

Senator Tillis introduction of Brooks Tucker and James Byrne

SVAC Hearing: 7/19/2017 at 1:30PM

Good afternoon. I'm here today to introduce two public servants with true North Carolina ties to the committee: Mr. James Byrne, the nominee to be General Counsel of the VA and Mr. Brooks Tucker to be Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs. Both of these men are eminently qualified and have a proven track record of service to this nation, in both a uniformed and civilian capacity.

Mr. James Byrne

Mr. Byrne most recently served as Associate General Counsel and Chief Privacy Officer at Lockheed Martin Corporation. Prior to joining Lockheed Martin, Mr. Byrne served as the career Senior Executive Service Deputy Special Counsel with the Office of the United States Special Counsel, and both General Counsel and Assistant Inspector General for Investigations with the Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction.

Mr. Byrne has over 20 years of experience in the public sector, including serving as a deployed Marine Infantry Officer overseas and at Camp Lejeune and a U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) international narcotics prosecutor. He volunteered for the past ten years on the Executive Board of Give an Hour, a non-profit organization that has developed national networks of volunteer professionals capable of providing complimentary and confidential mental health services in response to both acute and chronic conditions that arise within our society, beginning with the mental health needs of post-9/11 veterans, servicemembers, and their families.

Mr. Byrne is a Distinguished Graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, where he received an engineering degree and ultimately held the top leadership position of Brigade Commander. After earning his law degree in 1995 from Stetson University, he served simultaneously as an Adjunct Professor at East Carolina University and as a Law Clerk to the Honorable Malcolm J. Howard of the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of North Carolina.

Mr. Byrne brings a wealth of relevant knowledge and experience to the table and I look forward to supporting his confirmation.

Mr. Brooks Tucker

Mr. Tucker currently serves as a Senior Adviser to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs after previously serving as a policy adviser on the Presidential Transition Team.

Prior to his work with the current administration, Mr. Tucker served as a Senior Policy Adviser for National Security and Veterans' Affairs for Senator Richard Burr. My staff and I worked very closely with Brooks in this capacity and he proved to be a great advocate for veterans in North Carolina and throughout the country. Before turning to government service, Mr. Tucker was an investment adviser with Deutsche Bank and Merrill Lynch.

He is a retired Lieutenant Colonel and infantry officer in the United States Marine Corps and was stationed at Camp Lejeune while on active duty from 1988-1992, including deployments to Western Pacific and Southwest Asia.

Brooks Tucker is a dedicated public servant who has given me his commitment to bring a new focus to VA OCLA to engage with member offices on a proactive basis, serve as an educational resource, and work closely with this committee and members to bring about meaningful and lasting reforms to VA that will better serve our veterans for generations to come. I look forward to supporting his confirmation.