

Statement of John E. Sparks to be a Judge on the Court of Appeals for
the Armed Forces

Good afternoon Senator McCain and members of the committee. I thank you for having me here today and I would like to take this opportunity, as well, to thank the President for his expression of confidence in me. I am joined by my wife Wendy and several other members of my family.

I have been involved with military justice in one aspect or another for over 30 years now. So, this is an area of the law that has always been my great passion. I am passionate about public service as well, and of the 44 years of public service I have behind me, I would not trade a day of it for anything.

For the 14 years prior to my recent retirement from federal civilian service, I had the privilege of working at the U.S Court of Appeals for the Armed forces. It was truly a pleasant and professionally rewarding experience, and one that I will forever cherish.

Although many members of the public may not be familiar with this particular court, in my view, it is the centerpiece of the military justice system. Established in 1950, it has more than fulfilled Congress's intent to establish a specialized, independent civilian appellate court for the review of courts-martial. If confirmed for a seat on the court, I pledge to uphold its reputation for integrity and intellectual honesty,

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and I hope to join a long list of respected jurists who have
indeed made it an honorable court.

Thank you, and I am prepared for any questions the committee may
have for me.