

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

Mr. PARKER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Senator Reed, members of the committee. I am honored to appear before you today regarding my nomination for the position of Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. Before we begin, I would like to thank President Obama, Secretary Carter, and Secretary Mabus for their support of my nomination. I also wish to express my sincere appreciation to my colleagues past and present – specifically those at the Departments of the Navy and Transportation, and the Maritime Administration – for whom I hold the utmost admiration and respect. In addition, I wish to thank my family – my wife, my children, my parents and my sister – whose steadfast support enables everything I do. In particular, I would like to recognize my father Franklin Parker, my uncle Glynn Parker, and my cousin Frank Harris, whose service in the Air Force and Army instilled in me the deepest appreciation for our servicemembers, and the sacrifices and contributions they routinely make on behalf of our Nation. It is on the shoulders of these women and men that we all truly stand. Lastly, I wish to acknowledge, with deepest gratitude, my grandfather Fred Curls who passed away earlier this year at the age of 96. I thank him not only for his service in the National Guard, but also for serving as my inspiration to enter public service and for teaching me that anything is possible in our great Nation. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, it is a privilege to be considered for this opportunity to serve our men and women in uniform as well as our civilian personnel who share their mission and complement their efforts to uphold our defense. Their commitment to our Nation deserves not only our respect, but a corresponding obligation to them and to their families that we will make every possible effort to honor and support their service. Over the course of my career, I have worked in the private sector as well as in both defense and civilian agencies. I have performed legal and non-legal roles, and have served as an action officer, a manager, a Senior Executive, and a member of Agency leadership. In every context, however, the one constant has been the primacy of people. Our people conceive, create, enable and execute everything we do. People are our greatest and most powerful

asset, and this is no truer than for those who serve in our Nation's defense. In this realm it is critical that our decisions always support readiness, that we bolster the morale of our force, that we seek to create an environment that is free from harassment and abuse, and that we ensure that our personnel have the tools they need both to be successful in the field and healthy at home. These needs are even more pronounced as we continue to manage multiple conflicts and threats in a highly constrained fiscal environment. If confirmed, my highest priority will be to ensure that our manpower and reserve policies and practices meet the standards that the men and women of our Navy and Marine Corps deserve. I view this not only as an honor but as an obligation. If confirmed, I look forward to working with this committee and the Congress to provide the best for our servicemembers and civilian personnel. In so doing, I will make every effort to reward the faith you have placed in me, and that our women and men who serve have placed in us. I am truly grateful for your consideration of my nomination, and I look forward to your questions.