

****OPENING STATEMENT****

- I call this hearing on the confirmation of four nominees to the Department of Veterans Affairs to order.
- I appreciate each of you accepting the responsibility that comes with the duties for which you have been nominated.
- It is my hope, and the hope of this Committee, that you are up to this task. Although I have met with all of you, your answers to our questions today will help many of us make that final determination.
- Mr. Remy – as Deputy Secretary you would be entrusted with a great deal of responsibility at the Department.
- As COO of the Department, I want to know how you would oversee some of the major challenges at VA – Electronic Health Record Modernization, the AIR Commission, bringing the VA workforce back into the office post-pandemic, and working to advance veteran-interests on the Joint Executive Committee.
- For General Quinn – I already know you can get the job done, having worked closely with you for your tenure as the head of Montana’s National Guard, I know you care about servicemembers, veterans and their families and I trust you are up to this task.
- Because of the pandemic, many families are having a hard time proving their loved ones’ burial eligibility. No family

should have to bury a veteran without the proper respect and gratitude of a grateful nation, especially because of paperwork. If confirmed I expect you to hit-the-ground running on this issue.

- For Ms. Donaghy – your position may be one of the hardest at VA.
- I want to hear what steps you are going to do to right the ship at the Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection. For a relatively young office, it has faced earned criticism and we are looking to you to bring a steady hand to that office.
- Ms. Ross – we passed a lot of bipartisan legislative priorities last Congress and as Chairman, I plan to continue that work again this Congress.
- Your experience on the Hill will help OCLA navigate the legislative priorities we are working on in this Committee.
- I need to know you will ensure Committee members and staff get timely and accurate information so we can do our jobs.
- Again, I want to thank all of you for your willingness to serve and look forward to listening to your testimony.