

only do we need to get the Ambassador confirmed, but we need to have our contributions available so that the multinational force that Kenya is leading can be deployed and we can start to restore order in Haiti so that a transitional government has a possibility of restoring the order necessary to avoid the current crisis and be able to address the humanitarian needs and stability that the people of Haiti so badly need. But it starts with us confirming the Ambassador, and we have a chance to do that with this next vote.

I am pleased that we have this opportunity today, and I urge my colleagues to support this nomination.

VOTE ON HANKINS NOMINATION

With that, I ask unanimous consent that the vote that was supposed to start at 12 noon start immediately.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Hankins nomination?

Mr. CARDIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

The result was announced—yeas 89, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 92 Ex.]

YEAS—89

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Murray
Barraso	Graham	Ossoff
Bennet	Grassley	Padilla
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Blumenthal	Hassan	Peters
Booker	Hawley	Reed
Braun	Heinrich	Ricketts
Britt	Hickenlooper	Risch
Brown	Hirono	Romney
Budd	Hoeven	Rosen
Butler	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cantwell	Johnson	Sanders
Capito	Kaine	Schatz
Cardin	Kelly	Schmitt
Carper	King	Schumer
Casey	Klobuchar	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Lankford	Sinema
Collins	Lee	Smith
Coons	Lujan	Stabenow
Cornyn	Lummis	Tester
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Duckworth	Menendez	Van Hollen
Durbin	Merkley	Vance
Ernst	Moran	Warner
Fetterman	Murkowski	Warkock
Fischer	Murphy	

Warren	Whitehouse	Wyden
Welch	Wicker	Young

NAYS—1

Kennedy

NOT VOTING—10

Boozman	Markey	Shaheen
Cotton	Mullin	Sullivan
Cramer	Rubio	
Daines	Scott (SC)	

The nomination was confirmed.

(Mr. KING assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). 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.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Nicole G. Berner, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

TRIBUTE TO DALLAS SEAVEY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I am here today for a really fun update. Some of you have been here before when I have had occasion to speak about the Last Great Race. The Last Great Race in Alaska is really all about the Iditarod.

I note the presence of my friend from Vermont, who was sitting where the Presiding Officer is last year, and he was so captivated by the story of the Iditarod. He said: Lisa, when you come back and you give the great announcement, let me know.

So I am pleased to be able to regale you with yet another Iditarod.

This is an extraordinary tradition—51 years in Alaska—where dogs and mushers have left the starting in the Willow, Wasilla area to head north on an almost 1,000-mile—and in some years, an over 1,000-mile race—test of a musher and K-9 against all of the elements.

And it is always a bit exciting, but this year, I am really excited to be able to announce that we have made history yet again with the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. Dallas Seavey has won for the sixth time in a row. This is the first time any musher has ever won more than five Iditarods. This extraordinary young man from an extraordinary mushing family has made history in a way that is absolutely worth celebrating.

Again, for those who are not familiar with the Iditarod, it is about a 1,000-mile sled dog race. It goes from the Anchorage area, where we host the ceremonial start—I was there a couple of weeks ago—and then they begin their actual race the following day, on Sunday.

They proceed all the way up to Nome, and this is not easy terrain. You

are going over mountains. You are going over ice on the ocean. You are going over rivers. The terrain is challenging, and, certainly, the temperatures are challenging. This year has been a test for all of our mushers. On certain parts of the trail, they were seeing temperatures down in the negative 40 degrees. When you get yourself moving behind a dog team and get that wind in your face, it is no pleasant journey by any stretch of the imagination. It is tough. It tests the mushers. It tests the canine athletes. But it is an extraordinary, extraordinary race that was based off of a relay effort to get diphtheria serum to Nome during an outbreak in the 1920s. We no longer carry the diphtheria serum, but we carry strong messages about, again, the role of working dogs, the role that mushers and their teams have had in a State like Alaska.

I want to speak a little bit about the Seavey family because, as we are celebrating and recognizing Dallas's extraordinary achievements, having won now six Iditarods, it is important to know that he comes to this race with the Iditarod literally in his veins.

The family tradition started back in 1973. This was the very first Iditarod, and Dallas's grandfather participated in that race. Dan Seavey ran the very first Iditarod. He ended up placing third—pretty respectable, absolutely—but he stayed with it. He stayed with the Iditarod, and he raced in four additional Iditarod races.

Then there is Dan's son, Mitch Seavey, who took the reins from his dad. He started his own racing kennel, and Mitch went on to win three Iditarods himself. He raced in a total of 28 different Iditarods. That is a lot of racing. That is a commitment to the race.

