

# A Joint Open Letter to Address U.S. Senate Candidate Kevin Nicholson's Disparaging Remarks Towards Democratic Veterans

We, the undersigned, are calling on Wisconsin U.S. Senate candidate, Kevin Nicholson, to apologize for his comments that disparaged our nation's veterans.

Last week, Mr. Nicholson, a United States Marine Corps veteran, said that he questioned the "cognitive thought process" of veterans who are Democrats. When pressed to apologize by fellow Republican veterans, Mr. Nicholson refused and instead doubled down on his comments, writing, in part, "I'll never apologize for saying that, ever."

Each of us has served in the military and we all hold a deep respect for its creed that teaches us to put aside our political differences, work together and pursue a mission that's bigger than ourselves. The military shapes many veterans to become our nation's model leaders, whether it's in our communities, business or at all levels of government.

That is why we are extremely disappointed to see Mr. Nicholson, a candidate running for the distinguished office of U.S. Senate, not just disrespect our nation's veterans, but crudely do so as a means to advance his own political career.

Mr. Nicholson knows that military service crosses party lines. It is beneath any serviceman or woman to politicize veterans and assert that patriotism is limited to members of one political party.

Our politics are more divided than ever, and polarizing comments like those made by Mr. Nicholson only sow deeper divisions in our country.

For these reasons, we call on Kevin Nicholson to apologize for his remarks.

Sincerely in Service,

The Undersigned

U.S. Senator Max Cleland (Ret.)

U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth  
Lt. Colonel, Illinois Army National Guard, Retired

Congressman Seth Moulton  
U.S. Marine veteran

Vice Admiral Donald Arthur, USN (Retired)

Brigadier General Roosevelt Barfield, USA (Retired)

Rear Admiral Jamie Barnett, USN (Retired)

Stephen Cheney  
Brigadier General, USMC (Ret)

Rear Admiral Christopher Cole USN (Retired)

Jan H Donatelli  
Former Navy pilot and DNC Veterans and Military Families Council Co-Chair

Major General Richard S. Haddad, USAF (Retired)

Rear Admiral Janice M. Hamby, USN (Retired)

Ken Harbaugh  
Former Navy pilot

Rear Admiral John Hutson, JAGC, USN (Retired)

Jason Kander  
Former Army Captain and President of Let America Vote

Saif Khan  
Vice Chair, Veteran's Issues and Legislation, DNC Veterans and Military Families Council  
Iraq War veteran, served as a Combat Engineer in Mosul during 2004-2005

Major General Randy Manner, USA (Retired)

Brigadier General Carlos E. Martinez, USAF (Retired)

Mayor Thomas McDermott (Hammond, IN)  
Six-year U.S. Navy Submarine veteran

Patrick Murphy  
Former Acting Secretary of the Army

Lieutenant General Charles P. Otstott, US Army (Retired)

Major General John Phillips, USAF (Retired)

Max Rose  
CPT, IN Army National Guard

Terron Sims, II  
CPT, US ARMY (former)  
Vice Chair, Recruitment, DNC Veterans and Military Families Council

Brigadier General Paul Gregory Smith, USA (Retired)

Rear Admiral Michael E. Smith, USN (Retired)

Maura Sullivan  
Former Marine Corps Captain; Assistant Secretary, U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs

Lieutenant General Willie Williams, USMC (Retired)

General Johnnie Wilson, USA (Retired)

Rear Admiral Richard E. Young, USN (Retired)

The above mentioned are retired or inactive members of the U.S. Military. Use of their military rank and job titles does not imply endorsement by the Department of Defense nor the Departments of Army, Navy or Air Force nor the U.S. Marine Corps.