

country. The upper half of this tree is already covered in Christmas lights and is visible through Plexiglass in the 85-foot custom-built trailer which serves as a gigantic autograph book that has collected thousands of signatures across the country from Americans and Christmas enthusiasts all across our great Nation.

Let's talk about these two great Alaskans, our Alaskans of the Week.

Fred first. Transporting a tree of this size that many miles requires, like I said, a crack team, which is why Fred and John were chosen. Two Teamsters—get this—with a combined trucking experience of over 130 years. Do the math. These guys know how to drive trucks. Fred has been trucking for 71 years. He is only 89 years old right now, born in 1935. A good year for wine, he says. Fred started trucking at the age of 18. He is literally probably the most experienced truck driver in America driving that tree.

Like so many Alaskans, Fred is a veteran. By the way, Alaska has more veterans per capita than any State in the country. We are very proud of that, our patriotic heritage in Alaska. And I would venture to guess that there are few Navy veterans still around today who were part of the U.S. Navy blockade during the Cuban Missile Crisis, a big point in American history. Guess what? Fred was. He served on the USS *Mullinnix* and was in the Navy 6 years. He was defending democracy then and spreading Christmas cheer now.

Fred literally has done it all. Fred came to Alaska with his family in the mid-sixties and—no kidding—settled in North Pole, AK, a very fitting hometown for what would be his task today, delivering America's Christmas tree.

Some of you "Alaskan of the Week" fans might remember the Alaskan of the Week about a year ago, last December, when I spoke about the North Pole, Alaska's Miller family, and their Santa Claus house.

So, again, Americans, you want to come up and see a part of our great State, come to North Pole, AK, in the interior. The Santa Claus House is still going strong. If you write a letter addressed to Santa in the North Pole, your letter will end up at the Santa Claus House in Fred's hometown. When you get a reply, it is postmarked North Pole, AK—no kidding.

So why did Fred decide to head north to the great State of Alaska? He said:

It's in our blood to go find the frontier. That's been the history of the world. It was time [for me] to go north.

Now he is making this almost 5,000-mile trip to bring the Last Frontier to Washington, DC.

Driving down south is an experience for Fred, much different than driving in the Last Frontier. Fred says that there are "lots of highways and traffic. At home in Alaska, if you want to beat rush hour, you just have one more cup of coffee." There are not a lot of traffic jams in our State. Down here, it is a lot more coffee, pots of coffee.

This is his first year transporting the Christmas tree, and he said that the best part has been watching the reaction of people seeing the tree on the road or at one of the town stops.

Like I said, there have been thousands of people watching this incredible Alaskan tree going across the country.

Fred said:

People come out to watch the truck [and tree] go by. They wave at us to honk our horn.

We are loving it. And the tree, of course, at 85 feet, is hard to miss for "prepping the country for the holiday spirit."

Accompanying Fred is John Shank, also an Alaskan and a Capitol Christmas tree delivery veteran. By the way, he is probably the only veteran. And I am not talking about military veteran; I am talking about, he has delivered the Christmas tree before, driving a truck. This is John's second time delivering Alaska's Christmas tree for the country. So go figure on that one—he is probably the only guy in the history of the country who has done this twice. He did it in 2015, which, by the way, was the only other time an Alaskan Christmas tree has made it for the Capitol Christmas tree since the tree-lighting ceremony officially began in 1964.

But this drive is nothing compared to the 6 million miles John has banked during his nearly 50-year trucking career. Again, these guys, these Teamsters, these great Teamsters are some of the best truck drivers in the country.

I said 6 million miles. For reference, there are only 17,600 miles of public roads in Alaska. During his career, John has effectively driven one of Alaska's public roads more than 340 times. Go figure that one out.

Originally from Michigan but raised by his family in Fairbanks, John's regular route as a trucker for Lynden, which is a great Alaskan transportation company—the route he has usually done is from Fairbanks to the oilfields up in Prudhoe Bay.

By the way, those of you who watched the different Alaska reality shows, those are the ice road truckers—great show. Tough duty, by the way, driving a truck from Fairbanks up to the North Slope, hundreds of miles in the winter, on ice.

John has done this so well that he was nominated for the American Trucking Association Driver of the Year—not Alaskan Driver of the Year, American Driver of the Year—both in 2014 and in 2017.

John came to Alaska in 1975 to transport food for dog mushing veterans but also likes to say that he came up to Alaska "for the adventure. And I've been here ever since." It is such a great State.

He said the highlight of his trip so far across the country was their stop in Indiana, where he reunited with almost 30 members of his extended family in the Hoosier State who had been track-

ing the tree and, of course, their fellow family member John on his trip all the way to Washington, DC.

The tree is a family event all around. During the scheduled stops along the drive, families throughout America—thousands of them—have come to admire the tree and get excited about Christmas. "Seeing family, seeing kids looking at the tree with rosy cheeks," John said, reminds us it is Christmas-time.