Mitch had four sons, three of which have taken on the Iditarod themselves. The oldest, Danny Seavey, raced three times in the Iditarod; Tyrell Seavey, he has raced twice; and then, of course, Dallas, who has competed in a total of 14 Iditarods. I think it is also worth noting that Dallas's wife, Jen, has also herself competed in the Iditarod. So this is a family, again, who is extraordinarily committed and dedicated to dog racing and, particularly, with the Iditarod.

I think it is somewhat unique to know that it was just a couple of years ago that Dallas and Mitch—his dad—were competing in the same race. How many different sports activities, competitions—intense competitions—do you see a father and a son as competitors? It is really quite remarkable how the Seaveys came to this race and how they have committed to it.

When Dallas started racing in the Iditarod, he was the youngest competitor when he entered the race. It was just 2 weeks before his 18th birthday. So he started pretty young and has stayed in it since 2005.

At 25, he became the youngest competitor to win the Iditarod. He also

holds the record for the fastest Iditarod ran. This was set back in 2021. In that race—the fastest race ever—he completed that race in 7 days, 14 hours, and 51 seconds—7 days to race 1,000 miles. So, now, with his sixth win, he has overtaken another five-time champion, Rick Swenson, for the most Iditarod championships of all.

Dallas is going to be inducted into the Alaska Sports Hall of Fame this year, which, again, is certainly appropriate, given all of his accomplishments.

One of the things that is so great about the Iditarod, one of the things that is so great about these mushers, is they will tell you: It is not about me. I am the individual who is standing on the sled. I am making sure that they are getting the water, the food, the rest that they need. But this is about the mushers. This is about the canine athletes.

Dallas gives due credit to the lead dogs that got him through the race: Arrow, Sebastian, and occasionally, one of his older dogs, Prophet. He kind of joked. He says: You know, just about every dog on my team could be that leader—except one. Frank, apparently, is the name of the one. Dallas says: Not that he won't do it. He will run right up there. I just don't trust him. He would rather pee on things. That is Frank. He runs in the back.

So we all have different challenges with friends and people who we work with. And sometimes the people who we work with are not people, but they are dogs. Frank is exactly in the place that he needs to be.

There is never an Iditarod where there isn't a story that captivates—captivates—the news. The weather was significant. I mentioned the 45 below. You come to a place on the ocean where they are going across ice. There is an area where it is so windy they call it the blow hole. There are accounts of several of the mushers not being able to see their hands in front of their face, much less the dogs in front of them. The markers on the trail are gone. The winds are so intense that it blows the sleds and the mushers off the trail. This is not easy stuff. That is toward the later end of the trail.

One of the incidents that got everyone's attention was just about at the first 100 miles. Our champion, Dallas Seavey, is coming down the trail, and there is a blind spot, a blind corner, that he comes around. And right there, in front of him, in the middle of the trail, is a moose. Moose and sled dogs and teams do not get along well. The moose are ornery and cranky. The dogs are looking at them and barking at the moose. It is not a good combo. Dallas knows that this is not good. But the moose kind of gives the first half of the team—he has 16 dogs in harness. The moose kind of gives the first half of the team the go-ahead but then turns around and starts charging the latter half of his team.

We have had dogs that have been severely injured and have died on the

trail because of moose attacks. They are just ferocious and cranky, particularly this time of year when the snow has been so deep and it is just hard for the moose to walk. So Dallas does what he needs to do. He dispatches the moose. He has a revolver, and he takes it out of the sled.

There are actually rules of the Iditarod that tell you what you have to do if you encounter an animal that you need to take out that is threatening yourself or your team. The rules require that if it is an edible animal, you have to gut it properly and notify the authorities at the next checkpoint.

Remember, this guy has won five Iditarods. He wants to win the sixth. He has got a mission, and gutting a moose was not necessarily part of his travel plan. But he gets out his knife, and he guts the moose. In his own words, he doesn't do the best job that he could, but he does an acceptable job. He then moves on.

Keep in mind, he is one man with 16 dogs that are in a bit of a tizzy because you've got a moose on the trail; you have heard a gun; you now have blood. They are in the middle of a race. They want to go. Dallas Seavey is not going to be able to haul that moose off the trail. So he leaves the moose on the trail. He goes up to the checkpoint ahead and notifies them that there is a moose on the trail.

Three mushers come behind, the same blind corner. They come around the corner. The dogs see this thing in the trail and leap over it like horses going over a jump. The sleds are flying. The stories of the mushers about it being almost surreal to be using this moose like a speed bump.

Anyway, the story ends that the moose was taken to the village and shared with the villagers. So it was good use of the moose. But it is one of those things that you think: Wow, only in Alaska.

What has not been shared as much as the dispatch of the moose, however, was the very first musher to come around that same blind corner and see the moose in the trail. He was able to stop his team quick enough—Jessie Holmes. Jessie sees the moose. He needs to get the moose off the trail. He punches the moose in the nose.

