

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Alice P. Albright, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Challenge Corporation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Albright nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Legislative Session for 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.

TRIBUTE TO SECRETARY OF THE SENATE SONCERIA ANN BERRY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, serving in the U.S. Senate for as long as I have, I have seen dedicated, talented staffers come and go from my team. Some come to my office fresh out of college, spend some time, and move on to other opportunities or to further their education. Some have come to stay for years. And others join my team, already seasoned veterans of the Senate—and leave for higher office.

So is the story of my dear friend, Sonceria Ann Berry, the 34th Secretary of the Senate, and my former deputy chief of staff. It was with great pride when, on March 1, 2021, I administered the oath to Ann as she became our own Madam Secretary. And it should come as no surprise that Ann brought to the esteemed position decades of experience in the Senate. A seasoned professional who has seen changes in leadership through the Congresses, Ann has counseled and mentored, quite literally, hundreds of staffers young and old. Her appointment as the Secretary of Senate was a source of great pride for me, and I am sure the other Members for whom she worked, including Senator CARPER and former Senator John Edwards, as well as the late Senators Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Howell Heflin, share that pride.

Secretary Berry is a 1978 graduate of the University of North Alabama, where she earned her bachelor degree in education. She recently returned to the University of North Alabama to de-

liver the fall commencement address. I found her words inspiring to the new graduates she addressed and instructional for those embarking in post-graduate life.

I would like to ask unanimous consent that Secretary Berry's commencement remarks be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS—SONCERIA ANN BERRY, SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

FALL 2021 COMMENCEMENT, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA

Thank you for that wonderful introduction, and let me begin by congratulating the Class of 2021 for sticking with it, overcoming unprecedented challenges, and graduating with a well-earned degree in resilience, in addition to what you majored in.

College graduation is always a remarkable achievement, but nobody has ever been through what you've been through to get here, and you can wear this experience and this hard-won success like a badge of honor for the rest of your life.

Congratulations also to your families and friends who have helped you get to this day.

They are heroes, just like you, and they have made their own sacrifices to support your ambitions. And I think they deserve their own round of applause.

I graduated from the University of North Alabama, with a degree in secondary education, in 1978.

As it happened, I didn't spend a minute of my career in secondary education.

Life had other things in store for me, and because of those completely unexpected things, earlier this year, this fine university honored me with its Lifetime Achievement Award.

They said it was because I was the first African American ever to serve as Secretary of the Senate—the chief administrative, legislative and financial officer of the world's greatest deliberative body.

Or they may have just been looking for someone who graduated a really long time ago.

Either way, it was very special to me, because it was this university that set me on a path of life I would never have dreamed of before coming here.

Before UNA, my ambition was to get a good office job.

I was a pretty good typist and I was hoping for a career in an office as a secretary.

I was poor. I wanted to work and make money and have some security for myself and my family.

But after high school, I found work at the Home Insurance Company in Homewood, Alabama.

They call it a "gap year" now when you take a year between high school and college to figure yourself out.

But, for me, it wasn't anything so fancy. It was a year of making a living.

But it was also when I first learned about the University of North Alabama.

And the more I learned about it, the better I knew that it was the place for me.

UNA was not only the State's oldest public university, with a heritage of training some of Alabama's finest teachers.

In an era when it was still quite unusual for women to go to college, UNA had already opened its doors to women for a hundred years.

And this year, UNA proudly celebrates its 150th anniversary of co-education with the Year of the UNA Woman.

I was also impressed by the academic rigor built into the tradition of UNA.

In its days as Florence Wesleyan University, prospective students had to demonstrate an ability to translate four books of Caesar's Gallic Wars from the original Latin, and six books of Virgil from the original Greek, into English.

I think all of us feel fortunate that those particular skills are no longer required for admission to the University of North Alabama.

I know I did, and yet I quickly discovered that this university's academic standards remained commendably high, and so were its standards of conduct and ethics.

