

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 13, 2019, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

RECOGNIZING SOUTH 40 SMOKEHOUSE

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, it is said that the quickest route to a man's heart is through his stomach. I tried to prove that today at lunch when I supplied barbecue for all the Members of the Senate, Republican and Democratic.

For the 11th year in a row, I have done that, and I have done it for a very specific reason. Tonight, when you listen to the news on ABC or NBC or you read the newspaper, they will talk about a do-nothing Congress, and they will talk about how we never do anything and we don't get along and how we don't work, when, in fact, I know, because I have been here a long time, we work pretty hard. Now, we have a difficult time getting results sometimes, but that is because the issues are tough.

When you feed a man barbecue, and you have a tough issue to handle, you have a chance of getting it done, and tonight we did that.

All but three Members of the Senate were there, stayed the whole time, and the barbecue was outstanding. I want to pay tribute to the people from Marietta, GA, my hometown, who drove here for 2 nights and then cooked all night last night so the barbecue was absolutely fresh today when the Senate had it.

Dale Thornton is here, and Dale and his wife Tracey have a catering business called the South 40 Smokehouse in Marietta, GA. If you have ever eaten good barbecue that has the best rub, the best smoke, best tenderness, best temperature, South 40 has it. They are fantastic.

Dale has been a good friend of mine for a time and was here last year, here this year, and has been here many years before, and all I have had all day long is people coming by and saying: Is there anything I can do for you? So I want my constituents to know I wasn't wasting my time eating barbecue. I was gaining good points from my Members so if I need a vote I can get it. That is not any way of using influence, but it is a way of using barbecue.

I want to thank Dale and his group, and I want to recognize all of them by name because I think they are listening at this time: Dale Thornton, who is the chief pitmaster; Tracey Thornton, who is his chief, I might add, but she is the chief and brains of the organization; Charles Wells, retired Fulton County Fire Department; Chief Todd Houghton, pitmaster and Air Force flight mechanic; Margaret Houghton; Brian Rule, pitmaster; Jay Tinney,

pressmaster; Chuck Taylor, a 35-year chef; Jeff Carson, 20-year veteran chef; Kell Phelps, pitmaster; Janet Phelps; and Raylyn Phelps, the daughter.

They drove up here from Marietta, GA, about 700 miles away, to prepare the best food you ever had to eat. Republicans and Democrats shared eating it all. We didn't have to do the dishes. So we ate all the food. We did it so we can take the last half of this year and work hard for the American people, and I hope a byproduct is our working together to find solutions for the American people's problems. After all, our job is not about who has the best food but who has the best ideas and what is right for the American people, and you can always find that when you are working together.

I appreciate the time to recognize everybody from South 40. I thank South 40 for what they did. I thank you all for the barbecue. God bless all of you, and God bless the United States of America.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I thank my good friend and colleague from Georgia, not just for the great lunch that he put on today but for his leadership and statesmanship.

I serve with him on the Veterans' Affairs Committee. Talk about a committee that is actually getting things done—bipartisan things done for American veterans. He is chairman of that committee. He does a phenomenal job. He is a great leader in the Senate, and I thank him not just for the barbecue today but for his wonderful work for America and Georgia.

TRIBUTE TO JAKE ADAMS

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, it is Thursday, and it is one of my favorite times of the week because it is the time that I take to come down to the floor. The new pages are on the floor, and I think you are going to start to see this as probably one of your favorite times as well because it is when I talk about what we call the Alaskan of the Week. It is an opportunity to highlight somebody in my State who has done something great for their community, the State, and the country, and to brag a little bit about Alaska.

Today I am going to talk about Jacob Adams from Utqiagvik, formerly known as Barrow, AK. He has been a hero to so many in our State, including me—a giant of an individual who has spent his whole life in public service for his culture, for his community, for his State, and for his country.

Before I get started about Jake Adams, let me talk a little bit about what is going on in Alaska right now.

I know we all think we live in the best States. Each of us likes to come down and brag. That is a good thing. But in Alaska, we certainly have a lot of bragging rights on a whole host of issues and a whole host of areas in which we are very unique.

Right now, it is a beautiful time to be in Alaska. We want tourists and everyone watching on TV to come to our great State. Flowers are blooming, and salmon are running up our rivers. Hundreds of thousands—soon, literally millions—of salmon will be running. According to our Alaska Department of Fish and Game, it is going to be a great season for our reds.

Of course, the sun is our familiar friend this time of year. In the northern part of my State, in Utqiagvik, the northernmost city in the entire United States, it is not setting at all. The sun is not setting at all. Midnight sun, pure energy—it is amazing to experience. We experience it, but we want everyone else to come up and experience it.

Something else is going on in Alaska in villages in the northern part of the State around this time of year, a very unique and special cultural tradition. The spring whaling season in 11 communities on the North Slope is wrapping up. This spring, those 11 North Slope communities were able to land 24 whales, equaling somewhere between 300 and 400 tons of highly nutritious food for these wonderful communities. That whale meat is then shared in villages throughout the whaling communities. It is an incredible Alaska Native tradition that we are all in awe of.

We are now heading into Nalukataq season. This is when communities get together to celebrate this incredible bounty and harvest. It is a special day, a time of celebration and sharing. On this day, successful whaling crews share and feed the communities from morning until night—whale, caribou soup, goose and duck soup, and fish is served to anyone and everyone who comes. It is really, really special.

The community also celebrates with a blanket toss, where people are tossed high into the air. The seal skins sewed together from the successful whale hunts are used for the blanket. It is another beautiful Alaska Native tradition that Natives and non-Natives in our State cherish.

There is a long list of people to thank for keeping this incredible whaling and Inupiaq culture and heritage alive in Alaska, but Jake Adams is certainly on the top of that list. He is a proud whaling captain himself and a founding member of the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, which has been the primary force in making sure that our whaling communities continue to get the quotas they need from the International Whaling Commission to continue the practice and to feed their people and keep this amazing cultural heritage practice going.

It has not been easy, but they have fought for self-determination, and they have won repeatedly, including at a big IWC meeting in Brazil last year.

It is because of Jake Adams' incredible leadership that this tradition is so far advanced and revered in Alaska, and, I would say, around the world. Jake has done that and so much more for his community and for people all