

Opening Statement of Ron Stroman
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
April 22, 2021

Thank you Chairman Peters, Ranking Member Portman, members of the Committee. I am honored to appear before you today as a nominee for the United States Postal Service Board of Governors.

The President nominates Postal Service Governors to represent the public generally, not any special interests. This nation-wide mandate drives the Postal Service's unrivaled delivery network, binding our country together, and linking our economy to rural, inner-city, and small business communities, who depend so heavily on the Postal Service.

In times of crisis, the Postal Service's role as an essential part of America's critical infrastructure, serves as a life-line for all Americans. As our nation has experienced during the current global pandemic, the Postal Service is especially critical for our seniors, and veterans, and people with disabilities, delivering life-saving medicine, financial payments, and household necessities.

In fulfilling this responsibility, America's Postal workers have risked their lives every day of the pandemic. Their commitment is a testament to the resilient spirit of the American people. The country owes them a debt of gratitude. And, if confirmed, I will make their safety and well-being one of my highest priorities.

I have dedicated my 41-year professional career to public service. My commitment to public service is the reason I attended Rutgers University Law Center in Newark N.J.; a law school with a proud tradition of diversifying the legal profession, with a focus on public service. It is the reason I chose to work in the executive and legislative branches of the federal government. And it is the reason I accepted the position as the 20th Deputy Postmaster General of the United States. Serving on the Board of Governors would be the capstone of a career I have devoted to improving the lives of the American people.

I am also committed to the Postal Service for personal and historic reasons. My dad, a WWII veteran, ran the shipping department of a small manufacturing company in New Rochelle, NY where I grew up. He was responsible for shipping the metal clamps made by the factory. As a high school student, I had the opportunity to work with him after school, and on the weekends.

The company relied on the Postal Service to ship many of those clamps. My dad taught me how to weigh, and put the right amount of postage on each shipment. Without the Postal Service, this small, family-owned business might not have existed.

In case of my family, and the other families working at that small business, the Postal Service indirectly created jobs, and a middle-class life. For African Americans, the Postal Service helped to build the country's Black middle class. It provided jobs when the doors of opportunity were too often slammed shut.

During my time as the Deputy Postmaster General, I saw first-hand how the nation relies on the Postal Service. I remember traveling to North Dakota to meet with small business owners. We spent hours listening, as these entrepreneurs explained their dependence on prompt, and reliable delivery. I have seen individual business owners in small towns, carrying packages into local Post Offices. If confirmed, I would bring these insights, and other experiences to the Board.

As Deputy Postmaster General, I worked in concert with management, and our Governors, on some of the most complex issues facing the Postal Service. I have participated in organizational change initiatives, including improvements to the customer experience. I have led our team in key votes at the Universal Postal Union. I also have significant background working on postal reform legislation. If confirmed my goal is to work in a bipartisan manner to return the Postal Service to operational excellence, future growth, and long-term financial stability.

In closing, let me quote from the 1968 "Report of the President's Commission on Postal Organization" better known as the Kappel Commission, which laid the foundation for today's Postal Service: "Full management responsibility and authority would be vested in a Board of Directors charged with providing the nation with a superb mail system, offering universal service at reasonable rates, paying fair wages to postal employees and giving full consideration to the public welfare."

If confirmed, I promise to do my best to live up that ideal as a Governor of the United States Postal Service.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to your questions.