

Capito	Hoeven	Romney
Cardin	Johnson	Rosen
Carper	Kaine	Rounds
Casey	Kelly	Rubio
Cassidy	Kennedy	Sanders
Collins	King	Schatz
Coons	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cornyn	Lankford	Shaheen
Cortez Masto	Lujan	Sinema
Crapo	Lummis	Smith
Daines	Manchin	Stabenow
Duckworth	Marshall	Sullivan
Durbin	McConnell	Tester
Ernst	Menendez	Thune
Fetterman	Merkley	Tuberville
Fischer	Mullin	Van Hollen
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Vance
Graham	Murphy	Warner
Grassley	Murray	Warnock
Hagerty	Ossoff	Warren
Hassan	Padilla	Welch
Hawley	Peters	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Reed	Wyden
Hickenlooper	Ricketts	Young
Hirono	Risch	

NOT VOTING— 14

Braun	Lee	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Markey	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Moran	Tillis
Cruz	Paul	Wicker
Hyde-Smith	Schmitt	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

TRIBUTE TO CAMERON JOOST

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I have come to the floor today to honor one of the fiercest advocates for Illinois I have ever known: Cameron Joost.

I have had the privilege of working with Cameron for the past 7 years now, and over that time, she has been my State director, my campaign manager, my sounding board, and perhaps most importantly, my friend.

It is hard to find the words to express what Cam has meant to both my office and to me. She is an expert in everything from the nuanced politics of Illinois's smallest towns to the full range of Hill House Home nap dresses. She can tell you every detail of how the latest bill for a vote here in DC will affect Chicagoans, and she can plan the most frenetically perfect campaign RV tour that Illinois has ever seen, with 10 passengers on board ranging in age from 4 to 81 and lasting over 2 weeks. Most of all, she is our team's moral compass.

You know, all too often, when people think of American service, they only think of military service, but the truth is, service in this country isn't just limited to picking up a rifle to defend our democracy. American service also means picking up a soup spoon to feed the less fortunate, a hammer to rebuild a home destroyed by a wildfire, or, in a Cam's case, picking up a pen and notebook and going to work day after day, trying to better the lives of all those who call Illinois home. It means striving to ensure that they access the healthcare, education, SNAP benefits—you name it—that they deserve; push-

ing to help families recover from flooding on the Mississippi River; to help parents in Cairo get access to the safe, affordable housing their kids deserve; to help reunite Afghan refugees with their loved ones. She is ever-dedicated to serving others in every way she could.

Through it all, she has had one enduring trait: She is a problem-solver. I will never forget the first day I met her. President Obama was flying back to Springfield to deliver a speech, and I was lucky enough to catch a ride on Air Force One with the President and a few other Members of the Illinois delegation. But one thing that I knew and my colleagues did not was that it was just a one-way ticket on Air Force One. They were not flying us back, which no one else except for myself realized.

So one by one, my colleagues came up to me in the Illinois State Senate chamber, and they asked if I knew that Air Force One wasn't going back to DC and did I know how I was going to get back to DC. "Making the 2-hour drive to St. Louis for a commercial flight," I told them. One by one, my colleagues followed up with "Oh. Well, in that case, can I catch a ride with you?" Of course I said yes, but I wasn't the one in charge of logistics or the driving. My scheduler in DC quickly reached out to one of our brandnew staffers. It was actually this staffer's first day on the job, but she was based nearby, and she had a car, a Toyota Corolla.

That was how Cameron Joost learned that not only would she be meeting me for the first time that afternoon, but she would also be in charge of driving four Members of Congress—or roughly a quarter of the entire Illinois House delegation—the 100 miles across State lines. And, oh yeah, it was in the middle of a snowstorm, and we were all the female Members of the delegation. Somehow, she got us there. Somehow, she didn't lose a single one of us. And we didn't make it easy for her. That tells you a lot of what you need to know about Cam—nerves of steel. She can handle whatever you throw at her, always doing so with the best of intentions and biggest of smiles.

In the next few weeks, Cam will move on to help lead Illinois' Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, where she will continue a career-long mission of looking out for others. While I am sad our office will no longer have Cam to ourselves, I am so, so excited to see all the good she is about to do in Springfield.

