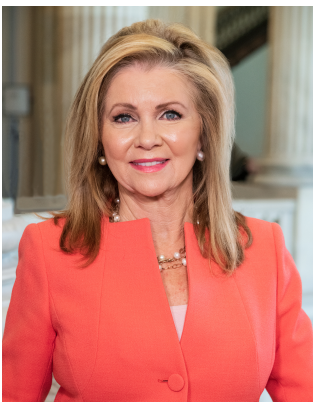


Military, Law, and more ...

Statement from Sen. Blackburn on President Trump’s Tennessee U.S. Attorney nominations

NASHVILLE, Tenn. , July 2, 2025– U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) released the following statement on July 2, praising President Trump’s nominations of **Mike Dunavant** to serve as U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee and **Braden Boucek** to serve as U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee:

“In nominating Mike Dunavant and Braden Boucek, President Trump is keeping his promise to Make America Safe Again,” said Senator Blackburn. “Both are experienced and principled federal prosecutors who know what it takes to lead a U.S. Attorney’s office. Mike and Braden will uphold the rule of law in Tennessee, restore law and order, and admirably serve the people of our incredible state. In my role on the Senate Judiciary Committee, I look forward to supporting their



Sen. Marsha Blackburn

nominations and working to ensure they are swiftly confirmed.”

BACKGROUND

Mike Dunavant, Nominee for U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee:

•Mr. Dunavant previously served as a U.S. Attorney during President Trump’s first term and was confirmed by the Senate in a

unanimous vote.

•Under his leadership, Memphis witnessed a 13.1% decrease in overall violent crime from 2017 to 2019.

•Mr. Dunavant also instituted a successful carjacking initiative with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) and local law enforcement to aggressively prosecute armed carjackings.

•He reinvigorated the Project Safe Neighborhoods Task Force, expanding cooperation with local and federal law enforcement.

•Mr. Dunavant brings the leadership, experience, and proven track record needed to reduce violent crime and restore public safety in Memphis.

Braden Boucek, Nominee for U.S. Attorney for the Middle

District of Tennessee:

•Mr. Boucek served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in both Nashville and Memphis and as a prosecutor for the state of Tennessee—as both an Assistant Attorney General and as Assistant District Attorney.

•He has prosecuted hundreds of cases, ranging from organized crime and drug trafficking cases to terrorism and immigration offenses.

•Currently, he serves as Vice President of Litigation at the Southeastern Legal Foundation, where he has focused his work on protecting Americans’ constitutional rights.

•Mr. Boucek brings a strong background in criminal and constitutional law that will serve the people of the Middle District of Tennessee well.

Marine, NFL rookie Rayuan Lane visits Pentagon and meets Defense Secretary... from sports page 1

Hegseth added that the former Navy football safety's journey was "a pretty cool story" he wants all of America to see. "I want my kids to look up and say, 'Hey, I could do that someday.' We appreciate you setting the example. ... We're proud of you," Hegseth said. Lane's visit on July 2, 2025, included a tour of the Pentagon, where the 23-year-old Naval Academy graduate met Defense Department leaders and signed autographs for personnel. "It was amazing," Lane said of the visit. "There's a lot of history in ... Getting a chance to meet the secretary of defense, play on the parade field and see the view with my family — it was a really good experience that I appreciate."

For Lane, a Baltimore native, the day marked another milestone in a remarkable journey that combines military service with professional sports at the highest level. Less than two months ago, Lane graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. That came on the heels of an April 26, 2025, NFL draft selection, when the Jacksonville Jaguars chose Lane in the sixth round. He became the 19th Naval Academy graduate ever drafted into the NFL — and the first defensive back in Navy history. Lane was also the first Navy football player invited to the NFL Scouting Combine since 2019. Under a Defense Department policy, forwarded by President Donald J. Trump's 2019 executive order, service academy athletes like Lane may delay their active-duty service to pursue a career in professional sports. In Lane's case, he will serve in the Marine Corps Reserve while chasing his NFL dream, with an obligation to return to full-time military service after his football career ends. For the 5-foot-11, 200-pound safety, the dual path of officer and athlete is the culmination of four years of hard work at Annapolis. Lane was a four-year starter for the Navy Midshipmen football team, anchoring the defense in 43 consecutive

