

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 anybody 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?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of 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.

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

The nomination was confirmed.

#### 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 nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 299, 320, and 413; 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 Tadd M. Johnson, of Minnesota, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation for a term expiring October 6, 2028 (Reappointment); Rion J. Ramirez, of Washington, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation for a term expiring May 26, 2025; and Bradford Pentony Wilson, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation for a term expiring September 27, 2026?

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. 371, David E. White, Jr., to be Deputy Director of the Peace Corps;

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 the Senate resume legislative session.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of David E. White, Jr., of New York, to be Deputy Director of the Peace Corps.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

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

The nomination was confirmed.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

#### NOMINATIONS REMAINING IN STATUS QUO

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that all the nominations received by the Senate during the 118th Congress, first session, remain in status quo, notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXXI, paragraph 6, of the Standing Rules of the Senate with the following exceptions: Calendar Nos. 32, 54, 60, 63, 68, 70, 72, 77, 78, 80, 109, 115, 140, 145, 151, 155, 156, 158, 168, 169, 170, 172, 173, 208, 217, 247, 268, 269, 270, 275, 301, 302, 303, 312, 313, 314, 315, 321, 322, 323, 353, 355, 368, 369, 399, 408, 409, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 439, 440, 446, and PN Nos. 11, 12, 34, 50, 57, 63, 100, 107, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 132, 133, 182, 189, 190, 194, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 358, 384, 549, 577, 637, 869, 919, 928, 929, 1016, 1018, 1019, 1026, 1043, 1047, 1099, 1100, 1101, 1102, 1104, 1105, 1131, 1132, 1133, 1134, 1151, 1155, 1156, 1157, 1158, and 1159.

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

#### CONGRATULATING THE COLUMBUS CREW FOR WINNING THE 2023 MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER CUP

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 517, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 517) congratulating the Columbus Crew for winning the 2023 Major League Soccer Cup.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered

made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 517) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S.J. RES. 50

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII and 5 United States Code 802, at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader, no later than January 31, 2024, if S.J. Res. 50 is discharged from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, it be in order for Senator TILLIS or his designee to move to proceed to the consideration of S.J. Res. 50; further, that if the motion is agreed to, there be 10 hours of debate, equally divided, between the proponents and opponents of the joint resolution; further, that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the joint resolution be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution; finally, that all other provisions under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, remain in effect except the 60 session day clock.

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

#### SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the junior Senator from Virginia and the senior Senator from Hawaii be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions from December 20, 2023, through January 8, 2024.

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

#### APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to Commissions, committees, Boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

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

Mr. SCHATZ. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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