

Statement of
Randy C. Reeves
Nominee for Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs
Before the Committee on Veterans Affairs
United States Senate
October 4, 2017

Chairman Isakson, Ranking Member Tester, and Distinguished Members of the Committee on Veterans Affairs, thank you for this opportunity and privilege to come before you and seek your endorsement to serve as the Under Secretary of Memorial Affairs in the Department of Veterans Affairs. I have had the privilege to meet individually with many of you after I was nominated by President Trump. I am also very thankful and feel deeply fortunate to have had the opportunity to interact and work with your staffs over the last few years on issues important to our Nation's Veterans while serving in various capacities with the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA). I sincerely appreciate and continue to be deeply impressed by your Committee's profound commitment to the men and women who have served our Nation in uniform.

I am extremely honored to have been nominated by President Trump and will, if confirmed, work tirelessly to ensure our Veterans and their families receive the honor, service and compassion they deserve and have earned. Secretary Shulkin's trust, confidence and support is deeply humbling to me and the great working relationship we have developed, I believe, will continue to benefit America's Veterans in whatever capacity I am privileged to serve in. I am acutely aware that, if confirmed, I will be ultimately responsible for the care and service provided to Veterans and families during what is, arguably, the most difficult time in their lives; a responsibility I take very seriously.

For over 35 years, I have been committed to serving and taking care of military members and Veterans, most recently as Executive Director of the Mississippi Veterans Affairs Board and as President of NASDVA. My life's mission is straightforward; serving those who have served our Nation and their families.

Most importantly, I must thank my wife of 33 years, Aida, who has always stood by me and supported me through countless deployments and assignments and who has served alongside me every step of the way. Most amazing is that she did so while serving herself. She is a retired Air Force Veteran with 20 years of service and she is my hero for all she has done for our Nation. Because I was at sea during most of the years our youngest child, Christen, was growing up, I have Aida to thank for the successful woman and mother she has become. We are a military family. Our three sons have served during war time, just as Aida and I have. Jim is an Army Veteran, having served in Panama, Iraq, Afghanistan and many other places around the world. Jarod is Navy Veteran, having served as a submariner all over the world. And, Jon is currently serving as a Captain in the Air Force, stationed in Korea. I never fully realized what my family, and families like them, went through until I retired from the Navy and I was the one at home while they were deployed.

As a retired military Veteran, a former State Cemetery Director and as a State Director of Veterans Affairs responsible for the full spectrum of care provided to our Veterans “on the ground”, I believe, if confirmed, I have the unique insight and acumen to effectively lead the men and women at the National Cemetery Administration who so capably serve our Veterans and their families every day. I also strongly believe my years of experience give me the knowledge and insight to understand the needs of our Veterans and their families and enable me to translate those needs into action on their behalf. I serve and work diligently every day for our Veterans and their families. That will always remain at the center of my decision making and the focus of my work, regardless of where I am serving. If confirmed, that will not change.

Again, I am deeply humbled and honored to be considered to serve as Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs; for our Veterans and their families. Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.