

So my point here is, we are not out to hurt you. We can say: Use American producers. Use great American fishermen from all over, not just Alaska—Maine, you know, Virginia, California, Oregon, Washington State. Use them. Don't block this legislation. Don't be a Putin lackey. Don't help fund the war machine. Don't help Xi Jinping's forced slave labor with the Uighurs. Buy American, for goodness' sake. Stand with American fishermen.

So, when we come back, I am going to work this hard, and for all of you—and there are not many but a few importers. I hope the NFI is not doing this either. I hear they are, which would be really bad because they are supposed to promote the exporters too. That is the National Fisheries Institute. But what you need to do is not block this. This is a freight train, right, and it is going to pass. You want to get out of the way, and you want to help.

Stand with American fishermen. Let us in Alaska supply your company. Don't rely on slave-labor China fish. Don't rely on authoritarian aggression, Putin-backed seafood from Russia with low environmental standards.

By the way, they are flooding the markets globally because they are worried, and they are hurting fishermen in America, for sure. My fishermen and my fishing communities in my State are really hurting right now. This can help them.

So we have been working on this hard. A lot of my Republican and Democratic colleagues are 100 percent with me. Like I said, there are a few importers who are kind of working the halls here, and my answer is: Come on. Be patriotic. Stand with America. Stand with American fishermen.

Let's do legislation that can—what did I say at the beginning of my remarks? Now do you understand?—help defeat slave labor, help the environment, help strong American fishermen, help workers' rights, and go after Russian and Chinese abuses in the seafood industry.

It is all over the place. It is only going to grow more widespread in terms of the knowledge. The American people say: Wait a minute. Do I want to eat fish that is slave-labor fish, Putin-oligarch fish? No. I want to buy fish—by the way, the highest standard in the world, by far. We don't inject 40 percent phosphates into this fish and make it disgusting. I want to stand with American fishermen and buy seafood from Americans.

So that is what we are going to do. We are going to close that loophole. It is a big issue. Thanks for listening. But I sure hope when we get back that my colleagues will fully support it. I think 99.9 percent of them already do. That is the right answer. It is the right thing for our country and the right thing for America's fishermen.

TRIBUTE TO THE MILLER FAMILY

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I am going to end my remarks today on a high note and a very important one.

It is Wednesday. I like to come down and do what we call the “Alaskan of the Week.” I can see the pages are already kind of excited, right, because, let's face it, this is the most exciting speech of the week and certainly the most interesting. So what I like to do is come down—by the way, I know the press generally likes it because it is normally a signal that it is the end of the week. Everybody is going home. This is usually the last speech of the week. I think this might be the last speech of the year this year.

What we do with the Alaskan of the Week, we talk a little bit about what is going on in Alaska—I will get to that—and then I like to highlight someone who is doing something great for my State. It might be, you know, someone local. Our first Alaskan of the Week, I think, was a librarian who had been a librarian for 40 years—amazing woman—and then we have superstar world athletes, gold medalists in swimming, and things like that. So we just cover the whole gamut.

Now, usually there is a poster board. I made this a very special Alaskan of the Week poster board. This might be the first time ever it has got Santa on it, and you are going to see why—a Santa-oriented speech.

So, of course, right now, I am getting ready to head home in a couple of hours. I was just home over the weekend. There are no worries in Alaska right now about a white Christmas. Anchorage, my hometown, I think we have had close to 100 inches of snow already. Look, for us, that is a lot. I am talking about November, right. So we have a white Christmas coming, for sure.

It is magical, of course, in Alaska. We have got reindeer. We have got one that actually lives in downtown Anchorage. We have visitors coming. We have got a great town called North Pole, AK—North Pole, AK—and we have the Santa Claus House in North Pole, where Santa lives. By the way, this is true. This is what my Alaskan of the Week speech is all about.

If you write a letter to Santa addressed to the North Pole, your letter will end up at the Santa Claus House in North Pole, AK. Why wouldn't it?

By the way, this house is not to be confused with the abode of a North Pole city council member. North Pole, AK, is a city a little bit north of Fairbanks. This city council member, by the way, his name is Santa Claus. His legal name is Santa Claus. He is a member of the city council. I know him well. Look, I am not ripping him. He is a BERNIE SANDERS Socialist, true. Now, why wouldn't he be? You know, the guy gives out free gifts to everybody. That is true. He is a good guy.

So, Santa, if you are watching, hello—Santa Claus, city council member, North Pole.

But in all seriousness, Interior Alaska—this is in the interior part of our State—has the greatest, most kind people and generous. And in keeping with the spirit of Christmas, our Alaskan of the Week is the Miller family who is the owner of Santa Claus House in North Pole, AK, which has been a fixture in our State—and really for the country—for over 70 years—70 years. The Miller family founded Santa Claus House and has been running it for 70 years, making North Pole, AK, literally what it is today. They built the whole community.

Let me help you get into the holiday spirit by describing just how magical the Santa Claus House in North Pole, AK, really is. If you drive down Saint Nicholas Drive—I am not kidding—by St. Nicholas Catholic Church, by the way, you will see a huge house lined with red trim and murals of a reindeer and Santa's sleigh. Just outside is a barn with a real reindeer, a massive, decked-out Christmas tree, and a 42-foot-tall Santa Claus statue welcoming you to Santa's workshop.

The magic does not end there. Inside the house, you are greeted by a Christmas tree decorated with every ornament you can imagine, a live countdown to Christmas Day—of course. Why wouldn't there be one every day of the year—and a professional Santa Claus ready to hear every Christmas wish from the thousands of visitors—and I am not just talking Alaskans but Americans, people from all over the world who visit Santa Claus House in North Pole, AK, every year. And you are also likely to meet and see several members of the extended Miller family working to make the Santa Claus House the winter wonderland it is. They have been doing it for four generations, keeping the spirit of Christmas alive.

