

*The latest News Around Us in Sept\_03*



While people are so quick to share trash on Facebook... I wonder how many people would share this beautiful picture.





**“He didn’t make it home. It is on [President Biden’s] watch because [my son] was doing his job well.”**

*— Paula Knauss, mother of Army Staff Sgt. Ryan Knauss*

*‘HOW CAN I SLEEP BETTER AT NIGHT?’: Mother of Army Staff Sgt. Ryan Knauss delivers gut-wrenching message to President Biden after her son was killed in terrorist attack in Kabul. <https://fxn.ws/2WDXtmJ>*



**“Joe Biden has lost the trust and faith of those families. Many families who have served for generations.”**

*— Retired Army Captain Sam Brown*

*‘WE’RE DONE’: Retired Army Captain Sam Brown tells [Sean Hannity](https://bit.ly/3zMFVmJ) that many military families feel like they’ve ‘been lied to,’ says many won’t let their children serve with Biden as commander-in-chief. <https://bit.ly/3zMFVmJ>*

**87 Flag Officers Issue Devastating Demand as Biden Insults Gold Star Families**  
*C. Douglas Golden - The western Journal*



*Despite Biden's attempts to move on from Afghanistan, these retired military commanders will hold his yes men to account for their cowardice.*

*Calling the fallout from the Afghan withdrawal “enormous” and saying the consequences “will reverberate for decades,” nearly 90 retired generals and admirals issued a statement this week calling for the resignations of the secretary of defense and the chairman of the military’s joint chiefs of staff over the disastrous operation.*

*The move came amid controversy over [President Joe Biden’s treatment](#) of Gold Star families of those who died in the [Kabul airport bombing](#) last week, with several accusing Biden of [behaving disrespectfully](#).*

*In the Monday [news release](#) from Flag Officers 4 America — which describes itself on its [website](#) as a group of “retired military leaders who pledged to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic” — the group said Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Joint Chiefs Chairman Mark Milley should resign “based on their key roles involving events surrounding the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan. “*

*“The hasty retreat has left an unknown number of Americans stranded in dangerous areas controlled by a brutal enemy along with Afghans who supported American forces,” the [letter](#) declared.*

*Given their position as the top military advisers to President Biden, the group argued, Austin and Milley “were the two top military officials in a position to recommend against the dangerous withdrawal in the strongest possible terms.”*

*“If they did everything within their authority to stop the hasty withdrawal and the President did not accept their recommendations, then knowing the disastrous consequences looming, the retired flag officer signers believe these top military*

*advisors should have resigned as a matter of conscience and public statement,” the news release stated.*

*In addition, the group noted “death and torture” inflicted upon Afghans by [the Taliban](#) and the loss of advanced [weapons and other equipment](#) abandoned when military left Afghanistan, estimated to be in the [billions](#).*

*The group added that “our adversaries are emboldened to move against America due to the weakness displayed in Afghanistan.”*

*“China benefits the most followed by Russia, Pakistan, Iran, North Korea and others,” the news release stated. “Terrorists around the world are energized and can pass freely into our Country through our open border with Mexico and among the inadequately vetted Afghan refugees.”*

*Because of this, the group demanded [Austin and Milley](#) resign: “A fundamental principle in the military is holding those in charge responsible and accountable for their actions or inactions,” they wrote. “There must be accountability at all levels for this tragic and avoidable debacle.”*

*The letter was signed by 87 retired generals and admirals from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and the Coast Guard.*

*It was similar in content to the news release, although it also noted “there are leadership, training, and morale reasons for resignations.”*

*“In interviews, congressional testimony, and public statements it has become clear that top leaders in our military are placing mandatory emphasis on PC ‘wokeness’ related training which is extremely divisive and harmful to unit cohesion, readiness, and war fighting capability,” the letter stated.*

*Among the most notable signatories was Vice Adm. John Poindexter, who served as national security advisor during [President Ronald Reagan’s](#) second term.*

*“The consequences of this disaster are enormous and will reverberate for decades beginning with the safety of Americans and Afghans who are unable to move safely to evacuation points; therefore, being de facto hostages of the Taliban,” the letter stated.*

