

**JOHN KELLY**

**CHAIRMAN JOHNSON, RANKING MEMBER  
MCCASKILL, DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND  
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE  
TO INTRODUCE MY FRIEND AND FORMER COLLEAGUE,  
JOHN F. KELLY, AS THE PRESIDENT'S NOMINEE TO BE  
THE NEXT SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.**

**IN TODAY'S WORLD, THE DEPARTMENT OF  
HOMELAND SECURITY IS MUCH LIKE A COMBAT  
COMMAND – PERHAPS THE MOST COMPLEX SUCH  
COMMAND DEFENDING OUR NATION AND OUR PEOPLE.  
AMONG ITS DIVERSE RESPONSIBILITIES ARE  
PROTECTING US FROM TERRORISM, GUARDING OUR  
BORDERS AND COASTS, DECIDING WHO GETS INTO THE  
COUNTRY, PROTECTING OUR TRANSPORTATION  
NETWORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE, DEFENSE AGAINST**

**CYBER ATTACKS, AND PROVIDING HELP WHEN DISASTER STRIKES.**

**I CAN THINK OF NO ONE MORE FAMILIAR WITH THESE THREATS AND CHALLENGES OR BETTER PREPARED TO LEAD OUR HOMELAND DEFENSE THAN JOHN KELLY.**

**THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY IS A COMPLICATED MIX OF MULTIPLE AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS WITH DIFFERENT CULTURES AND HISTORIES. YET, AS COMMANDER OF SOUTHERN COMMAND, GENERAL KELLY SUCCESSFULLY MANAGED RELATIONSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH SEVEN DIFFERENT CABINET DEPARTMENTS AND, IN ALL, MORE THAN TWENTY CIVILIAN ORGANIZATIONS. LEADING A COMBATANT COMMAND THESE DAYS REQUIRES MANAGING MULTIPLE DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN RELATIONSHIPS AND GENERAL KELLY DID SO WITH**

**GREAT SKILL AND SUCCESS. I AM CONFIDENT HE WOULD DO SO AS WELL AS SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.**

**IN ADDITION, AS SENIOR MILITARY ASSISTANT TO TWO SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE, JOHN SUCCESSFULLY HELPED LEAD THE LARGEST AND MOST COMPLEX ORGANIZATION IN AMERICA. HE WAS INVALUABLE TO ME AND TO LEON PANETTA IN HELPING BREAK DOWN BUREAUCRATIC BARRIERS TO COOPERATION AND IN HOLDING SENIOR OFFICIALS ACCOUNTABLE FOR DECISIONS AND PERFORMANCE. AND THE NEEDS OF THE TROOPS ON THE FRONT LINES WERE ALWAYS FOREMOST FOR HIM.**

**OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO THIS COMMITTEE, JOHN KELLY WAS TWICE ASSIGNED AS MARINE CORPS LIAISON TO THE CONGRESS, THE SECOND TIME AS THE COMMANDANT'S SENIOR LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT. AS A**

**RESULT, HE HAS A DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS, AND ESPECIALLY OF THE NEED TO BE RESPONSIVE TO CONGRESS AND TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP OF OPENNESS AND TRUST.**

**IN TERMS OF SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE, GENERAL KELLY IS, IN MY VIEW, SUPERBLY QUALIFIED TO SERVE AS SECRETARY.**

**BUT IT IS JOHN'S CHARACTER AND VALUES THAT TRULY SET HIM APART. TO PUT IT QUITE SIMPLY, HE IS ONE OF THE FINEST PEOPLE I HAVE EVER KNOWN. I WOULD TRUST HIM WITH MY LIFE. MANY OTHERS, MAINLY YOUNG MARINES, HAVE LITERALLY DONE SO. AND HOW OFTEN IS A TOUGH COMMANDER GENUINELY BELOVED BY HIS TROOPS?**

**INTEGRITY IN WORD AND DEED IS THE SOURCE OF MORAL AUTHORITY – AND IT IS MORAL AUTHORITY THAT MOVES PEOPLE TO FOLLOW A LEADER EVEN AT**

**PERSONAL RISK AND SACRIFICE. JOHN KELLY IS A MAN OF GREAT MORAL AUTHORITY. IF HE IS CONFIRMED, THE PROFESSIONALS THROUGHOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WILL REALIZE THAT THEIR NEW SECRETARY CARES ABOUT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM AND THAT HE WILL DO EVERYTHING IN HIS POWER TO PROTECT AND SUPPORT THEM AND TO GET THEM WHAT THEY NEED TO DO THEIR JOBS – PROTECTING ALL OF US.**

**I COMMEND THE PRESIDENT-ELECT FOR NOMINATING GENERAL KELLY FOR THIS POSITION BECAUSE JOHN IS A STRAIGHT-TALKING, CANDID, COURAGEOUS LEADER WHO WILL SAY EXACTLY WHAT HE THINKS. HIS VALUES ARE A REFLECTION OF AMERICA’S BEST VALUES. HE WILL NOT DISAPPOINT YOU.**

**OVER A MILITARY CAREER SPANNING MORE THAN FORTY YEARS, JOHN KELLY AND HIS FAMILY HAVE SACRIFICED MUCH SERVING OUR COUNTRY. AND YET, HERE HE IS, WILLING TO SERVE AGAIN. IT IS WITH GREAT PRIDE THAT I INTRODUCE HIM TO YOU TODAY.**