

**STATEMENT OF SCOTT J. LAURER  
NOMINATED TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF  
APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS  
BEFORE THE  
U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

**NOVEMBER 6, 2019**

GOOD MORNING CHAIRMAN ISAKSON, RANKING MEMBER TESTER, AND DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today and for the Committee staff's assistance in connection with my nomination.

I am honored that the President has nominated me to serve as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. I would not be here without the support of many people, and today I would like to particularly acknowledge my family.

My father's parents and mother's grandparents sailed to the United States in search of better lives for themselves and future generations. Most did not even have the equivalent of a high school degree; however, they valued education, embraced hard work, and proudly became American citizens. They labored humbly in a Kansas City slaughterhouse, as a domestic helper in Topeka, and as a custodian, domestic helper, dressmaker, and roofer in Philadelphia.

My parents made extensive sacrifices raising seven children. After two of our grandparents lost their spouses, my parents also welcomed the surviving grandparents into our home. Anything our large family lacked in material wealth was surpassed by mutual affection and happiness. Growing up our parents taught us to treat everyone with respect, the importance of personal commitment, and the value of teamwork – lessons that would serve me well throughout my military career.

While a second-year law student, I met my future spouse and best friend. During our 28 years of marriage, 11 permanent change of station moves, and multiple deployments, her support has been unwavering. Our two children have also backed me in countless ways, while being towed around the globe attending a dozen different primary and secondary schools between them. I thank my family members for their love, selflessness, and support to our Nation.

I wanted to become a lawyer since high school. As the son of a Korean War-era veteran and nephew of a Vietnam War veteran, I was also drawn toward military service. I did not know it was possible to serve as both an officer and an attorney until I met Judge Advocate General's Corps officers who were recruiting at my law school. The more I learned about the JAG Corps, the more eager I became about serving in the dual professions of arms and the law. The Navy JAG Corps selected me for its Student Program, and I was commissioned in January 1989.

The United States military offered me the privilege of service, unparalleled leadership experience, and a wide range of legal skills. During nearly 30 years of active-duty service, I

provided legal services to military service members, veterans, and their families, and I advised our country's most senior civilian and military leaders on complex legal issues in combat zones, at sea, overseas, and here in Washington, DC. Through these diverse experiences, I have demonstrated my ability to faithfully interpret and apply laws and regulations to factual situations and to communicate effectively, in speech and in writing, my reasoning behind legal conclusions.

Veterans and their families deserve judges serving on the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims who are impartial, diligent, skilled, and devoted to the law. If confirmed, I will uphold those solemn obligations and enhance the Court's efforts to decide an individual veteran's appeals fairly and expeditiously.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today. I would be glad to answer your questions.