

STATEMENT OF RICHARD A. SAUBER
NOMINATED TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL,
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

I am honored to be President Biden's nominee for the position of General Counsel at the Department of Veterans Affairs. If confirmed by the Senate, I pledge to you that I will join and support Secretary McDonough's unequivocal commitment made to this committee to "fight like hell" as he put it, to fulfill our sacred obligation to care for Veterans who gave their all to protect our Nation and to assist their caregivers, families, and survivors whose sacrifices have played a vital role in support of our Veterans.

It would also be my honor to serve in this position as my own contribution and expression of gratitude to the men and women who have served in our Armed Forces, and especially to honor the service of my father, who quit school to serve in the Army at the start of WWII, and my father-in-law, a 1955 graduate of West Point who served in the Army for 20 years including service in Vietnam. He and my mother-in-law are interred together in Arlington National Cemetery.

I would like to introduce to the Committee my wife Pamela and daughters Jessica and Elyse.

Upon graduation from law school, I worked for seven years as a prosecutor in the criminal fraud section of the Justice Department here in Washington. Within weeks of arriving here, I was sent over to Crystal City to meet with Admiral Hyman Rickover to support him in his litigation regarding cost overruns with contractors who were building the 688's, the Los Angeles-class attack submarines. As a young prosecutor, it was a thrill of a lifetime to work closely with the father of the nuclear Navy, and it was my first opportunity to witness up close the dedication and patriotism of the men and women serving in our military. Ever since, both in the government and out, I have actively sought to work with people in the Armed Forces and companies who support them.

Toward the end of my years in the Department of Justice (DoJ), I was asked to create and lead a joint task force of DoJ and Department of Defense (DoD) personnel that would, for the first time, focus on military procurement fraud. The task force included representatives of the Army, Navy and Air Force, the Defense Logistics Agency, the DoD Inspector General, and the Defense Contract Audit Agency. I am quite proud of the work we did, and the change in the culture we advanced, one that encouraged compliance and transparency.

In private practice I have had the good fortune to continue working in this field. I was cleared to have access to and work on issues related to the early development of the B-2 bomber. I have also worked on matters related to the MX Missile, the AV-8B Harrier II jump jet, and the Air Launch Cruise Missile, among others. Working with contractors for all these years also brought me into close daily contact with the huge number of Veterans and military families who have found a continued sense of purpose and service through their new profession. These are Americans who work tirelessly to support our troops, and their level of commitment to our country, and the people who defend it, is incredibly inspiring. It would be my great privilege to honor their service by doing my best to advance the mission articulated by Abraham Lincoln to care for Veterans and their survivors.

I believe that if confirmed I can materially contribute to the mission and Secretary McDonough's leadership. First, I believe I have the trust and confidence of the Secretary, a vital asset for the General Counsel. I come to the job with a detailed understanding of government procurement, an area targeted for improvement at the Department. I have spent much of my career dealing with the challenges of creating an open, ethically pristine, compliant atmosphere in large institutions, and with significant experience demonstrating for leaders of those institutions that the creation of such a culture is in everyone's best interest.

Finally, my seven years with the Justice Department were the most satisfying of my career. To experience the satisfaction of working hard for the public interest, in the service of the country that gave my

ancestors and my extended family shelter when they fled persecution and violence in eastern Europe over 100 years ago, was an indescribable honor. I am ready to dive back into that service, especially knowing that the goal is to fulfill this critical and central responsibility as a nation. I am comforted too by the sense that I am honoring my father and my father-in-law for their service to the nation, as well as the families that supported them, whose sacrifices we should never overlook or forget.

I commit to you that if confirmed I will work tirelessly to support and advance this mission, and I look forward to answering your questions.