

Prepared Statement of Daniel F. Rendleman
Nominee to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims
September 23, 2026

Good afternoon Chairman Moran, Ranking Member Blumenthal, and distinguished members of the Committee.

It is my great honor to come before you as a nominee for the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. For that I am grateful, grateful to the President for nominating me, and grateful to this Committee for inviting me here today.

In truth, if I were to review my life and career thus far, gratitude is perhaps the only appropriate attitude for me to adopt. I was raised in the cradle of the Prairie State where my loving mother and father not only bestowed upon me the blessings of American liberty but taught me to appreciate the causes of that bounty. I learned early on the debt that I owed—to the American servicemember who, in every generation, has fought and bled that such freedom may long endure; to the statesmen and patriots who, when the struggle for independence was won, carefully crafted our government's founding document, that sole source and guaranty of national freedom; to the countless American citizens who have added their voice and the work of their hands to the improvement of our Republic, and, of course, to that Providence which once transplanted upon these shores the seed of limited government and, to this day, sustains it.

A proper appreciation for the unearned blessings of my American birth led me to the United States Army, and that decision has determined my professional life ever since. I commissioned as an Army Aviator, learned tolerably well how to handle the AH-64 Apache helicopter, and deployed to combat in Afghanistan with the 1-101st "Expect No Mercy" Battalion where my duty, ultimately, was the protection and success of the American soldier.

The Army sent me to law school and my office changed from a cockpit to a courtroom, but that guiding principle never changed. Whether serving as a prosecutor, or advising a commander, or defending a soldier at court-martial, the welfare of the American soldier and the success of our arms has been at the forefront of my efforts.

A judge's responsibility to a party come into his court is quite different than that of a pilot providing air support. The veteran is ultimately best served by a judge who examines each case in turn, objectively, without bias, and faithfully applies the law, as promulgated by the political branches, to the facts. If confirmed, I commit to doing just that.

I would be remiss if I did not mention here one remaining cause of my gratitude. Katherine Rendleman, my wife, has spent the last eighteen years supporting this particular service member, upending her world to move almost a dozen times, and raising our six children—who have never known any but an Army life. She, like so many others in her shoes, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. And she has mine.

I would be more than happy to answer what questions you may have.