*“The death and torture of Afghans has already begun and will result in a human tragedy of major proportions. The loss of billions of dollars in advanced military equipment and supplies falling into the hands of our enemies is catastrophic. The damage to the reputation of the United States is indescribable.*

*“We are now seen, and will be seen for many years, as an unreliable partner in any multinational agreement or operation. Trust in the United States is irreparably damaged.”*

*While the group is of a conservative bent, as you might imagine from the language of the news release, the Flag Officers 4 America letter comes as the Biden*

*administration is grappling with a series of public relations disasters with the military — most of them caused by Biden himself.*

*During the transfer of remains ceremony at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware on Sunday for the 13 American service members who died in [Thursday's attacks](#) in Kabul, the president appeared [to check his watch](#), a gesture that didn't go unnoticed on social media.*

*The president took more heat after reports of his meetings with the families of the dead service members [began to emerge](#).*

*Multiple accounts had Biden bringing up the death of his son Beau, an Army National Guard lawyer was deployed in Iraq but who died of brain cancer at home, surrounded by his family.*

*The sister-in-law of Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Rylee McCollum said the president used the Beau story when talking to the Marine's widow and engaged in a conversation which "struck the family as scripted and shallow," [The Washington Post](#) reported.*

*"You can't f\*\*\* up as bad as he did and say you're sorry," Roice McCollum, the dead man's sister, told the Post. "This did not need to happen, and every life is on his hands."*

*[Shana Chappell](#), mother of Marine Lance Cpl. Kareem Mae'Lee Grant Kikoui, wrote in a [Facebook post](#) that Biden "tried to interrupt" with his own "sob story" and that she had to tell him "that this isn't about you so don't make it about you."*

*Chappell said that when she told the president "you do not have the right to tell me you know how i feel," Biden "rolled your f\*\*\*ing eyes in your head like you were annoyed with me." (She didn't use asterisks in the post.)*

*[Mark Schmitz](#), who lost his 20-year-old son, Lance Cpl. Jared Schmitz, in the explosion, also told [The Washington Post](#) that Biden used Beau's story during his meeting and said the president snapped when Schmitz brought out a picture of Jared.*

*"I said, 'Don't you ever forget that name. Don't you ever forget that face. Don't you ever forget the names of the other 12,' " Schmitz told the Post. " 'And take some time to learn their stories.' "*

*"I do know their stories," Biden shot back, apparently unhappy at Schmitz's request. Taken in isolation, any of these things might be easy enough to brush off. Taken in concert, they paint a picture of an administration that has lost considerable face with the men and women who defend this nation — and the families some have left behind — due to the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan.*

*Perhaps more disturbingly, they don't seem to care enough to take responsibility for it.*

I would like to see everyone repost this  
out of respect for those who gave all.  
Show that you haven't forgotten their sacrifice.  
A Hero remembered never dies...  
And those are Strong words to live by



## ***Speaker Pelosi Blocks the Names of 13 US Service Members From Being Read on House Floor***

*Collin Rugg - Trending Politic*



*On Tuesday, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi blocked the names of the 13 United States service members who died due to President Joe Biden's incompetence, from being read allowed on the House floor after a moment of silence.*

*"How badly do Nancy Pelosi and the House Democrats want to cover up this Afghanistan debacle? They just blocked Members of Congress from reading the names of the service members who sacrificed their lives in Afghanistan last week." Congressman Gimenez said on Tuesday.*

*"Don't you think our military deserves better?" he continued.*

*Representative Brian Mast confirmed the report while speaking with the Floridian Press, stating that Pelosi refused to recognize the fallen troops.*

*The [Floridian Press](#) reported:*

*Rep. Brian Mast (R), a wounded combat veteran from Afghanistan, tells The Floridian that during a Republican-only "moment of silence," Speaker Pelosi refused to recognize them to "read names or bring up bills or anything."*

*"We gaveled in, had a prayer, said the Pledge of Allegiance, took a moment of silence with pretty much all Republican veterans, then asked to be recognized to read names and bring up Afghanistan legislation. They did not acknowledge us, and just closed the House down," said Rep. Mast.*

