated as a town in 1891, Gillette was originally developed as a transfer point for the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad. It was named after Edward Gillette, who was in charge of an early survey for the railroad. The addition of the railroad, along with the emigrant trails in the area, was essential to the establishment of the county.

Campbell County has since capitalized on these rich opportunities for growth and development. While ranching and agriculture are important industries, the extraction of coal, oil and natural gas is widely acknowledged as the principal industry within Campbell County. The residents proudly recognized their county as the Energy Capital of the Nation. The Powder River Basin is the largest supplier of coal in