

Statement for the Record of Chuck Canterbury
Nominee to be Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, & Explosives
Before the Senate Judiciary Committee
July 31, 2019

Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Feinstein and the distinguished members of the Committee on the Judiciary.

I want to thank you all for holding this hearing on my nomination to be the next Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. I am honored and humbled by the President's trust and confidence in me, as well as that of Attorney General Barr. I am thankful for the opportunity to testify today, and hope to earn your trust and confidence as well.

I am grateful to be joined today by my wife, Alice and my son KC, who is a police officer. I have three other children and six grandchildren who could not be here today, but who are supporting me from a distance.

Members of the Committee, I appear before you today, a 26-year veteran of law enforcement. I have the direct and practical experience required to effectively lead a law enforcement agency. I have served on the frontlines; I have responded to emergency calls for service; and I have been there to help a citizen in need.

I have always tried to make clear that law enforcement is a nonpartisan activity. There is no Republican or Democratic way to enforce the law. Whether at the Federal, State or local level, the ability of a law enforcement agency to faithfully execute the laws as passed by Congress is the paramount concern. "To establish Justice" is listed first in the Preamble to our nation's Constitution—it is one of the highest principles of our nation, and public safety is the foremost responsibility of government.

I have dedicated my entire life to the service of my nation and my community. I have sworn to uphold the law and to justly carry out the responsibilities of a police officer, and I am proud of my service.

During my 26 years as a law enforcement officer, I spent a significant part of my career managing, commanding, and leading law enforcement officers, and I am confident in my ability to do this again at ATF.

I should clarify that when I retired from my police department, I did not retire from the profession of law enforcement. In 2003, I assumed the office of National President and CEO of the Fraternal Order of Police. I am nearing the end of my 8th term—and I am honored to have enjoyed the support of our members.

I believe that our greatest achievements during my time as FOP President are back home in our neighborhoods, schools, and communities. The concept of community policing, which is at the very heart of our national policing strategy, is not imposed by legislatures or government

executives. It begins with the police officer in his or her community, and officers learn to do their work in this way by example.

I believe working to better our profession, to improve our training, and to be a bridge between police departments, government, and communities is our greatest success. I am confident that I can lead the men and women of ATF successfully, as well.

As the National President and CEO of the FOP, I have negotiated, formulated, and executed budgets for an organization of 348,000 members. I have overseen the implementation of a new information technology system, personnel management, and employee benefit programs, and I have successfully shouldered all the other responsibilities that a CEO has as head of a large organization.

I believe I still have more to give to my country, which is why I accepted the nomination to be the next ATF Director.

ATF has a unique affinity to State and local law enforcement because their mandate is to support these agencies in their efforts against violent crime. I have witnessed these cooperative efforts, and I have heard first-hand from my members about them as well, many of whom serve on ATF task forces throughout the country.

If confirmed, I look forward to continuing this tradition, and I pledge to you today that I will make improvements in any way I can and make sure we succeed in our mission to reduce violent crime.

I believe in the law enforcement mission, and I am eager to serve. I hope to earn your support, and I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.