So there you have it—two jolly Alaskan men—one literally from North Pole, AK—spreading special Alaskan Christmas cheer with this beautiful tree right here across America as they transport America's Christmas tree, Alaska's Christmas tree, to Washington, DC. All they are missing are some reindeer. See them right here? You know, in Alaska, we get a lot of reindeer. I am sure my State would happily loan a few reindeer down here to DC. You can come see them yourself, by the way, up in our State. One of them, Star, a reindeer, actually lives in downtown Anchorage and is always welcoming to visitors.

But in all seriousness, the tree, as I mentioned, will be arriving here in Washington, DC, tomorrow. Alaskans from across the State have been working for months on the over 5,000 decorations that will go on this tree. It is going to be beautiful. It is going to reach for the heavens, light up the night sky here in DC. An Alaskan tree in our Nation's Capital will truly mark the beginning of a joyful holiday season for all of us.

So thank you, Fred and John, for taking this enormous trek to bring the Capitol Christmas tree and a whole truckload of Christmas spirit across America to DC.

Thanks to all the Alaskans who helped make this happen.

Thanks to the Teamsters who keep our State and country's economy rolling strong.

Fred and John, Merry Christmas and congratulations on one of the highest honors anyone in America can achieve—our Alaskan of the Week. Great job, gentlemen. We will see you tomorrow out there with your Christmas tree.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. HELMY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Executive Calendar Nos. 821 through 826 and 828, 829, 830, 831, with the exception of Brig. Gen. Walker M. Field and Brig. Gen. Jason G. Woodworth, 832 and 833, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening

action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

#### IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

##### *To be brigadier general*

Col. Jacob L. Hammons

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

##### *To be brigadier general*

Col. Daniel S. Zevitz

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

##### *To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Daniel D. Boyack

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

##### *To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Ricky L. Mills

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

##### *To be major general*

Brig. Gen. David B. Johnson

#### IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

##### *To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Eugene D. Cox

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

##### *To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Kevin F. Meisler

Brig. Gen. Dean P. Thompson

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

##### *To be brigadier general*

Col. Freddy L. Adams, II

Col. Michael J. Adamski

Col. Jared D. Bordwell

Col. Kevin D. Bradley

Col. Donald K. Brooks

Col. Stephen E. Capehart

Col. Adam M. Cobb

Col. John K. Curry

Col. Daniel J. Duncan

Col. Antwan L. Dunmyer

Col. Anthony R. Gibbs

Col. Peter L. Gilbert

Col. Matthew J. Hardman

Col. Glenn A. Henke

Col. Jason K. Jefferis

Col. Eric M. Johnson

Col. Michael R. Kaloostian

Col. Sean P. Kelly

Col. Andrew J. Kiser

Col. David M. Kobs

Col. Stephen J. Kolouch

Col. Travis L. McIntosh

Col. Jason H. Rosenstrauch

Col. Matthew S. Ross

Col. Sean F. Stinchon

Col. Jack S. Taylor

Col. Kevin M. Trujillo

Col. Jonathan M. Velishka

Col. George H. Walter, Jr.

Col. Annemarie R. Wiersgalla

#### IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

##### *To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Robert C. Fulford

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

##### *To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Adam L. Chalkley

Brig. Gen. Joseph R. Clearfield

Brig. Gen. Mark H. Clingan

Brig. Gen. Kyle B. Ellison

Brig. Gen. Anthony M. Henderson

Brig. Gen. Matthew T. Mowery

Brig. Gen. Andrew M. Nebel

Brig. Gen. Farrell J. Sullivan

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

##### *To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Mark A. Cunningham

Brig. Gen. Valerie A. Jackson

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

##### *To be brigadier general*

Col. Joseph A. Katz

Col. David K. Winnacker

#### NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

#### IN THE AIR FORCE

PN2174 AIR FORCE nomination of Israel David King, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2175 AIR FORCE nomination of Kimberly N. Tong, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2176 AIR FORCE nominations (5) beginning SAPNA GOPALASUBRAMANIAN, and ending MARCUS J. THEUS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2177 AIR FORCE nomination of Eric C. Cheng, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2178 AIR FORCE nomination of Joseph S. Dennis, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2179 AIR FORCE nomination of Kim E. Winter, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2180 AIR FORCE nomination of Katie E. Grimley, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2181 AIR FORCE nomination of Keenan E. Dalrymple, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2182 AIR FORCE nomination of Kathryn J. Lynn, which was received by the Senate

and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2183 AIR FORCE nomination of Jonathan D. Hare, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2184 AIR FORCE nomination of Aaron D. Ware, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2185 AIR FORCE nomination of James L. Gresham, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2186 AIR FORCE nomination of Juan D. Jurado, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

#### IN THE ARMY

PN2143 ARMY nominations (2) beginning JASON S. HAWKSWORTH, and ending RICHARD Y. YOON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 18, 2024.

