

team through the toughest of conditions for days on end. Together, man and dog are pitted against nature and the raw elements of the Last Frontier. John Baker's team of canines is truly the cream of the crop.

I have had the pleasure of meeting his lead dogs Snicker and Velvet. Together, Snicker and Velvet guided the Baker team across frozen lakes and tundra, through freezing temperatures, winds, and snow. Although yesterday was the first time Snicker and Velvet have been draped in flowers and adoration at the finish line in Nome—this is not their first run at the Iditarod. Baker has run the Iditarod 15 times before and amazingly garnered 11 top 10 Iditarod finishes. This was their year—and Alaskans are celebrating with them across the State. John and his team have trained for this, they have fought for this, and they have made history.

I am proud to congratulate the Baker team on this extraordinary victory and I send my best wishes to John and his family today as they celebrate this well-deserved victory in Alaska's great race.

Mr. REID. Will my friend yield for a question?

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Yes.

Mr. REID. They had a great piece on public radio before the race started—it was very good—as to why the race takes place. I want to find out if what I understood from that radio piece is valid.

Wherever the race winds up, there was a place badly in need of some kind of serum because there was an illness there, diphtheria. I do not really remember. They had no way of getting the medicine there. Some person decided what they could not do with machines they could do with dogs. They took the medicine and saved all these lives. Is that valid?

Ms. MURKOWSKI. The majority leader watched that report well—

Mr. REID. I listened to it. It was on the radio.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. The Senator listened to it well. He heard it right. It was an outbreak of diphtheria in Nome. There was no way to get the diphtheria serum to the residents of Nome. It was a true and honest scare in the middle of the winter. The concern was that if they were to take it through a regular route during the winter months, it would not get there in time to save the residents of Nome.

The airfields were not sufficient. They could not travel by air because we did not have the airfields back in the twenties. It was a team of dogs that did a relay across the State. They delivered the serum in time and saved the town.

This race has been resurrected, if you will, to commemorate the Great Serum Race to Nome, as it is called, to commemorate the delivery of the serum, an act that would save that community. It is quite a remarkable story in our State's history.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I hesitate saying this because I will probably get in trouble, but this is a good reason why the House vote was bad today to disband public radio.

It was such a wonderful piece. I did not know that.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I, too, will take an opportunity to plug public radio because the majority leader heard the piece on NPR, but in my home State and in many of the villages we are talking about where these teams will go through on their way to Nome, it truly is the public broadcast system that is their means of communication.

Mr. REID. I heard Ted Stevens talk about this in the past.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mukluk Telegraph is what he would call it. It was a way to convey birthday greetings to people in the next village. It was a way to say: I made it back from hunting camp safely. It is a way of communication. People do not often recognize that in many parts of our State, and certainly along parts of where these teams are traveling right now, we do not have a level of communication that we see in Washington, DC, or in most parts of the country.

That is our plug for public radio. I appreciate that bit.

Mr. REID. The only radio station I can get in the daytime in Searchlight is public radio.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. There you have it.

Madam President, I appreciate the indulgence of the majority leader. Again I send my warmest well wishes to John Baker and his team. I will be greeting the mushers in Nome on Sunday at the mushers banquet, and I can't wait.

I thank you for the time you have given me. I yield the floor.

TRADE AGENDA

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, we were considering, earlier this morning, when I was presiding—and through much of the morning—the Small Business Innovative Research bill. Senator LANDRIEU and Senator SNOWE are leading very well on that issue.

I would like to speak for a moment about another important issue for small businesses and workers everywhere; that is, our Nation's trade and globalization agenda.

As my colleagues are aware, the Generalized System of Preferences, the so-called GSP, the Andean Trade Preferences for Colombia and Ecuador, and the 2009 reforms to the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program all expired in mid-February.

I do not think too many people are happy about that. I am certainly not. I have offered amendments with Senator CASEY and requested unanimous consent to pass both the Andean Trade Preferences and the Trade Adjustment Assistance, but my Republican colleagues objected.

Others, such as Senator MCCAIN, requested a unanimous consent on only

the Andean Trade Preferences, and I have objected. I have objected because we cannot turn our back on American workers who lose their jobs through no fault of their own, only to, then, help workers in other countries.

