

STATEMENT OF FRANKLIN R PARKER TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY FOR MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS

Mr. PARKER. Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Inhofe, and distinguished members of the Committee; thank you for allowing me to join you here today. I am honored by this opportunity to appear before you regarding my nomination for the position of Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. I wish to thank President Biden, Secretary Austin, and Secretary Del Toro for the confidence they have placed in me. In addition, I wish to thank my family for their enduring and unwavering support.

There is no greater calling than service to others. Service for the benefit of another; service for something greater than each of us, but for all of us. For me, this lesson was taught not solely by words, but by example – the example of my father Franklin Parker, a former Air Force munitions officer who volunteered to serve his nation in Vietnam at the height of conflict. The example of my uncle Glynn Parker, and cousin Frank Harris, also Vietnam veterans who each served distinguished careers in the Army, and Air Force, respectively. In addition, I learned the value of service from the example of my grandfather, Fred Curls – who not only served in the National Guard, but dedicated his life afterward to service in the civil rights movement and to inspiring others to achieve what they believe.

No one exemplifies this notion of service more completely than our women and men in uniform and our civilian personnel who complement and support them. Through their courage, dedication and skill, they comprise the world's greatest fighting force. Through their commitment and sacrifice, they help guarantee the freedoms we enjoy and the way of life we cherish. Through their character, they present America's best foot forward to the world. Indeed, our military is defined by our people; a mosaic of America representing our diversity, our differences and our greatest strengths.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, it is a privilege to be considered for this opportunity to again serve our Sailors, Marines, and our

Department of the Navy civilian workforce. I believe my experience in multiple roles within the Department of the Navy, as a senior leader at a civilian agency, and as a private sector attorney provide me with a well-rounded perspective that, if confirmed, I will use – to my greatest ability – to support those who so readily and ably serve our nation.

Our people are our most valuable asset, our greatest strength, and our most profound capability – both as a military and as a nation. As such, our servicemembers and the civilian personnel supporting them deserve our firmest commitment to ensuring they have the tools, policy, and support they require not only to succeed in the mission, but to thrive in life. If confirmed, I will do my utmost to further our military readiness, combat abuses within our ranks, support our military and civilian families, reduce barriers to mental health support, and to foster a diverse and inclusive environment that prioritizes respect for all its members. Further, if confirmed, I commit to working with Congress and the members of this Committee to do so. Thank you sincerely for your consideration of my nomination. I look forward to your questions.