Let me take you back four generations to the original founder of Santa Claus House. That is Con and Nellie Miller. Born in 1913, Con and his mother just didn't see eye to eye. They decided that it was best that he join the Navy.

He joined when he was 15—a little young. This is just in the great Alaska spirit. You know, I have talked about it a lot over the years. We have more veterans per capita than any State in the country, so being in the military and a veteran is very normal in Alaska. It is a great part of our culture.

This young guy Con left Colorado and spent 3 years in the Navy, starting at the age of 15. How he got in, I have no idea. He was on a gun boat in China. Then he got out. Then Pearl Harbor happened. And of course he is a patriot so he rejoined the Navy. He fought in the South Pacific during the Second World War—so a great American, “greatest generation” individual, Con Miller.

After the war ended, Con and his wife Nellie ended up in Fairbanks with the goal of running a clothing store. To supplement their income, Con sold

clothes in the surrounding rural villages, often donning a red Santa suit each Christmas. He quickly earned celebrity status as the local Santa Claus in Interior Alaska—the first that many children had ever seen—ever—in rural Alaska.

In 1952, the Millers built a trading post 13 miles south—sorry, if I said north—south of Fairbanks in the newly named North Pole, AK. So just a little south of Fairbanks, the big city in the interior. One day, while working hard at his new store, a young Alaskan boy recognized Con and asked: Well, hello, Santa. Are you building a new house? The inspiration clicked, and Con thought, Hey, why not? Let's do this. And so the Santa Claus House was born.

In addition to purchasing groceries, locals could mingle at the soda fountain and pick up their daily mail at the Santa Claus House under the direction of the post mistress, Nellie Miller—Con's, a.k.a. Santa's, wife. It was a mail contract station that served North Pole's first post office for almost 20 years. So there you have it, North Pole, AK, became a post office for America.

The Miller family lived above the store and was essential to its operation. All three kids: Terry, Mike, and Merry—yes, Merry Christmas, spelled M-E-R-R-Y, not M-A-R-Y—worked alongside their parents. Despite their insight behind the scenes as employees, current owner and manager Mike said they believed in Santa as much as anyone else. Of course, they did. Everybody believes in Santa.

As North Pole grew—it is growing; it is a great community, like I said, just a few miles outside of Fairbanks—the Santa Claus House grew with it. Inside the store's emphasis on Christmas delights slowly replaced the aisles of canned goods. Meanwhile, the Miller family established themselves as pillars of the North Pole community—not only North Pole but all of Interior Alaska.

Con Miller served as the mayor of North Pole for 19 years—the city's longest serving mayor—while Nellie Miller acted as a marriage commissioner for the community. Back then, that was a real job, a marriage commissioner.

Eventually, both of their sons, Terry and Mike, also found politics. The late Terry Miller was a State legislator. He was president of the State senate and was elected to be our Lieutenant Governor in 1978. Mike, who was helping around the Santa Claus House, also served in the legislature as senate president from 1983 to 2001. This is a dominating political family in Alaska, two State senate presidents.

I knew the Millers. They are a great, great family. Both Miller brothers, very highly respected across the aisle. This is, and was, and has been a great family committed to public service.

Begun over 70 years ago by Con and Nellie Miller, the Santa Claus House

continues as following generations of Millers keep up that Christmas spirit and keep it thriving in North Pole, AK. It is still a family-run business.

Mike Miller is looking forward to the next generation continuing to run the family business with his daughter Carissa and son-in-law Paul and staffed by several grandchildren. Isn't this just a wonderful story? It really warms your heart as we head into the holiday season.

We all know Santa's job is a hard one, and it is also no small job running the Santa Claus House for the world. In addition to the family, there are between 40 and 60 employees year-round working there.

Besides being a delightful tourist attraction worldwide, the Santa Claus House understands the true meaning of Christmas and uses its name recognition for good works in the community, organizing food drives for the Fairbanks Food Bank that is used throughout Interior Alaska and many other charities.

Mike said: I think we have really worked hard to bring the spirit of Santa to our community, "the spirit of giving and family and caring about one another. I hope we have done a small slice [in this service] of helping people to realize that Christmas is about caring about one another, giving, and [about] being good neighbors."

That is Mike Miller.

They have done that in a huge way. They have done more than give a small slice. For the past 70 years, they have given their all toward spreading the magic, the wonder, and the joy of Christmas to Alaskans, to Americans, to people all over the world.

So thank you to the Miller family and to the incredible institution of the Santa Claus House in North Pole for making our State a more jolly place, a more generous place, a more caring place, and for keeping the spirit of Christmas alive—not just now during the holidays but year-round in the great State of Alaska.

And, of course, to the Millers and Santa Claus House, congratulations on being our Alaskan of the Week.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 2:30 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 6:11 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. BUTLER).

MORNING BUSINESS—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, and 414; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the en bloc nominations of Mark Toshiro Uyeda, of California, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2028 (Reappointment); Claudia Slacik, of New York, to be a Director of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation for a term expiring December 31, 2026 (Reappointment); William Brodsky, of Illinois, to be a Director of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation for a term expiring December 31, 2026 (Reappointment); Spencer Bachus III, of Alabama, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2027 (Reappointment); Tanya F. Otsuka, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board for a term expiring August 2, 2029; and Jennifer L. Fain, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 316, Tobin John Bradley, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Guatemala; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?