

trucks, civil engineers, food, tents, you name it, were deployed to start building this road.

Then, in June 1942, the Japanese invaded Attu and Kiska Islands in the Aleutian Islands chain of Alaska, adding a new sense of urgency to the completion of the road.

These soldiers worked day and night—200 bridges, 800 culverts, through some of the most rugged terrain on planet Earth, mountains, rivers, no rest, hard, backbreaking work—and they were able to complete this 1,700-mile road that still exists today—some of you may have driven it—in less than a year.

When the road was being built, the military was still segregated, and African Americans in the Army—much like in the rest of the country—were treated as second-class citizens. They were assigned to the toughest jobs on this project, using the worst equipment. In the summer, it was full of mosquitoes, black flies, mud, and swamps.

Winter comes early in Alaska. According to the historian, Lael Morgan, the winter of 1942 was considered one of the worst winters on record since 1906 in terms of how cold it was—and, trust me, it gets cold in Alaska—and how much snow there was.

The Black troops were required to build winter barracks for the White soldiers, while the African-American troops lived in tents. When the snow fell, they couldn't get supplies, and some nearly starved to death, Lael wrote. It is reported that some even succumbed to injuries due to the cold—fatalities due to the cold.

They did so much of the hard work. However, the contribution of these great African-American soldiers and heroes were completely almost scrubbed from all of the history books. Nobody that Ms. Pollard spoke to—social studies teachers or history professors—knew anything about this history.

In Ms. Pollard's words: "They stole that history." The history books wouldn't write it. It was wrong, and she knew she had to make it right so she went to work.

As a teacher herself and a lifelong learner, she knew that bringing the story to the school system was key to keeping our history alive—accurate history. Eventually, she called the historian I spoke about, Lael Morgan—a former Alaskan who was then living in Maine and happened to be featured in that documentary that Ms. Pollard watched on that Friday evening.

Lael decided to help in a big way. Incredibly, a year later, she sold her house in Maine and headed up the Alcan Highway to Alaska. Together, and with the help of a team of others Ms. Pollard recruited, they amassed enough material to give to the school system to set the history right.

Now schools across Alaska are putting this story—this real story—into their curriculum, and now she is trying to get it required as part of a course

that the university students in Alaska who are studying education have to take.

She and her team put calls out across the internet for anyone who was involved in or had a relative involved in building the highway. She was able to track down three members of the African-American Army Engineers who were still alive. She flew to interview one of the soldiers who was 100 years old. Another one, who lives in Louisiana, traveled to Alaska in 2017 for the 75th anniversary of the highway's completion.

Recently, Ms. Pollard mentioned the names of the soldiers she spoke to back then. There was a soldier from Virginia, SGT Reginald Beverly, who, unfortunately, has now passed away. The soldier in Louisiana who came to Alaska in 2017 is Private Leonard Larkins. He has 10 children. The Alaska Highway Project will be bringing him and his three sons back to Alaska on August 3 to help him celebrate his 99th birthday.

I am in the process of drafting a Senate resolution to recognize all of the members of the African-American Army Engineers who helped build the Alcan Highway, which was so critical to protecting our Nation and Alaska.

Ms. Pollard describes herself as feisty. Others might describe her as fiercely determined. When the Alaska State Legislature, at her urging, passed a resolution commemorating these African-American soldiers who built one of the greatest engineering highways in the world, she was sitting behind some of the State legislators.

She heard one whisper to another: Have you met this Jean Pollard?

The other said: Yes, she calls me several times a day about this bill.

Julie and I were just with Ms. Pollard this past weekend, as I mentioned, at the Bridge Builder event in Anchorage—my wife Julie and I. She is very passionate, very persuasive, and we are very proud of her.

Ms. Pollard and the team that created the Alaska Highway Memorial Project are on another mission to erect a memorial in a park in Anchorage. They have the design, and they certainly have the will with her driving it, and I have no doubt they will get it done to memorialize this great engineering feat by American heroes who were not treated well by their country.

