

I would like to begin by thanking you, Chairman Cotton and Vice Chairman Warner for holding this hearing. I would also like to thank President Trump for the honor of this nomination.

I'm so fortunate to have the love of my life and my best friend here—my wife, Kathryn. Somehow, she manages to have a full-time job and take care of the rest of us. It's no exaggeration to say I wouldn't be here without her. Her support and encouragement—throughout most of my life and during the hardest times—has made all the good things possible and the rest livable.

My son, Paul, and my eldest daughter, Sarah, could not miss school today. My youngest daughter, Evie, can't be with us because she has something called 22Q, a microdeletion on chromosome 22, which causes developmental delays among other things. Evie is an inspiration to everyone who knows her. She doesn't let her disabilities get in her way, and she greets just about every day with delight. Paul

and Sarah aren't bad either. Kathryn, Paul, Sarah, and Evie are the joys of my life, and without them, life itself would be unimaginable to me.

I learned the importance of family from my mother, who, at all of 5 feet, was the most powerful person I ever met. *No one* wanted to mess with Rhoda.

Because of her, my sister (Nancy), brother (Ethan), and I couldn't be closer. While my mother passed away more than a decade ago, I am fortunate to have both a stepfather and father who are very supportive. I also count a very small number of friends as family. They know who they are, and I thank each of them for their support over the years.

I would also like to say something about the colleagues—too many to name here—I have had the privilege of working alongside in my years of government service and during my time in private practice. I am truly blessed to have worked with so many who are the embodiment of dedication, blazing intelligence, and integrity. Serving with

each of them has been an honor, and I am so grateful to know them.

National security is the thread that runs through my professional life. I was in Alexandria on September 11, 2001, when terrorists attacked our Nation, resulting in the deaths of some 3,000 people in coordinated attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. I think it's hard for people who weren't adults in 2001 to understand the effect these attacks had on so many of us. It is easy to forget that follow-on attacks were thought to be very likely. Indeed, our success in thwarting other attacks of that magnitude led many to wonder if the threat was overblown.

But I can never forget that day. I heard the explosion caused by a commercial airliner colliding with the Pentagon. I saw the smoke rising from that building. My wife couldn't come home from her office in Washington, DC for hours because the necessary Metro lines go through the Pentagon,

which was still burning. I saw F-16s trailing commercial airliners, I suppose escorting them out of the area. My country really had become a battlefield.

In my past government jobs, I have focused on national security. The events of 9/11 instilled in me the need to be part of the response to terrorism. My more recent government service has shown me the importance of protecting the Nation from myriad other threats. I am deeply committed to the rule of law and our Constitution. But I also believe that the Government has a solemn obligation to do what it can within those limits to protect the Nation and its people.

I was in the Department of Justice when it stood up the National Security Division, and I was part of a team that helped propose and implement the necessary changes to bring NSD into the world. It would be a great honor to lead that Division and the dedicated public servants who go to work every day

in NSD and who do so because they share the vision of which I spoke to protect the Nation. To everyone in NSD, I look forward to working together, should I be confirmed, to protect this great Nation and its people from the range of national security threats facing them.

I look forward to answering your questions.