

Prepared Statement of James L. Quinn
Nominee to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims
September 23, 2026

Chairman Moran, Ranking Member Blumenthal, and distinguished Members of this Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I want to thank the President for nominating me to be a Judge on the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

First, I want to acknowledge several people who have guided and supported me throughout my career. With me here today is my wife, Shannon, who is a caring and selfless educator in the Arlington Public School System and our two amazing children who got to have the afternoon off from school today. I love you very much. I also want to thank my parents, Patrick and Gail, who taught me to have a sense of public service and how important it is to extend a helping hand to those that need it. I also want to recognize my siblings whom I love and never get enough time to be in their company - Frank, Claire, Daniel, Spencer and Ashton. I also want to mention my in-laws, Glenda and Jules, who are both veterans and have supported me through the years even when I took their daughter from Louisiana to Washington D.C.

Finally, I would like to thank my home state senators. I especially want to thank Senator Cassidy who introduced me today. He took a chance on me and gave me the opportunity to work in Congress so that we could try to make our state and country a better place. I will always be grateful. Senator John Kennedy graciously sent a letter of support on my behalf, thank you Senator.

During my 17-year career as a Congressional staffer I have had the privilege of working on Veterans issues. I have had the honor of supervising a casework team that has handled thousands of constituent claims for benefits. This has taught me the how the VA claims process works - from the initial filing for benefits, the choices the veteran has to make through the modern AMA system and most importantly how a veteran feels when they believe they are not being treated fairly by a system that was designed to help them. The VA process can be daunting to someone who is unfamiliar with its internal procedures, but with patience and understanding I believe I have made a difference in veterans lives by learning the system myself. There is no better feeling as a staffer then when you hear that a veteran was granted the benefits they earned.

I have also seen firsthand the laws that Congress has passed to transform the way the VA handles claims. The passing of the AMA in 2017 and its implementation in 2019 has resulted in veterans getting a better chance at resolving their claims quicker and more accurately. The PACT Act has dramatically expanded the pathways for veterans to receive their benefits. I have had a front row seat in seeing bills pass the Veterans Affairs Committee for the last 12 years and in doing so, have unique and valuable knowledge on how Congress intended for these bills to be implemented.

These experiences have provided me with a strong foundation that I believe would allow me to quickly adapt to the Court. If confirmed, I promise to do the work diligently, impartially, and with a sense of fairness to all that I would encounter. Veterans and their families deserve judges that will go to work everyday trying to hear cases timely and accurately. If confirmed, I intend to honor their sacrifice by being the best judge I can be.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.