Like the story of how Ms. Pollard brought important history back to our State, the story of building the Alcan and of the civil rights in the military also has an uplifting message.

On October 25, 1942, less than 8 months after they started, two soldiers, one African American and one White, shook hands after completing this highway. Six years later, President Harry S. Truman ordered the Army desegregated, 16 years before the passage of the Civil Rights Act. Many historians now cite the work and the experience on this Alcan Highway project, and the African-American sol-

diers and White soldiers working together on a really difficult challenge, as also helping make that possible—civil rights, 16 years later.

The Federal Highway Administration calls the Alcan Highway the road to civil rights. Isn't that a great depiction?

So, Ms. Pollard, thank you and your team for bringing that history back to us. I am proud to have talked a little bit about that important history for Alaska and America on the floor of the U.S. Senate. Congratulations for being our Alaskan of the Week.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar Nos. 81 through 86 and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk; that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Michael X. Garrett

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. Timothy J. Donnellan

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. Stephen J. Mallette

IN THE NAVY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Scott M. Brown
Capt. Casey J. Moton
Capt. Stephen R. Tedford
Capt. Eric H. Verhage

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Jeffrey T. Anderson
Capt. Stephen D. Barnett

Capt. Michael W. Baze
 Capt. Richard T. Brophy, Jr.
 Capt. Anthony C. Carullo
 Capt. Robert B. Chadwick, II
 Capt. Jeffrey J. Czerewko
 Capt. Michael P. Donnelly
 Capt. Christopher M. Engdahl
 Capt. Robert M. Gaucher
 Capt. Daniel P. Martin
 Capt. John V. Menoni
 Capt. Curt A. Renshaw
 Capt. Scott F. Robertson
 Capt. Milton J. Sands, III
 Capt. Paul C. Spedero, Jr.
 Capt. Christopher J. Sweency
 Capt. Jeromy B. Williams

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. VeraLinn Jamieson

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S
 DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN268 AIR FORCE nomination of Jason D. Hoskins, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN269 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning NANCY E. COSTA, and ending ALEXANDER O. KIRKPATRICK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN270 AIR FORCE nomination of Saiprasad M. Zemse, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN271 AIR FORCE nominations (125) beginning JEFFREY WAYNE AKIN, and ending STEVEN S. ZASUETA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN272 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning DAVID C. SALISBURY, and ending ROBERT L. WILKIE, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN273 AIR FORCE nominations (8) beginning CRAIG K. ABEE, and ending CAROL A. YEAGER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN274 AIR FORCE nominations (4) beginning MICHAEL J. CHUNG, and ending BRADLEY J. PIERSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN275 AIR FORCE nomination of Robert T. Hines, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN276 AIR FORCE nominations (12) beginning MARC A. BANJAK, and ending JENNIFER C. WHITKO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN277 AIR FORCE nominations (12) beginning DENNIS M. BRITTEN, and ending KRISTEN MARIE WYRICK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN278 AIR FORCE nominations (4) beginning JASON G. ARNOLD, and ending CARRIE A. SCHMID, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN279 AIR FORCE nominations (12) beginning DAVID P. BAILEY, and ending AMY S. SWETS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN280 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning KIMBERLY S. KLOEBER, and ending MARSHA L. SCHUMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN281 AIR FORCE nomination of Joyce C. Beaty, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN282 AIR FORCE nominations (5) beginning TIMOTHY S. MCCARTY, and ending TERESA M. STARKS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN283 AIR FORCE nominations (5) beginning JENNIFER J. ARCHER, and ending LAWRENCE D. PEAFLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN284 AIR FORCE nominations (61) beginning ANDREW T. ALLEN, and ending ASSY YACOUB, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN285 AIR FORCE nominations (15) beginning ELHAM BARANI, and ending BRANDON H. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN286 AIR FORCE nominations (121) beginning HOMAYOUN R. AHMADIAN, and ending JOE X. ZHANG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN287 AIR FORCE nominations (25) beginning FRANCIS E. BECKER, and ending BRENT J. WINWARD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN289 AIR FORCE nominations (45) beginning MARGARET E. ABBOTT, and ending JEFFREY C. YEE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN290 AIR FORCE nominations (252) beginning JOSEPH L. ABRAMS, and ending ALYSSA R. ZUEHL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN342 AIR FORCE nomination of Katherine R. Morganti, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN379 AIR FORCE nominations (6) beginning PATRICK N. WESTMORELAND, and ending AARON J. LIPPY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 6, 2019.