Cam, I could go on for hours about all you accomplished as our State director. Please just know this: You have made a difference. You have changed lives. And you have probably saved lives through your efforts. Through your leadership, countless veterans have received the vital healthcare and benefits they have earned, and countless families have gotten Social Security checks they desperately needed or have been reunited with loved ones who were stranded across borders or have

gained access to a hot meal or a warm bed.

You have made Illinois proud. You made us all proud. I will miss you dearly, but I can't wait to follow your next steps—no longer as your boss but as your biggest fan. And I hope you will forever be willing to give me a ride in the middle of a snowstorm.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CONFIRMATION OF MICHAEL G. WHITAKER

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, last week the Senate confirmed Mike Whitaker to be the FAA Administrator. I supported this nomination. He is very qualified. He has very valuable experience.

Obviously, this body has had a churn being able to look at previous FAA Administrators who came here and then were turned down in the process, and the administration has put forward someone who, I think, is very, very qualified. So I am pleased to be able to see that.

But many people may not know Oklahoma has a very special relationship with FAA, and we have for 70 years. For 70 years, the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center, which headquarters offices for so many different areas in the aeronautical center, has been in Oklahoma City. That spot has been there, and it establishes things like how to do testing, how to do research, the medical evaluation, occupational health wing, medical certification, a lot of education that happens there for aerospace. Air mobility is being tested there.

It is 1,100 acres and 133 buildings, across the airport site there in Oklahoma City, and it is just one of those hidden jewels of the United States that is actually there in Oklahoma City. As each of our States have different aspects and different tasks there, Oklahoma City is very, very proud to be a leader in aviation for the country.

There is also a vital component there at the FAA Academy. Now, again, most folks don't think about the air traffic controllers who are in the tower, but when you fly into any airport in the country, the folks who are in that tower were trained in Oklahoma City.

It is the academy. It is the first 60 days of training, and it is done consistently the same it is done everywhere in the country because, no matter where an air traffic controller goes, you want them to have the same consistent training in every location that they go to. So whomever they work next to in the tower, they have all been trained the same way in the basics.

Now, that academy is important to set the standard for all the basics in air

traffic control, and then they advance to the next level. They actually get out on the job and to be trained by folks who are in the towers. It is incredibly important as a task.

Now, for years, that academy has trained literally every single person that the FAA could send them. They haven't had a time where they were like: I am sorry. You have to stop. We can't take any more people.

They have got gaps and openings. In fact, right now we need more air traffic controllers, but, thankfully, the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center is ready to go. They are ready to take on more students to be able to expand. In fact, they have got room to double in size. If we wanted to double the number of air traffic controllers across the country, let's do it. Our challenge has been getting enough students to actually do it, to get the training, not actually training space or trainers.

So I would tell you Oklahoma City is proud of that heritage.

We are grateful for Mike Whitaker and the position that he is now in. We look forward to him being back in Oklahoma City. He has been in Oklahoma City multiple times in previous tasks that he has had. He knows full well the value of that facility, and I look forward to training a lot more folks to be air traffic controllers in Oklahoma City, in the days ahead, because our trainers and our folks who are there are ready to put more folks in more towers.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. President, there are lots of conversations happening right now about border security, and rightfully so. I mean, it is not news in this Chamber. It is not news nationwide—the numbers that have increased and people crossing the border that are not legal.

Millions of them in the past 3 years have crossed the border asking for asylum. Now, a lot of folks have said: Hey, we want to help people all over the world. We are the United States of America. That is who we are.

I would say: I agree. We are the United States of America, and we are dominantly made up of immigrants in our country.

That is a good thing, and it is a strength of this culture that we have of people who want to succeed, want to be able to work hard, and want to be able to contribute to their neighbors and their families. Let's draw them from all over the world.

But things have really significantly changed. Americans see it on the headlines in the news, but they may not understand the data behind it and how significant the change has been.

If I go back to 2010—ancient history, 2010—that year we had 21,000 people cross our southern border and ask for asylum that year—21,000 in the year 2010. We now have 21,000 asking for asylum in 3 days now.

There is a huge shift. What has occurred is that the cartels have found a gap in our law. The gap in our law is

not new. It is just being exploited in a new way. That is that they are recruiting people worldwide and saying: I can get you into America for a fee.