It was also a community, where people cared about each other, helped each other, encouraged each other, nurtured each other.

The course of my life was changed in just this way.

After graduation, when I couldn't find work as a teacher, I took a job as a secretary in the engineering department of South Central Bell.

But a year later, in 1979, I was contacted by the office of Alabama's newly-elected United States Senator Howell Heflin about a position in the Senator's Washington office.

I didn't know Senator Heflin, or how his office had found me.

But I learned later that Dr. Robert Guillot, the president of UNA for whom I had served as a student aide in the Admissions Office, had recommended me to the Senator.

And I was off to Washington, DC—a city I had never seen—for what Dr. Guillot correctly called "the opportunity of a lifetime."

That was forty-two years ago, and in the decades since, I have been proud to work not only for Senator Heflin but later for five other United States Senators in positions of increasing responsibility.

I was thinking seriously of retiring earlier this year when I was offered the position of Secretary of the Senate—a position for which I was nominated by the Majority Leader, Chuck Schumer of New York, and to which I was elected by the full membership of the United States Senate.

Today I manage the Senate as an institution, supervising 26 departments, nearly 240 employees and a \$25 million budget.

My team and I are responsible for everything from recording each day's Senate debates to running the Senate gift shop.

The Parliamentarian of the Senate, the Senate Historian, the office of inter-parliamentary services, and the people who pay 100 Senators and thousands of staff people report to me.

And I am proud to be the first African American, and the eighth woman,

in the 232-year history of the Senate to hold this office.

But what I found most compelling about being called to this assignment was another historic opportunity that had nothing to do with being Black or being a woman or being a pioneer of any kind.

It was the opportunity to support, lead and nurture a remarkable group of people who protected our democracy during the January 6 attack on the United States Capitol.

When the rioters tried to disrupt the ratification of Electoral College ballots, the people I work with secured those ballots until the crisis had passed.

When the rioters roamed through the Capitol building threatening harm to anyone they encountered, the people I work with barricaded themselves in their offices and kept working.

When the rioters put democracy itself in danger on that infamous day, the people I work with waited them out and certified the same peaceful transfer of power that has been the hallmark of our government for more than two hundred years.

The people I work with are the ultimate public servants.

They are the unsung heroes of our Republic, drawn not to fame and glory but to the quiet, professional, essential mission of supporting our institutions of government—on good days and really bad days alike.

And being their leader—not the fancy title, or the big office in the Capitol building, or the pioneering path I took—is the greatest honor of my life.

I would never have dreamed, when I was a student here, that my life's journey would lead me to this calling.

The fact that it came after four decades on Capitol Hill, when retirement was beckoning me, only makes it more remarkable, more deeply personal and satisfying.

As you sit here, contemplating your own futures, I would simply encourage you to focus not so much on a specific destination as on the journey itself.

I didn't become an educator, though that was the dream of my youth.

I did things I never dared to dream. I saved the best for last.

And I have learned that the journey—with all its twists and turns, peaks and valleys, sunshine and shadow—is what life is really about.

The journey is the choices you make, large and small. So make good ones.

It's the people you encounter, famous and familiar, heroes and villains alike. So be kind to people, and be the kind of person you want others to be.

It's the preparations you make, not least those you have made these past four years right here at the University of North Alabama.

It's the risks you take, like leaving the security of my family for an adventure in the nation's capital.

And it's the understanding you gain, slowly over the years, of what's important and what's not, what's lasting and what's fleeting, who you are and what you're supposed to do in your time on earth.

Philosophers tell us that "life must be lived forwards, but can only be understood backwards."

That's exactly the way I look at my life now and understand my purpose, improbable as it was when I sat where you sit so many years ago.

As you begin your own adventure in the wide world, I urge you to heed these simple, but profound, words of Ernest Hemingway:

"It is good to have an end to journey to; but it is the journey that matters, in the end."

