

**STATEMENT OF VAL BUTLER DEMINGS  
NOMINEE TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
NOVEMBER 14, 2024**

CHAIRMAN PETERS, RANKING MEMBER PAUL, AND DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE—

GOOD MORNING AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION OF MY NOMINATION TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE. I ALSO WANT TO THANK PRESIDENT BIDEN FOR THIS NOMINATION AND IF CONFIRMED, I LOOK FORWARD TO THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE SERVING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN THIS IMPORTANT ROLE.

I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF MY HUSBAND OF 36 YEARS, JERRY DEMINGS, WHO CURRENTLY SERVES AS THE MAYOR OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA. UNFORTUNATELY, HE COULD NOT JOIN US TODAY. JERRY AND I BOTH SERVED IN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND HAD THE HONOR OF LEADING THE TWO LARGEST LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN THE CENTRAL FLORIDA REGION. I TRULY FEEL BLESSED TO HAVE A SPOUSE WHO HAS DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO SERVING OTHERS. WE HAVE 2 SONS WHO ARE CERTIFIED FIREFIGHTERS AND A THIRD SON WHO WORKS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

I WAS RAISED IN A RURAL PART OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA. I GREW UP ON A DIRT ROAD, IN A HOUSE THAT PEOPLE USED TO SAY WAS “WAY BACK IN THE WOODS.” MY PATERNAL GRANDMOTHER LIVED NEXT DOOR TO US IN A HOUSE MY FATHER BUILT WITH HIS HANDS. MY GRANDMOTHER WAS BORN IN 1903. SHE COULD NEITHER READ NOR WRITE, BUT SHE HAD A MAJOR LIFELINE THAT CONNECTED HER TO HER SISTERS IN DARLINGTON, SOUTH CAROLINA—THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE. SHE RELIED ON HER “MAILMAN,” AS SHE AFFECTIONATELY CALLED HIM, FOR HER SOCIAL SECURITY CHECK, NEWS FROM BACK HOME, AND OTHER GOODS THAT SHE NEEDED TO LIVE ON. MY GRANDMOTHER WOULD WAIT ANXIOUSLY FOR THE MAIL TO BE DELIVERED, AND REGARDLESS OF WHO SHE WAS, OR THE CHALLENGES OF WHERE SHE LIVED, THE MAILMAN NEVER FAILED TO DELIVER. WHEN THE DEMANDS OF HIS ROUTE PERMITTED, HE WOULD TAKE

THE TIME TO CHECK ON MY GRANDMOTHER AND HAVE MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS WITH HER, LETTING HER KNOW THAT SHE MATTERED TO HIM. THOSE MEMORIES ARE PRECIOUS.

I DECIDED A LONG TIME AGO TO DEDICATE MY LIFE TO PUBLIC SERVICE. I WORKED FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA WITH FOSTER CARE CHILDREN, JOINED THE ORLANDO POLICE DEPARTMENT AND WORKED MY WAY UP THROUGH THE RANKS TO BECOME THE 36TH CHIEF OF POLICE. I WAS APPOINTED CHIEF DURING THE RECESSION OF 2007-2008, AND CRIME WAS AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH. AS A LEADER, IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT WE NEVER LOST SIGHT OF OUR MISSION TO KEEP ORLANDO A SAFE CITY WHILE REDUCING CRIME AND MAINTAINING LIVABLE NEIGHBORHOODS. THE ONLY WAY WE COULD MEET OUR MISSION WAS THROUGH EXTENSIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WITH STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING THE PUBLIC, CITY OFFICIALS, BUSINESS OWNERS, THE FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY, AND OTHERS.

IN 2017, I WAS ELECTED TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. TWO OF MY CLASSMATES SERVE ON THIS COMMITTEE. DURING MY TIME IN THE HOUSE, I SERVED ON THE COMMITTEES OF OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY, HOMELAND SECURITY, JUDICIARY, AND INTELLIGENCE. I CHAIRED THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY. IT WAS AN HONOR TO SERVE MY NATION IN SUCH A SPECIAL WAY AND WORK WITH MY COLLEAGUES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE WE SERVE. I LEARNED A LOT DURING MY TIME WITH THE STATE, AS A POLICE CHIEF, AND AS A MEMBER OF CONGRESS, AND I AM COMMITTED TO BRINGING MY DIVERSITY OF EXPERIENCE AND DIVERSITY OF IDEAS TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

THE POSTAL SERVICE HELPS BIND OUR NATION TOGETHER, EVEN TODAY. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DEPEND ON THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE, JUST AS MY GRANDMOTHER DID. EVERY DAY, AMERICAN POSTAL CUSTOMERS ARE WAITING FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, PAYMENTS, SPECIAL GREETINGS, AND PACKAGES. AND IMPORTANTLY, THE USPS ALWAYS DELIVERS. ITS MISSION IS LIKE NO OTHER. IT IS ONE OF THE OLDEST AND MOST TRUSTED INSTITUTIONS IN OUR NATION, DELIVERING DEPENDABLE AND AFFORDABLE SERVICE TO EVERY PART OF THE COUNTRY.

I KNOW FROM MY TIME IN CONGRESS THAT THE POSTAL SERVICE HAS ONGOING CHALLENGES AND IS IN THE MIDST OF A TEN-YEAR REORGANIZATION PLAN. IF CONFIRMED, I AM COMMITTED TO WORKING WITH ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD TO ENSURE THAT WE ARE LISTENING TO THE CONCERNS OF ALL POSTAL STAKEHOLDERS AND THAT THEIR VOICES ARE REFLECTED IN OUR CHOICES.

AS WE WORK TO ENVISION THE FUTURE FOR THE POSTAL SERVICE, MY NORTH STAR WILL ALWAYS BE THE INTERESTS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. EVEN AS WE GROW THE POSTAL SERVICE AND INVEST FOR THE FUTURE, POSTAL CUSTOMERS MUST CONTINUE TO HAVE FAITH THAT REGARDLESS OF WHERE THEY LIVE, THE POSTAL SERVICE WILL CONTINUE TO DELIVER THE MAIL ON TIME AND AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE POINT.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU TODAY. I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR QUESTIONS.