PN394 AIR FORCE nomination of Tolulope O. A. Aduroja, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 12, 2019.

PN395 AIR FORCE nomination of Erick L. Jackson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 12, 2019.

IN THE ARMY

PN291 ARMY nomination of James B. Flowers, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN292 ARMY nomination of Dylan T. Randazzo, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN293 ARMY nomination of Jerry D. Hallman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN294 ARMY nomination of Christopher P. Moellering, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN295 ARMY nomination of Joubert N. Paulino, which was received by the Senate

and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN296 ARMY nomination of Saw K. San, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN297 ARMY nominations (2) beginning REBECCA J. QUACKENBUSH, and ending DAVID A. WATKINS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN298 ARMY nomination of Stacie L. Kervin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN299 ARMY nomination of Brian R. Kossler, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN300 ARMY nomination of Katherine A. O'Brien, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN301 ARMY nomination of Jessica N. Peralesludemann, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN302 ARMY nomination of Julia C. Phillips, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN303 ARMY nomination of Alain M. Alexandre, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 24, 2019.

PN304 ARMY nomination of Taliat A. Animashaun, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN307 ARMY nomination of G010349, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN308 ARMY nomination of Jordanna M. Hostler, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN309 ARMY nomination of Elizabeth N. Strickland, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN310 ARMY nomination of Shawn M. T. May, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN311 ARMY nomination of Kyle A. Zahn, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN396 ARMY nomination of Joseph J. Fantony, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 12, 2019.

PN397 ARMY nomination of Chariti D. Paden, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 12, 2019.

PN398 ARMY nomination of Donald W. Rakes, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 12, 2019.

PN399 ARMY nominations (7) beginning RONNIE S. BARNES, and ending FRANCIS R. MONTGOMERY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 12, 2019.

PN401 ARMY nomination of Charles A. Riley, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 12, 2019.

PN402 ARMY nomination of Richard S. McNutt, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 12, 2019.

PN403 ARMY nomination of Lloyd V. Lozada, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 12, 2019.

PN404 ARMY nominations (18) beginning JULIO ACOSTA, and ending APRIL L.

SAPP, which nominations were received by, the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 12, 2019.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN317 MARINE CORPS nomination of Matthew T. Coughlin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN318 MARINE CORPS nomination of Bethanne Canero, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN320 MARINE CORPS nominations (5) beginning KEVIN T. BROWNLEE, and ending DANIEL L. YOUMANS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN321 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning KEVIN F. CHAMPAIGNE, and ending JOHN C. JOHNSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN322 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning AARON J. GRIFFUS, and ending JEREMIAH J. ZEISZLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN325 MARINE CORPS nominations (4) beginning DANIEL H. CUSINATO, and ending EDUARDO QUIROZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN329 MARINE CORPS nominations (5) beginning ARMANDO A. FREIRE, and ending ANDREW J. SHRIVER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN330 MARINE CORPS nomination of Stephen R. Byrnes, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN331 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning HERMAN E. HOLLEY, and ending BRIAN E. KELLY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN332 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning DAREN M. GALLAGHER, and ending AUSTIN E. WREN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN333 MARINE CORPS nominations (799) beginning ALEXANDER N. ABATE, and ending JOSEPH A. ZUKOWSKI, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN334 MARINE CORPS nominations (14) beginning GERMAN ALICEALAPUERTA, and ending LYDIA A. SIMONS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN335 MARINE CORPS nominations (106) beginning ERIC J. ADAMS, and ending WAYNE R. ZUBER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN336 MARINE CORPS nomination of Joseph W. Crandall, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN338 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning AARON S. ELLIS, and ending CURTIS B. MILLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN339 MARINE CORPS nomination of Justin D. Mosley, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN341 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning ANDRES J. AGRAMONTE, and ending ROSS A. HRYNEWYCH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN386 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning BETHANY S. PETERSON, and ending JON T. PETERSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 6, 2019.