*Pelosi wants their names hidden. We cannot and will not disrespect our brave troops. Here are their names below:*

Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Darin T. Hoover, 31, of Salt Lake City, Utah.  
Marine Corps Sgt. Johanny Rosariopichardo, 25, of Lawrence, Massachusetts.  
Marine Corps Sgt. Nicole L. Gee, 23, of Sacramento, California.  
Marine Corps Cpl. Hunter Lopez, 22, of Indio, California.  
Marine Corps Cpl. Daegan W. Page, 23, of Omaha, Nebraska.  
Marine Corps Cpl. Humberto A. Sanchez, 22, of Logansport, Indiana.  
Marine Corps Lance Cpl. David L. Espinoza, 20, of Rio Bravo, Texas.  
Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Jared M. Schmitz, 20, of St. Charles, Missouri.  
Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Rylee J. McCollum, 20, of Jackson, Wyoming.  
Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Dylan R. Merola, 20, of Rancho Cucamonga, California.  
Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Kareem M. Nikoui, 20, of Norco, California.  
Navy Hospitalman Maxton W. Soviak, 22, of Berlin Heights, Ohio.  
Army Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Knauss, 23, of Corryton, Tennessee.

*The disrespect displayed by Democrats towards our soldiers is not only appalling, but it is disgusting.*

*While meeting the Gold Star families at Dover Air Force Base, President Biden was caught checking his watch as the fallen soldiers were being honored.*

*During an interview with Fox News host Sean Hannity, Darvin Hoover, the father of one of the troops who died from the suicide bombing in Kabul, alleged that Biden looked down at his watch “all 13” times “they would release the salute” for the fallen soldiers.*

*“It’s the absolute worst feeling in the world,” Darin Hoover said to Hannity.*

*“Having them be away for so long, and doing the job that they all love, there is no doubt about it. Being a Marine to these guys is everything. And having this happen to these heroes. Every one of them is a hero. Every last one of them. They died with their brothers and their sisters right next to them. Doing exactly what they all wanted to do. And that is defending this country.”*

*“You chose not to meet with President Biden,” Hannity said. “I don’t know if you want to comment on that. When I saw Biden look at his watch, I was literally like you’ve got to be kidding me, because all of this to me was preventable. Because we saw them on the march. You know, we had April, May, June, July, to extradite everybody and our equipment. We didn’t do it. Why did you choose not to meet with the president?”*

*“For exactly the reasons you just gave,” said Hoover. “We said absolutely not. We didn’t want to deal with them, we didn’t want to we didn’t want him anywhere near us. We as a family decided that that was the way it was going to be.”*

*“In reference to the checking of his watch, that didn’t happen just once,” Hoover remarked. “It happened on every single one that came out of that airplane. It happened on every single one of them. They would release the salute, and he would look down at his watch on every last one. All 13, he looked down at his watch.”*

*“As a father, you know, seeing that aand the disrespect, and hearing from his former leaders, one of his Master Sergeants said exactly what you just said, that this was avoidable, that they left them over there,’ Hoover continued. “They let them down, we can’t have that. It can’t happen ever again.”*

*“We also abandoned Americans,” Hannity said as he brought Gold Star father Mark Schmitz back into the conversation. “Americans now are on their own. We left them behind. Mark, do you want to comment on the watch incident? Did you notice the same thing?”*

*“Yes, I did. I leaned into my son’s mother’s ear in I said ‘I swear to god if he checks his watch one more time’ and that was probably only four times in, I couldn’t look at him anymore after that,” Schmitz said. “Considering the time and why we were there, I found it to be the most disrespectful thing I’d ever seen.”*

### ***They Chopped Actress' Feet Off: Afghan-American Filmmaker's Chilling Taliban Story***

*Randy DeSoto - The western Journal*

*Award-winning filmmaker Sonia Nassery Cole is deeply distressed knowing what lies ahead for her native Afghanistan, and particularly the country’s women, under Taliban rule.*

*It’s a record of brutality she knows all too well based on her travels back to the Near Eastern nation.*

*Cole — who [escaped](#) to the United States following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 — has made the Taliban the subject of two feature films she wrote and directed: “The Black Tulip” (2010) and “[I Am You](#)” (2019), both based on true stories.*



