

**Introduction of General John Kelly,
Nominee for Secretary of Homeland Security
By Senator Tom Carper (D-DE)
January 10, 2017**

Good afternoon Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member McCaskill and colleagues. It's a privilege to join Senator McCain and Secretary Gates in introducing a man who needs little introduction to this committee, General John Kelly, and to welcome his wife Karen and their daughter Kathleen and her husband Jake to this confirmation hearing.

Created about a dozen years ago, DHS's 240,000 employees get up every day and go to work to protect our homeland and its citizens. Almost every month for the past four years, I've gone to the Senate floor to talk about the remarkable work they do for all of us. They respond to devastating hurricanes, saving lives and helping people put their lives back together. They protect us from cyber attacks and help secure thousands of miles of our country's borders.

They expedite the movement of billions of dollars of commerce daily, while intercepting drugs and disrupting human smuggling rings. They keep us safe when we fly the sometimes not-so-friendly skies. They protect Presidents and Vice-Presidents and their families, as well as candidates for these offices and the leaders of scores of other nations. They do all of this and much more, often times without a word of thanks.

General John Kelly is an exceptionally well qualified nominee to lead DHS. If confirmed, he would succeed another exceptional leader – Secretary Jeh Johnson. Jeh – who with the help of his leadership team, this Committee and Congress – has begun a transformation of the Department that was badly needed and is much welcomed.

The key to the success of any organization I've ever been a part of – or witnessed – is almost always enlightened leadership. John Kelly is a leader. He is humble, not haughty. He has the heart of a servant. He understands that his job is to serve and not be served. He leads by example. With General John Kelly, it's not do as I say but do as I do. He has the courage to stay out of step when everyone else is marching to the wrong tune. He surrounds himself with the best people he can find and when the team he leads does well, he gives them the credit. When the team falls short, he takes the blame. He doesn't try to raise himself up by pushing other people down. He is a purveyor of hope and consistently appeals to peoples' better angels.

Throughout John Kelly's 45 years of military service in the Marine Corps, he has sought to do what's right, not what is easy or expedient. He embraces the Golden Rule, treating other people the way he wants to be treated. He looks at adversity and sees opportunity. He believes that everything we do, we can do better. He is tenacious. There is no quit in this man. When he knows he's right, he never gives up.

When we met in my office yesterday, he spoke of the importance of addressing the root causes of the problems and challenges we face as a nation and not just the symptoms. As an example, he cited the transformation of Colombia from an almost failed nation 20 years ago, to a far different one today and a valued ally and trading partner.

He also spoke of how our addiction to drugs is the root cause of the violence and lawlessness in the countries of Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. And while he spoke thoughtfully and creatively of ways to better secure our southern border with Mexico, he understands that those steps need to be coupled with others embodied in the Alliance for Prosperity adopted by Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador and supported by the U.S., much as we've supported Plan Colombia for two decades.

Finally, General Kelly understands the importance of working cooperatively with Congress and, in particular, this Committee. He may not always tell us what we want to hear, but he will always tell us what we need to hear.

And, when it's needed, he'll remind the people he leads at DHS to "just use some common sense," the way my dad used to remind me and my sister when we were young. In short, he'll provide the leadership that will enable DHS to continue its transformation, making us safer and proud of them all.