Now, I don't know whether that is bravado; I don't know whether the moose just looked like he needed a punch in the nose. But, anyway, Jessie was able to move past the moose safely with his team.

These are some of the things that make the stories interesting and amazing. A lot of people swear like that is the craziest thing ever. Why would you do it?

I think it is important to note that Dallas not only won in 9 days, 2 hours, 16 minutes, and 8 seconds, he did so—he finished ahead of Matt Hall, who came in in 9 days, 6 hours, and 57 minutes. So Dallas was 4-hours-plus ahead, and he did that with a 2-hour penalty that he received from the Iditarod for not prop-

erly gutting the moose. So the Seavey stories continue.

Dallas's time—again, think about it. Think about it, my friends. We do some things around here where we say this is a long slog. When you are standing behind a sled, when you are running next to your team, when you are guiding them through not only extreme, bitter temperatures but howling winds, to be on your feet for about 9 days, 2 hours, 16 minutes, and 8 seconds—Dallas finished with a total of 10 dogs in harness. Their average speed was 4.42 miles, so they are clipping along. It is a tough, tough, tough endeavor.

There are some stories from other mushers that you hear. A rookie musher, Josi Thyr—she is still on the trail right now. But she was having trouble staying awake going across the frozen Yukon, so she switched her sled up to a version where she could kind of sit down. She is on the flat of the river, and you are literally falling asleep behind your dogs. That is trust. That is trust, when you know your animals can take you, guide you, while you get a few minutes catnap. But it is tough when you are doing that.

I mentioned Josi as a woman there. I think another history-making fact for this year's Iditarod is that four women finished in the top 10 of the Iditarod. This was the most ever women in the race's history to finish in the top 10. We had Paige Drobny, who came in fourth; Mille Porsild, who finished seventh; Amanda Otto, eighth; and Jessie Royer, who finished tenth. The top 20 for the Iditarod has seven women this year.

A lot of times you think, in order to do this extreme sport, in order to handle a dozen dogs, in order to take all of this on, you have to be some tough, burly guy. Women are doing an extraordinary and exceptional job.

One of my dear friends and a long-time musher, DeeDee Jonrowe, mushed 33 separate Iditarods. DeeDee is about 5 foot 2 and maybe 100 pounds, blonde hair, and blue eyes—a great, beautiful woman, 70 years old. She didn't mush the Iditarod this year, but she did the snowmachine trail all the way up. Just go out for a 1,000-mile snowmachine ride. Tough women, let me tell you.

There were 16 rookies in the race this year. Four of those rookies have dropped out, 2 have finished, 10 are still racing. So right now, as we speak, there are 11 mushers still out on the trail. Seven mushers total have dropped out, and 20 mushers have finished the race so far. So it is an extraordinary endeavor.

As the rest of the teams finish up, we are praying for their safety, and I am sure they are praying for a little bit of a nap when they come in. But congratulations and commendations to everybody who participates in this. There are no losers. They are all winners. From the mushers to the dogs to the amazing volunteers—very few paid staff, but the volunteers who come, whether it is to put on the banquets,

whether it is to be dog handlers, whether it is to help make sure that there is straw for teams in certain locations, the Iditarod Air Force—which is an all-volunteer Air Force that helps move everything along the way—the veterinarians who come from all around the country to volunteer a week of their time to make sure that the dogs' care is taken care of, those in the communities who come out, who sponsor gourmet meals for the first-place person to come into Cripple, or in Unalakleet, the pizza place that is called Peace on Earth, where if I want to make sure that a particular musher gets a nice, hot pizza when they come into Unalakleet, I can call up. They will write a nice message on the box and give it to the musher when they come in—so it is everybody coming together to make this extraordinary event possible.

Nothing better captures the grit, the determination, the ruggedness, the perseverance, the spirit, or just the sheer audacity of Alaskans. So I am delighted to be able to come and celebrate Dallas Seavey and the Iditarod once again.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

AMERICORPS WEEK

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, volunteerism and service have long defined the very heart of the American spirit.

It was Alexis de Tocqueville, in the middle of the 19th century, at really the dawn of the modern American Republic, who observed that it was the willingness to take initiative, to get engaged, to roll up your sleeves and get to work helping to build your community that distinguished the people of this new continent from the Old World. And I will say I have seen it myself.

I am here to celebrate the 30th anniversary of America's national service program, something called AmeriCorps. It was created in a bipartisan effort at the end of the George W. Bush administration and at the beginning of the Bill Clinton administration. There was a concerted bipartisan effort to recognize that models around the country that showed the impact on young Americans of spending a year of their lives in service to others were worth expanding and replicating.