PN2189 ARMY nomination of Paul K. Wyatt, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2190 ARMY nomination of Sun Ryu, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2191 ARMY nominations (27) beginning RAYMOND R. ADAMS, III, and ending MARC W. ZELNICK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2192 ARMY nomination of Laura M. Newell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2193 ARMY nomination of Anthony L. Mark, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2194 ARMY nomination of Shawn A. Vele, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2195 ARMY nomination of Adam C. Weece, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2197 ARMY nominations (16) beginning ROSHAN O. BALACHANDRAN, and ending KATHRYN E. WITWER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2198 ARMY nominations (2) beginning STEPHEN R. SCHIFFMAN, and ending JULIE A. WORTHINGTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2199 ARMY nominations (59) beginning DANIEL R. BEAUDRY, and ending REGINA R. WIND, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2200 ARMY nomination of Trent J. Elliott, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2201 ARMY nomination of Matthew J. Morrow, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2202 ARMY nominations (7) beginning EDWARD AHN, and ending LASHAWNA D. WALLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2203 ARMY nomination of David P. Sensiba, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2204 ARMY nomination of Seung H. Hong, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2205 ARMY nominations (10) beginning FRANK L. ANALLA, and ending RANDALL T. STANFORD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2206 ARMY nominations (3) beginning LINDEN L. BOYER, III, and ending WADE W. PRESTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2207 ARMY nominations (5) beginning WILLIAM J. BENSON, III, and ending SAMUEL P. OLIVER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2208 ARMY nomination of Ian C. Mull, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2209 ARMY nominations (2) beginning TEAH E. KARAMATH, and ending Chad K. Kawakami, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2210 ARMY nomination of Joseph J. Danyeur, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2211 ARMY nomination of Terry W. Fry, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2212 ARMY nomination of Michael A. Grygar, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2213 ARMY nomination of Jason A. Quash, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2214 ARMY nomination of Ethan M. Orwin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2215 ARMY nomination of Bryan M. Wierson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

#### IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN2093 MARINE CORPS nomination of James F. Haunty, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2216 MARINE CORPS nominations (746) beginning JON R. ABEL, and ending HAILEY D. ZIEGLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

#### IN THE NAVY

PN2217 NAVY nomination of Christopher K. Kim, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2218 NAVY nomination of John M. Connally, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2219 NAVY nomination of Jory S. Morr, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2220 NAVY nomination of Andrew R. DeMaio, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2221 NAVY nomination of Conor C. Hozey, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2222 NAVY nomination of Michael J. Klauer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2223 NAVY nomination of John T. Blum, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2224 NAVY nomination of Jane E. Shelley, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

#### IN THE SPACE FORCE

PN2225 SPACE FORCE nomination of Christopher K. Jordan, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2226 SPACE FORCE nomination of Paul Blocker, III, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

PN2227 SPACE FORCE nominations (5) beginning ALEXANDER L. HANSEN, and ending DAKOTA J. SAWYER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2024.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. HELMY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in 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.

### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. CARDIN. Madam 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 still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an 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, Washington, DC

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 24-0V. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 18-03 of July 10, 2018.

Sincerely,

J. AARON HARDING  
(For Michael F. Miller, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-0V

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of the United Kingdom.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 18-03; Date: July 10, 2018; Implementing Agency: Air Force.

(iv) Description: On July 10, 2018, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 18-03, of the possible sale under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act of up to two hundred (200) AIM-120D Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM). This sale also included missile containers; weapon system support equipment; support and test equipment; site survey; transportation; repair and return support; warranties; spare and repair parts; publications and technical documentation; maintenance and personnel training; training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, logistics, and technical support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated cost was \$650 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$600 million of this total.

On March 12, 2019, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 0C-19, of the addition of Major Defense Equipment items from what was originally notified: one (1) AMRAAM AIM-120D Integrated Test Vehicle (ITV) and ten (10) AMRAAM Instrumented Air Vehicles. Additionally, this transmittal updated the notification of non-MDE to add embedded communication security devices. The addition of these items resulted in a net increase in cost of MDE of \$18 million, resulting in a revised MDE cost of \$618 million. The total case value remained \$650 million.

This transmittal notifies the inclusion of the following MDE items: fifty-six (56) AIM-120D Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM); and four (4) AIM-120 AMRAAM guidance sections. The following non-MDE items will also be included: weapons system support and weapons support equipment. The estimated total value of the new items is \$174 million but will not result in an increase to the estimated total case value of \$650 million. The estimated total MDE value will remain at \$618 million of this total.

(v) Significance: This notification is being provided as the additional MDE items represents an increase in quantity over what was previously notified.

(vi) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a key NATO Ally that is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology: The Sensitivity of Technology statement contained in the original notification applies to items reported here.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 20, 2024.

### COP29

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, world leaders and other high-ranking officials from nearly 200 countries have been in Baku, Azerbaijan, this week in pursuit of an agreement on financing of future actions necessary to avert a global catastrophe caused by climate