Congratulations, good luck, and enjoy your journey.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 22-06, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Jordan for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$4.21 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCHE,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-06

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Jordan.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$2.39 billion.
Other \$1.82 billion.
Total \$4.21 billion.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing (FMF)

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
Twelve (12) F-16 C Block 70 Aircraft
Four (4) F-16 D Block 70 Aircraft

Twenty-one (21) F100-GE-129D Engines or F100-PW229EEP Engines (16 installed, 5 spares)

Twenty-one (21) Improved Programmable Display Generators (iPDG) (16 installed, 5 spares)

Twenty-one (21) AN/APG-83 Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) Scalable

Agile Beam Radars (SABR) (16 installed, 5 spares)

Twenty-one (21) Modular Mission Computers (MMC) 7000AH (16 installed, 5 spares)

Twenty-seven (27) LN-260 (or equivalent) Embedded Global Positioning System (GPS) Inertial Navigation Systems (INS) (EGI) with Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) and Precise Positioning Service (PPS) (16 installed, 11 spares)

Six (6) AN/AAQ-33 Sniper Advanced Targeting Pods

(ATP) Thirty-one (31) Link 16 Low-Volume Terminals (for aircraft and ground stations) (26 installed, 5 spares)

Seventy-two (72) LAU-129 Launchers (64 installed, 8 spares)

Twenty-one (21) M61A1 Vulcan Cannons (16 installed, 5 spares)

Four Hundred Two (402) FMU-139 or FMU-152 Joint Programmable Fuzes

One Hundred (100) KMU-556 Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) Tail Kits for 2,000LB GBU-31

One Hundred Two (102) KMU-572 JDAM Tail Kits for 500LB Laser JDAM GBU-54

One Hundred (100) MAU-209 Computer Control Group (CCG) for Paveway II (PWII) GBU-10

One Hundred Two (102) MXU-651 Air Foil Group (AFG) for 2,000LB PWII GBU-10

One Hundred (100) MAU-210 Enhanced Computer Control Group (ECCG) for 500LB Enhanced Paveway II (EP II) EGBU-49

One Hundred Three (103) MXU-650 Air Foil Group (AFG) for 500LB EP II EGBU-49

Two Hundred (200) MK-84 or BLU-117 (or equivalent) Bomb Bodies

Two Hundred Four (204) MK-82 or BLU-111 (or equivalent) Bomb Bodies

Six (6) MK-82 Inert Bombs

Two (2) MAU-169 Computer Control Group (CCG) Trainers

Non-MDE:

Also included are AN/ARC-238 radios; AN/APX-126 or equivalent Advanced Identification Friend or Foes (AIFF) with Combined Interrogator Transponder (CIT); Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing System II (JHMCS II) or Scorpion Hybrid Optical-based Inertial Tracker (HOblT) helmet mounted displays; AN/ALQ-254 Viper Shield or equivalent Integrated Electronic Warfare (EW) systems; AN/ALE-47 Countermeasure Dispenser Systems (CMDS); KY-58M Cryptographic Devices; KIV-78 Cryptographic Devices; Simple Key Loaders (SKLs); Joint Mission Planning System (JMPS) or equivalent; PGU-28 High Explosive Incendiary (HEI) ammunition; PGU-27 training ammunition (non-HEI); ARD-446 impulse cartridges; ARD-863 impulse cartridges; BBU-36 impulse cartridges; BBU-35 impulse cartridges; MK-124 smoke flares; MJU-7 /B flare cartridges L463 or MJU-53 or equivalent; Common Munitions Built-in-Test (BIT) Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE); ADU-891 adapters for CMBRE; DSU-38 laser sensors for Laser JDAM GBU-54; Cartridge Actuated Device/Propellant Actuated Devices (CAD/PAD); BRU-57 bomb racks; MAU-12 bomb racks and TER-9A triple ejection racks; other chaff and flare, ammunition, and pylons; launcher adaptors and weapons interfaces; fuel tanks and attached hardware; travel pods; aircraft and weapons integration, test, and support equipment; electronic warfare database and mission data file