Since Congress made reforms to the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program in 2009—trade adjustment assistance has been with us since the Kennedy administration. It clearly works. When workers lose their job through no fault of their own, they get some assistance from the government to go back to school to get retrained so they can be productive workers again. Again, they lost their jobs through no doing of their own.

But since Congress made the reforms in 2009, 170,000 additional trade-impacted workers became eligible for training under the TAA for Workers Program. So if somebody loses their job because of a trade agreement we pass in this institution—trade agreements that I think were wrongheaded: NAFTA, CAFTA, PNTR with China, other kinds of trade agreements with Australia and Jordan and Panama and Peru—when workers lose their job because of these agreements, we at least owe it to them to help them with trade adjustment assistance.

But since this program expired last month, we have shut out service workers, we have shut out manufacturing workers who lost their jobs to countries we do not have a free-trade agreement with. So we do not actually have a free-trade agreement with China or India. We did something called PNTR with China.

So if a worker in Dayton or Toledo or Findlay or Zanesville loses their job because of a trade agreement to China or India, they are out of luck. They do not get TAA. How awful is that? They worked at a plant, where that plant moved because of trade being moved to China, but they do not get any kind of assistance. It was not their fault.

It should not work that way.

In addition, improvements to the Health Coverage Tax Credit Program also expired. HCTC helps trade-affected workers purchase private health coverage to replace the employer-sponsored coverage they lost. Again, they lost their job because of a trade agreement. They cannot afford health insurance because they do not have much money and they get some tax credit from the government to help them be able to afford this health care. It has helped thousands of workers manage hospital costs, medication, and necessary doctor visits. Without it, not only do Americans lose their jobs, but they are at risk of losing their health insurance. They generally cannot afford their health insurance, which also may lead them more likely to lose their home and suffer from foreclosure.

TAA—trade adjustment assistance—and HCTC—health coverage tax credit—have both expired. They must be renewed regardless of whether this Congress considers or passes any new trade agreement.

Ambassador Kirk, the U.S. Trade Representative, will soon be submitting the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement to Congress. I have expressed my concerns about this agreement. I am concerned it will be a step backward for American manufacturing, especially in the auto industry. I am concerned that low-wage Asian nations will use Korea as a platform to export auto parts and steel—duty free—to the United States. They will come in from some country to Korea—maybe China, maybe India, maybe somewhere else—through Korea and then get access to U.S. markets duty free.

These are serious concerns. This is not theory. This is based on what has happened since passing other free-trade agreements. Every time we pass a free-trade agreement, the supporters of it say there are going to be more American jobs and we are going to close the trade deficit. It never does. It is always false manufacturing jobs. In northern West Virginia and in much of my State, we have seen that inflicted on families day after day after day, and it means a larger trade deficit.

At least we will have the time to debate and consider the Korean trade agreement. Unfortunately, several of my colleagues across the aisle don't even want to consider the Korean trade agreement unless it is packaged with the Colombia and Panama trade agreements. So on top of not extending trade adjustments, on top of not extending the health care tax credit, our Republican colleagues want to move on all three leftover Bush trade agreements: Korea and Colombia and Panama. These trade deals will not be winners for American workers. We know our exports increase with free-trade agreements. We also know our imports increase to a larger degree.

The first President Bush said that when we have a trade surplus or deficit of \$1 billion, it translates into 13,000 jobs. So a \$1 billion trade deficit is 13,000 lost jobs. A \$1 billion trade surplus is 13,000 increased jobs. That is President Bush's numbers. We can just do the math.

We have trade deficits of hundreds of billions of dollars in this country, and when production jobs move offshore, innovation is not far behind. All of us, including the Presiding Officer, have gone through manufacturing plants, and what we see there are workers and engineers trying to figure out how to innovate and how to increase productivity, how to make production more efficient and less expensive.

If we innovate in this country and invent in this country and then we send those jobs overseas for production, we begin to lose the innovative edge because over there, whether it is Mexico or China or India or Japan or anywhere else, when the production is done, then the innovation is also done on the shop floor. So while we brag about being the most inventive, innovative people on Earth—which we are—the future doesn't necessarily work that way as we outsource so many of these jobs.