*The latter is an official Golden Globes selection, Cole told [The Western Journal](#), and is screening on several platforms including Amazon Prime and Apple TV+. The movies are part of a lifetime of activism on behalf of the [Afghan people](#).*

*Earlier this month, she went to the region to help coordinate the [evacuation](#) of 37 people out of the country including U.S. green card holders, interpreters, journalists, TV hosts, actors and actresses.*

*Cole credits former President Ronald Reagan with first inspiring her to enter the public arena. In the 1980s, the 40th president invited her to the White House to discuss the conflict in her homeland after the Afghan refugee wrote a letter to him.*

*“I can’t stand anybody saying anything bad about President Reagan because my personal experience with him was incredible. He was just a man of integrity and dignity and compassion,” she said. “I am grateful to President Reagan for giving me the strength and the power to make a difference.”*

*Cole, then a teenager, said that the former Hollywood actor told her, “One person can change the world. Do you want to be that person?” When the “most powerful man in the world” says something to you like that, it has an impact, she said.*

*[Reagan](#) encouraged her to go testify before the Senate about the plight of the Afghans, which she did.*

*Congress later authorized military aid, in the form of Stinger anti-aircraft missiles, to the Afghan Mujahideen fighting the Soviets. The missiles [helped turn the course](#) of the war, with the Soviet Union fully withdrawing in February 1989, just weeks after Reagan left office.*

*Regrettably by the mid-1990s, the Taliban rose to power among the vying factions and imposed a strict form of Sharia law, which among its many rules denied women the right to work or go to school.*

*Following the [9/11 attacks](#), a U.S.-led coalition toppled the Taliban in 2001. In 2002, Cole, then living in Arizona, launched the [Afghanistan World Foundation](#) and returned to her native land for the first time since her youth to begin the work of opening schools and hospitals.*

*It was during a trip in late 2009 and early 2010, the filmmaker learned of a sad story of an Afghan woman she had hoped to cast in “The Black Tulip.”*

*Cole recounted that she first met the actress a year prior while she was sitting in the Intercontinental Hotel in Kabul enjoying a cup of tea.*

*The moviemaker noticed a stunning woman wearing a black suit and open-toed red shoes, and remembered thinking, “My God, she’s my hero.”*

*“And she has this beautiful red scarf around her head. And I went to her and said, ‘Wow, you are so beautiful. What are you doing here?’” the American asked.*

*The woman replied, “Oh, I am an actress. I’m here for [a] tea commercial, but I live in Pakistan.”*

*Cole told her she was in the midst of writing the script for “The Black Tulip,” but it was anti-Taliban and Cole knew that could be a scary prospect for someone from that part of the world.*

*“No, I’m not scared. I already have done a movie, anti-Taliban, in Pakistan,” the woman responded.*

*The two exchanged contact information and kept in touch over the next year. Then inexplicably as the date of Cole’s return to Afghanistan approached, the actress stopped replying to her messages.*

*Finally, when Cole arrived in [Kabul](#) and got an Afghan phone, she called and the Afghan woman answered.*

*“Oh, my God, where have you been? I haven’t heard from you,” Cole said, explaining she was now in the country and preparing to shoot “The Black Tulip.”*

*“When can I see you?” the director asked. “And all of a sudden she just said it like that. She said, ‘I cannot be in the movie. The Taliban chopped my feet off.’”*

*“I said, ‘What?’ I was just blown away. I just couldn’t believe my ears. And I said, ‘Oh, my God, I’m so, so sorry.’”*

*“I just started crying. And she said, ‘Don’t cry. And don’t leave. You’ve got to make this movie. You have to make the movie. Make it for me.’ Because she had read the script and she knew what the story was about,” Cole said.*

*The reason the [Taliban](#) chopped the actress’ feet off is likely because of the anti-Taliban film she had made in Pakistan, Cole believes.*

*Hers was not an isolated case, according to the filmmaker. The lead actor in “The Black Tulip” told Cole that he knew of two fellow actors who had had their feet chopped off by the Taliban.*