And they are asking people worldwide to be able to give them thousands of dollars. They will get them across the border, teach them the magic words to say: "I have fear in my country." That meets the minimum threshold. No matter how many countries they have been through to be able to get there, they can say, "I fear my original country," and we allow them in and then put them in line to get to an immigration judge. That line currently in New York is 10 years long to get to a judge.

So they wait 10 years to get to a judge on the first stage. Then they still have got to do the next stage. It could be up to 20 years now, with the backlog, before they get an answer to the question: Are you eligible for asylum?

By the way, statistics show the vast majority are not eligible for asylum, and everyone knows the joke. But there is a gap in our law that is being exploited by cartels.

How can I say this so certainly? Well, Canada closed that gap two decades ago. Canada also saw the same gap that was being exploited there, and so they made a simple change in their law; that is, if you have crossed in another safe country and then come to Canada and want to ask for asylum, they will just respond to you: You should have asked in the previous country. That is the international standard, by the way. It is not crazy. That is actually normal. You see, asylum is the same as refugee status, the same in international law. A refugee is somebody who flees to a spot, who is afraid, gets to a refugee center, and says to the U.N.: I have dramatic fear of persecution in my country. If they do, then they actually share them all over the world, including here in the United States. We take refugees here from all over the world.

Asylum seekers are on the same standard. They are supposed to go to the next safe place, get there, and request asylum. That is the international standard, but we don't do that here.

Can I give you more evidence? So far this year, we have had 45,000 people from India who have crossed our southern border, paid the cartels, crossed into our country, and said they had fear in their country—from India. They take about four flights, including through dangerous countries like France, to be able to get to Mexico—the closest airport—and then literally take a bus rented by the cartels up to the border to be dropped off for their last delivery there to us so they can say: I have fear in my country.

This doesn't make sense to just about everyone in the world. Just about everyone in the world has shifted on this except for us. We are literally inviting people from all over the world to exploit our system.

I am a "tall fences, wide gates" person. I think we need to have good bor-

der security so that we know who is coming in but have wide gates so we are open to legal immigration and to say: We want the interchange of people from all over the world to be able to come here, work here, grow their families here, and invest in the future of America. But when we are encouraging illegal immigration, that is a real threat to us as a country.

Don't just take my word for it; ask mayors all over America. They will tell you. They don't know what to do with the number of people who are coming—this is not a red State-blue State issue—whether it be New York State and New York City, which are saying "Make it stop," or whether it is areas in South Texas and Southern Arizona that are saying "Our small communities are absolutely overrun." None of those folks are opposed to immigration. They are just opposed to illegal immigration, what everyone knows is an exploitation of the system. We should fix the system.

Now, this is more than dollars. There has been a lot of conversation in this body lately. We will just add more money to it. They just need more dollars. Well, I would say not only do I not agree with that, Secretary Mayorkas, the head of Homeland Security, doesn't agree with that. On Wednesday of this week, he released an opinion piece, published in the Washington Post, which I would encourage every one of these Members to read.

There you go—you just heard a Republican say: Read the Washington Post. It is a new day.

If you read that opinion piece from Secretary Mayorkas, in it, he calls the funding request for DHS a "tour-niquet," saying that what they really need is a change in law to be able to make a difference for what is happening on the southern border.

It is not dollars that are needed. It is policy changes that are needed. It is this administration enforcing different policies, but it is also us fixing obvious gaps.

Right now, of the around 6,000 people a day who are currently crossing the border illegally—6,000 a day is the most current number—about half of those are being released under something called withholding. Now, I would dare say most of the folks in this room and most of the folks listening—of the five people watching C-SPAN right now—most of those folks are not familiar with the term "withholding." Withholding is a new thing that is being exploited by the cartels. It is another gap in our system like asylum is. It says basically: Hey, I am afraid—not on asylum necessarily—I am afraid there is going to be violence in my country. I want to go to an immigration judge.

As soon as they say that, they end up in the line that is 10 to 20 years long to get to an immigration judge, and they are in the country. Then their next step is, once they are in, they snap a picture of their new little document they have, send it back to their family,