We have seen how these free-trade agreements give incentives to move production overseas, and instead of taking away those incentives, instead of giving incentives to American companies to manufacture over here, we do the opposite by passing the Korean Free Trade Agreement or Peru or NAFTA or CAFTA or any of those.

Peru's President Garcia spoke to the U.S. Chamber of Congress before signing the Peru Free Trade Agreement. He said: "Come and open your factories in my country so we can sell your own products back to the United States." Come sell your own products back to the United States. How is that good for American workers? How is that good for innovation? How is that good for American manufacturing? How is that good for American middle-class communities? It has become a business plan for far too many companies in this country. Think about, in the broad sweep of history, how often this has happened, where the business plan for a U.S. company is, they invent something here, then produce it in China, thousands and thousands of miles away, and then it is shipped back to the United States, back to the home country. That is the business model for far too many companies. If they were to set up in China and sell into China and east Asia, that would be one thing. But company after company after American company has gone abroad, done the production there, sold it back into the United States, so it is not providing the work for American workers that it should.

Again, my colleagues are holding people who need retraining and adjustment hostage to another trade agreement. So they are saying: If you don't pass Colombia and Panama and Korea, then we are not going to extend trade adjustment assistance, we are not going to extend the health coverage tax credit.

Free trade's biggest supporters put so much stock into these free-trade agreements and they do so ignoring the elephant in the room, and I am talking about our relationship with China. Congress approved China PNTR more than 10 years ago. We know what has happened. We have had literally $\frac{1}{2}$ billion a day in trade deficits with China. That means we buy \$500 million a day more in products from China than we sell to China. That is what a trade deficit of $\frac{1}{2}$ billion a day means—that we actually are buying \$500 million every single day more from China than we are selling to China. That is not a long-term sign of prosperity. That is not a long-term indicator of the strengthening of the middle class.

Until we figure out where we are going on trade and put a halt to these trade agreements and look at what we need to do instead, we are going to continue to see the shrinking of the middle class.

Last week, an appeals court of the World Trade Organization made a horrendous decision in favor of China

against our trade remedy laws. The WTO has again overreached beyond WTO laws and rules against our anti-dumping and countervailing duty laws. These laws have been the only way to protect ourselves and protect our economy and protect our communities and protect our workers and protect our small businesses. One of the last tools we have to defend against unfair trade law are these trade remedy laws, and the WTO, with a bunch of bureaucratic trade lawyers, is taking them away. The WTO risks its own legitimacy with a ruling like this one.

I urge the Obama administration to respond aggressively to this decision. I urge my colleagues to step back from this stalled trade agenda—step back from Korea, Panama, and Colombia. I urge my colleagues to examine instead what is in the best interests of American workers and businesses. We can find a balanced trade agenda that makes sense for our businesses, makes sense for our workers, and makes sense for our communities.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD JAY CORMAN

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I rise to recognize a good friend of mine, a very special Kentuckian who I and many others can look up to, Mr. Richard Jay Corman of Nicholasville, KY. Mr. Corman is a successful businessman, a self-made man who started what is today a multimillion-dollar company. He is also living with cancer—and I do mean living, as for several years now he has continued to make the most of each day despite this disease, and he has become an inspiration for many.

Richard grew up on a farm that did not get indoor plumbing until he was in the fourth grade. Now he is the head of the R.J. Corman Railroad Group, a construction and railroad operation company he founded when he was 18 years old. When Hurricane Katrina struck in 2005, the Corman Railroad Group was there, repairing the railroads that had been damaged in dangerous conditions, and Richard was the one leading the operation. He is known for his intensity, his determination, and his indefatigable energy.

Richard has so much energy he has barely slowed down even after being diagnosed with multiple myeloma nearly 10 years ago. Without treatment, he was told he may have only a year to live. He survives thanks to a fantastic medical team, and Richard himself is funding medical research that is not only keeping him alive but will benefit untold others. And Richard is still working and running marathons.

I am proud to call Richard Jay Corman a friend and I think his life story holds lessons and inspiration for others. I read an article in *Fortune* magazine recently that was a fascinating look at Richard's life and work. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.