*“So it’s something they do. They don’t believe in art. They don’t believe in music,” Cole said. They don’t believe in statues, museums or preserving history either.*

*“They destroy everything,” she added. “Already, they have destroyed so many monuments in Afghanistan.” The activist is deeply concerned about the fate of the Afghan woman, now that the Taliban is back in charge.*

*“This is very different than 20 years ago, because now they’re educated,” Cole told “Proud to Serve” [podcast](#) host Jack Scalia last week. “They held places in Parliament. Nine women were powerful figures in the parliament of Afghanistan.”*

*She noted that Afghanistan’s ambassadors to the United States and United Nations had been women.*

*“We were doing such incredible changes as far as women were concerned in Afghanistan, and look at them now. Look at them now,” Cole said.*

She pointed to the upsetting video circulating a few weeks ago of a little girl grabbing onto the fence surrounding the [Kabul airport](#) begging the American soldiers to let her in.

*“Help ... Taliban are coming!” the girl screamed.*

Cole was also in contact with a 29-year-old woman in Kabul who was trying to get out of [Afghanistan](#). “She went to the airport three times,” Cole told *The Western Journal*. “She spent two nights. On the third day, they actually told her she was going to get in. She was in line to get in the plane.

*And then the bombing happened and this girl went home and put herself on fire. She saw no hope. She saw no hope. The women are just — they’d rather die.”*

Cole believes the Biden administration’s decision to pull out of Afghanistan the way it did is “the darkest, most shameful period in American history.”

*“It was disturbing at so many levels, not only just for my country, Afghanistan, but for me, my new country,” Cole said.*

*“This is the place I feel the safest,” she said. “And this administration, this [President Joe] Biden destroyed that for us.”*

### ***Unsettling Report: Leak Reveals Livid 82nd Airborne Colonel Tried to Save US Citizens Before Being Forced to Abandon Them***

*Michael Austin - The Western Journal*



*In this handout provided by the New Zealand Defence Force, an NZDF soldier helps a woman across a canal in order for her to reach the safety of Hamid Karzai International Airport on Aug. 25, 2021, in Kabul, Afghanistan. (New Zealand Defence Force / Getty Images)*

*Amidst the frantic Afghanistan evacuation effort, one high-ranking military officer allegedly had a sober message to send private citizens on Sunday as they worked together to get as many people as possible out.*

*“We are f\*\*\*ing abandoning American citizens,” the unnamed U.S. military commander reportedly said via text message.*

*The messages were sent in a group chat made up of “private citizens working with private networks and the military to rescue stranded Americans,” according to [Just the News](#).*

*This message, coming from an Army colonel assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division who was presumably [on the ground in Afghanistan](#), greatly contradicts President Joe Biden’s rhetoric describing the withdrawal effort as an “extraordinary success.”*

*Michael Yon, a former Special Forces soldier and war correspondent, was among the private citizens receiving the messages, which were then sent to Just the News.*

*Due to Biden’s strict evacuation deadline, Yon said that his group was forced to abandon a group of Americans at the Kabul airport as they were “waving their passport screaming, ‘I’m American.’”*

*“People were turned away from the gate by our own Army,” Yon said, according to Just the News.*

*Americans left behind then “scattered to safe houses to avoid be captured,” the outlet reported.*

*This prompted Yon to send a scathing [email](#) — which he also shared with Just the News — to an Army major who abandoned those Americans.*

*Yon alleged that both the major and Gen. [Mark Milley](#) — the chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff — were told where the Americans were but left them behind anyway.*

*“You guys left American citizens at the gates of the Kabul airport. Three empty jets paid for by volunteers were waiting for them. You and I talked on the phone. I told you where they were. Gave you their passport images. And my email and phone number. And you left them behind,” Yon wrote.*

*“And this is Special Operations Command. General Milley also knew. Great job saving yourselves. Probably get a lot of medals.”*

*The president’s hasty withdrawal left up to 200 Americans behind in [Afghanistan](#), [KTLA-TV](#) reported.*

*All of those people were left behind after the Taliban, according to [The Associated Press](#), “insist[ed] the airlift must end” by Biden’s promised Aug. 31 deadline, whether or not all Americans had been evacuated.*