

**Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee**

**Hearing to Consider the Nomination of Admiral Kevin E. Lunday, U.S. Coast Guard,  
to Be the Twenty-Eighth (28<sup>th</sup>) Commandant of the United States Coast Guard**

**Personal Written Statement**

**November 19, 2025**

Good morning, Chairman Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, and distinguished members of the Committee. I'm honored to appear before you today.

I am thankful to President Trump and Secretary Noem for their trust and confidence in me to serve as Commandant, subject to confirmation by the Senate.

I thank the Committee for your enduring support of our Service.

If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with you and other members of Congress.

I also thank the team that helped prepare me for today's hearing.

The most important member of that team is right here with me today—my wife LyndaLee. I am blessed by our 36 years of marriage and her amazing love and support that enables me to continue to serve. She is a proud military spouse who has supported and championed Coast Guard and joint force families and their readiness. Across many dynamic challenges of Coast Guard life, LyndaLee has also excelled in her own professional career as a gifted speech-language pathologist. She is remarkable, and I would not be here today without her.

I am from a family of military service. My dad was a soldier, a 36-year career Army officer of Infantry and Special Forces who rose from Private to Colonel, who fought in Vietnam and the Cold War and led troops in combat and crisis. My mom served as an officer in the Army Medical Corps before becoming a full-time mom to raise three sons as a military spouse. My parents taught me my values and instilled my faith in God. They set the example that has guided me throughout my life and inspired me to serve in the Armed Forces.

I joined the Coast Guard because I wanted to help fight the Soviet Union and the spread of communism, to stop drug smugglers at sea, and to save lives. I was drawn to the Service's broad missions and proud history of fighting in every one of the Nation's wars.

Over the past nearly 39 years, I have served with and led crews throughout the Atlantic and the Pacific, and in cyberspace. While the missions have been rewarding, I found even more joy serving as a member of a Coast Guard crew, alongside other men and women with the same values and who are—without question—the very best in the world. I am fiercely proud to serve with them and inspired every day by their unwavering dedication and courage to get the mission done.

Today, as threats and challenges facing our Nation grow, I believe the American people need a stronger and more capable Coast Guard.

For the past nine months, I have led the Coast Guard as Acting Commandant to:

- Control, secure, and defend the U.S. border and maritime approaches;
- Facilitate and secure commerce that is vital to economic prosperity, strategic mobility, and America's maritime dominance; and
- Ensure the Service is ready to successfully respond to a crisis or contingency that may come without warning.

I have prioritized taking care of our people, because the readiness of the Service begins with the readiness of every Coast Guard man and woman, and their families. To that end, I have improved housing availability and quality, increased access to medical care, and strengthened our ombudsman program.

At the same time, I led the early implementation of the most significant modernization and recapitalization of the Coast Guard in at least a century.

The Secretary of Homeland Security has directed me to transform the Service into a more agile, capable, and responsive fighting force through Force Design 2028. This bold plan drives rapid innovation, delivers new capabilities at speed and scale, and grows the Coast Guard by 15,000 military personnel.

This transformation is coupled with the historic capital investment of 24.6 billion dollars through the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. This funding allows the Coast Guard to rapidly deliver new cutters, aircraft, shore infrastructure, and technology. This down payment is the first step to ensure the Coast Guard is *Semper Paratus* – Always Ready.

If confirmed, I will lead the Service forward under the direction of the Secretary and the President, and with the strong support and oversight of Congress, to ensure we continue to deliver the best value to our great Nation.

I'm filled with hope for the future of the Coast Guard because no matter the challenges ahead, we will prevail.

If there is one thing I know—and our Service history proves—with a ready Coast Guard crew and the strong support of the American people, there is nothing we can't accomplish.

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