

OPENING STATEMENT OF PLATTE B. MORING, III
SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed, distinguished members of the Committee, good morning. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as the President's nominee to serve as the Inspector General of the Department of Defense. It is a high honor and distinct privilege to be considered for this role. First and foremost, I recognize my wife, Susan, without whose love and support I would not be here today. My daughter Leigh and her Navy veteran husband Blake are seated behind me today and are a source of tremendous encouragement and kind assistance. My son William serves as a Mental Health Counselor in Denver, Colorado and could not be with us today. I would also like to acknowledge the Cadets and my former students at The Citadel who made the journey to the nation's capital to witness this most important advice and consent process. The motto of the Citadel is "honor, duty, respect." If confirmed, I will continue to uphold these values as the Inspector General.

I am grateful to the President for the special trust and confidence he has placed in me by this nomination. I am also thankful to the Secretary of Defense for his endorsement.

In preparation for today's hearing, I have given considerable thought to the role of the Office of Inspector General and my approach to the fulfillment of its mission of promoting economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in Department of Defense programs. In this reflection, I was led to the oft-quoted Bible verse from Micah 6:8: "What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly." This verse is a call to action, emphasizing the importance of justice, mercy and humility in one's relationships.

If confirmed, this verse will instruct my performance in this very important position. I will painstakingly pursue the facts of each matter with the intent of achieving justice and accountability within the Department of Defense. At the same time, if confirmed, I will extend professional courtesy to all DoD employees with the ideal of preserving their dignity, respect, and constitutional rights in conducting impactful audits, evaluations, investigations and reviews. I will, if confirmed, strive to remain transparent, open, helpful, considerate, resilient, and independent.

My commitment to the Defense Department is rooted in my family's long lineage of patriotic service to our nation. My multiple generation great grandfather and his brother signed the Tryon Resolves in 1775, prior to the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, vowing to take up arms and risk their lives and fortunes in maintaining freedom in the North Carolina colony. Other distant uncles served on the Continental Line and North Carolina Militia during the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Both my grandfathers served our country in the Army and Merchant Marine in World War I. My father and father-in-law both served in occupied Germany and Austria following World War II.

It has been my lifelong intent to continue this tradition of service to our great nation. To that end, my career has involved a variety of experiences which, if confirmed, prepared me to take on this new appointment. I have been employed in the Executive Branch, Judicial Branch, private law practice, the military, and teaching law school and college courses. The primary focus of my legal work in private practice and the Department of Justice was the investigation and prosecution of fraud. On active duty with the US Army in Afghanistan, my duty assignment was Rule of Law Officer for Operation Enduring Freedom developing a Constitution, Criminal Procedure Code, and Judicial system for that war-torn country.

If confirmed, it will be my honor to protect and advance the mission of the Office of Inspector General in support of the Constitution of the United States of America, the men and women of the Department of Defense, and the great citizens of this country. If confirmed, I also pledge to work with this committee and Congress to ensure that the Legislative Branch is fully informed of the activities of the Office of Inspector General. Thank you again for your time today at this hearing. I welcome your questions.