This week, actually, happens to be AmeriCorps Week—March 10 to March 16—and we are celebrating 30 years of service.

I have just introduced a bipartisan and bicameral resolution with Senator CASSIDY, Congresswoman MATSUI, and Congressman GRAVES. And, as I mentioned, AmeriCorps has been bipartisan from the start, and I look forward to continuing its future in a bipartisan way.

I have long had a connection to AmeriCorps, going back to one of the first national direct AmeriCorps programs that I ran with the "I Have a Dream" Foundation in the mid-1990s.

When I was working for "I Have a Dream," we had 150 AmeriCorps members serving in 10 cities, doing after-school programming and summer programming for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. It is one of many ways in which young Americans participating in AmeriCorps have contributed to their community, have developed their skills, and have earned money for college.

Years later, when I was a county executive, I launched the New Castle County Emergency Services Corps to help strengthen the volunteer fire service in my home community. There are dozens of volunteer fire companies in Delaware, and they have often served as the backbone not just of the first responder community but of every community.

I grew up in a very small town named Hockessin, and that siren going off in the middle of the night from our volunteer fire company was a reminder to me of the call that is at the very foundation of our Nation, to get up in the middle of the night, to jump in your truck, and to drive down to the fire hall and to take on the risk of serving and saving your neighbor.

Recruiting, training, and supporting AmeriCorps members through the "I Have a Dream" Program was one of the most rewarding opportunities in my life. I, actually, for many years, served on the commission that directs and oversees AmeriCorps in Delaware, and it was through that service that I met my wife.

Over 1 million Americans have served in AmeriCorps since 1994. Delaware, today, alone has more than 361 traditional AmeriCorps members and more than 900 AmeriCorps seniors, and they do a wide range of things: from tutoring children to responding to disasters, improving and rebuilding housing, helping veterans, and much more.

Let me briefly mention two currently serving members of AmeriCorps in Delaware:

Sharron, an adult literacy instructor who works with Literacy Delaware, teaches English to our newest Americans. She spoke of the joy an immigrant mother felt when the school administrator called to tell her about her son—and to communicate something positive about his progress in school—and she could understand everything for the first time, as she was coming to master English without an interpreter.

Shristi, an academic coach at TeenSHARP, a college access program for underrepresented high school students, spoke of how fulfilling it was to help young men and women in Delaware, just as she herself had benefited from similar mentoring and tutoring.

These two examples are a reminder of what more than 1 million AmeriCorps members over 30 years have experienced—that service brings America together. It helps us bridge our divides.

AmeriCorps has organized, for decades now, an annual 9/11 Day of Service that brings people of all backgrounds

together to be reminded of what citizenship means in our Nation: service to others.

As we reflect on 30 years, I think it needs to be a call for all of us to engage in the work of service; to take up the challenge of reauthorizing, strengthening, and expanding AmeriCorps as a program; and to recognize that the best thing we can do for our Nation is to get committed to each other through national service.

Congratulations to all who have served in AmeriCorps over the last 30 years and to the millions more Americans whose future will be enlivened, brightened, and strengthened through the opportunity to serve.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following Senators be permitted to speak prior to the scheduled vote: YOUNG for up to 5 minutes, BARRASSO for up to 7 minutes, STABENOW for up to 5 minutes, and CARDIN for up to 3 minutes.

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

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, during his State of the Union Address last week, President Biden spoke about solving the ongoing humanitarian crisis at our southern border, and he mentioned the name of Laken Riley. Laken Riley, as my colleagues know, lost her life—lost her life—because of that humanitarian crisis.

Laken was a 22-year-old college student. She was murdered by an illegal alien last month. The illegal alien had been previously cited for theft and shoplifting but was released.

Those who knew her described Laken as a shining light and kindhearted. Her calling in life was to care for others, and she was on her way to answering that calling, studying nursing at Augusta University, when she was murdered—murdered by a Venezuelan national who crossed our border illegally.

To Laken's family and friends: Your fellow Americans grieve with you. We are saddened by your loss. We pray and we hope that, in time, you will find comfort. We should all find comfort in the example that Laken leaves behind.

But let me not be the first to say—let me add my voice to the chorus of voices in emphasizing that words of condolence are not enough. It is far better for us to honor Laken's life by doing everything—everything—within our power to ensure that no other family endures this or a similar tragedy.

So to President Biden, who said after his speech that he shouldn't have referred to Laken's murderer as an "illegal," and to any of my colleagues who are offended by the use of that term: Let us dispense with misplaced outrage. Let's stop playing political word games. Let's speak as plainly as possible. The man who killed Laken Riley broke the law when he walked across our southern border. He shouldn't have been in our country. He was an illegal