

Opening Statement of Mr. Charles A. Williams, Nominee for ASN EJS 14, 2020

United States Senate Committee on Armed Services

Department of Defense

OFFICE OF PREPUBLICATION AND SECURITY REVIEW

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Thank you Senator Blunt for your kind remarks. Missouri is proud of the work Senator Blunt does for the state and I am personally appreciative for his help.

Chairman Inhoffe, Ranking Member Reed, Distinguished Senators of the Armed Services committee

I am appreciative of your time and the opportunity to be considered for an Assistant Sec of the Navy position responsible for Energy, Installations, and Environment. I am pleased to have with me today my wife Laurie of 45 years, and an accomplished educator in her own right, my son Ryan, his partner Alicia, and my brother Tim, a former prosecuting attorney and judge in Utah and New Mexico.

I entered naval service shortly after graduating from college in December 1972 (during Vietnam) and served 32.5 years in an active and reserve capacity. As a 22 year old kid from a St. Louis blue collar union family, the navy educated me, gave me opportunity, and introduced me to a world beyond my dreams. I owe who I am to the Navy.

My real estate career spanned 4 decades in property management, brokerage, investment, construction, development, environment and teaching as an adjunct professor. Real estate creates an opportunity for financial gain. I enjoyed a successful career but my motivation was never money. My greatest sense of joy, of pride, of accomplishment was serving my country in the United States Navy. I believe in, have written and spoken of "service above self." All of us serve because we care about this country and want to make it better.

With your approval it would be a privilege to serve my country and the navy again. This is a position where I can make a difference, and if confirmed I want to immediately engage with the other services and OSD to address critically important issues such as Military Housing and PFAS. As a former Commanding Officer I know what it means to take care of our sailors and their families. We can do better. We must do better. CNO Clark once told his flag wardroom, not all recruited will stay in the navy but it's up to us to create an environment for a sailor who leaves to be able to say I am a better citizen, I'm glad I served, and would recommend it to others. I am ready to get started and pleased to answer your questions and work with you on problems facing us.