IN THE NAVY

PN312 NAVY nomination of Jessica M. P. Miller, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN313 NAVY nomination of Rosemary M. Hardesty, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN314 NAVY nomination of Brett T. Thomas, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2019.

PN385 NAVY nominations (46) beginning SCOTT A. ADAMS, and ending BRET A. YOUNT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 6, 2019.

PN405 NAVY nominations (14) beginning PETER D. ALLEN, and ending ROBERT D. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 12, 2019.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the White House recently unveiled the Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative, W-GDP, an inter-agency plan to increase women's global labor force participation and advancement in the workplace, improve access of women entrepreneurs to market opportunities, and remove barriers to economic growth for women.

I support the initiative, although not based on the erroneous claim of some in the White House that it is the first women's initiative ever launched by the United States. On the contrary, I and many other Members of Congress and previous administrations have supported such efforts for many years. However, there is still a lot of work to be done, and I hope W-GDP builds on those efforts.

Too many of this administration's actions have fallen far short of the President's rhetoric or have been the antithesis of what he promised, so while I am ready to do what is necessary to support W-GDP, I worry that this initiative may be part of the same story. From human trafficking at the southern border, to processing asylum applicants, to combating HIV/AIDS, this administration purports to be serious about addressing global problems

while implementing policies or proposing budgets that bear no resemblance to effective solutions and in many cases would make the situation worse.

For example, while the objectives of W-GDP are laudable, it is being implemented by the same White House that sought to cut the budget for the Department of State and foreign assistance programs by roughly 30 percent in fiscal years 2018 and 2019, cuts that would have decimated funding for programs that address the needs of the world's poorest people, for water and sanitation, maternal and child health, education and employment opportunities, to stave off poverty and disease that disproportionately afflict women and girls. In fact, the President's budget did not include a single dollar for W-GDP.

This administration has also waged war on reproductive health, reportedly directing the omission of reporting on reproductive rights in the State Department's annual Country Reports on Human Rights, and one of President Trump's first acts after his inauguration was to reinstate the Global Gag Rule. In fact, egged on by extremists in his administration, he expanded it to condition funding for every nongovernmental organization, NGO, implementing any health programs for the United States overseas, even if their programs have nothing to do with reproductive health. In other words, if an NGO spends millions of dollars in India to combat HIV/AIDS, but spends \$1 of its own private funds—not U.S. taxpayer funds—to provide counseling on abortion, it is ineligible for any U.S. Government funding for either purpose. Such a policy would be unlawful in our own country.

So while I support W-GDP, I caution all those who defend women's rights and support economic opportunities for women to not be distracted by one initiative this administration launched on the backs of the Congress's rejection of President Trump's budget and to call on the White House to adopt a more consistent, comprehensive approach to supporting women around the world.

With that in mind, I hope the White House will speak out forcefully and consistently about the institutionalized and systemic persecution and discrimination of women in Saudi Arabia and other countries whose autocratic and corrupt governments this White House has embraced. If the White House expects to be taken seriously about women's empowerment, it cannot remain silent about governments whose laws and policies treat women as property and that imprison women's rights activists.

This is not the only area in which the administration is purporting to support vulnerable populations while its short-sighted policies are having the opposite effect.

In a November 30, 2018, op-ed in the Washington Post, Ivanka Trump announced that the administration had