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starts to finish his collegiate career. A product of Baltimore's Gilman School, he arrived at the academy as an unheralded recruit — Navy was the only Division I program to offer him a scholarship out of high school. Lane quickly proved himself on the field. Rarely do freshmen start at Navy, but he earned a place in the lineup midway through his plebe year and never missed a game, showcasing high-level speed, instincts and versatility. By his senior season, Navy coaches and NFL scouts alike recognized Lane as one of the most talented players to come through the academy in years. That 2024 senior season became one for the Navy record books. Lane served as a team co-captain and helped lead the Midshipmen to a 10-3 record — the program's first winning season since 2019 — along with victory in the coveted Commander-in-Chief's Trophy series against Army and Air Force. It was a dramatic turnaround after several losing seasons. Lane's leadership on defense was central to the team's success. "Every defensive call goes through . He is the leader of the defense," Navy cornerback Dashaun Peele said during the season. Lane finished his college career with 244 total tackles and seven interceptions, and he was a constant presence on special teams as a gunner and kick return cov-

erage specialist. His all-around performance earned him attention from professional scouts — and ultimately a shot in the NFL. Despite his on-field accolades, Lane's commitment to the Naval Academy and military service remained steadfast. During his junior year, he briefly entered the NCAA transfer portal to explore opportunities at higher-profile football programs. Interest was strong; he received scholarship offers from Power Four universities, including UCLA and Notre Dame. However, Lane ultimately decided to stay at the Naval Academy with his "brothers" on the team. He never truly wanted to leave. His mother, Felecia, recalled her son asking, "If they're asking me to leave a great place to go to another great place, what am I gaining?" Lane concluded, "Ultimately, I've got a lot of love for the academy and for my teammates. When I put everything together, it did not make sense for me to get away from this place." His coaches were relieved and impressed by his loyalty. According to Navy Defensive Coordinator P.J. Volker, Lane "left substantial amounts of money on the table" in the era of name, image likeness deals by spurning transfer offers. "We are extremely grateful as a football program that he [stayed]," Volker said. Lane's devotion to service is just as strong. He fulfilled his military training and duties at the academy while balancing the full-time demands of Division I football. Upon graduating, Lane selected an assignment with the Marine Corps — a choice that surprised few who knew his character. "He's always been reserved, yet outgoing, a natural leader. The Marines, that suits him," his mother said. Lane said the values of the Marine Corps, from intensity to discipline, appealed to him early on. And even as he prepared for the

NFL, he never lost sight of his primary mission. "I was more happy to graduate and commission and be able to put on a uniform than I was on draft day," Lane said. That perspective, he explained, shows "where the mindset was" for him — service comes first. At the Pentagon, Hegseth commended Lane not only for his athletic achievements but for what he represents to the nation. The secretary noted that Lane's story has already given a boost to military recruiting, simply by showing young people what is possible. "We want the best of the best, and that's what we're getting here," he said. Lane's immediate focus is on his upcoming NFL training camp, where he will fight for a roster spot in Jacksonville's secondary. Jaguars coaches have noted his standout special teams skills and strong football IQ, traits developed during his time at the academy. No matter how his professional football career unfolds, Lane has a Marine Corps career ahead of him — a fact that keeps him grounded. In preparing for the NFL while upholding his military duties, Lane said he learned to "stay in the moment" and trust the process. "Every day, I just put my best foot forward," he said, confident that "everything is going to work itself out." For now, Lane is relishing the chance to live both of his dreams. "I'm excited for the opportunity to be both a Jacksonville Jaguar and a Marine Corps officer," he said after the draft. That once-unlikely combination became reality through Lane's hard work and faith, and with a little help from policies that recognize the value of both service and sports. As he stood with Hegseth at the Pentagon, wearing his Marine Corps utility combat uniform, Lane embodied that very ideal.

The NSSF responds to AFT from sports-Military 2

compliance with the Second Amendment. “This modernization project focuses on ATF’s enforcement on violent criminals, while reducing the unnecessary burdens on lawful gun owners and dealers.” Those are the reforms that started with President Trump’s executive order to have AG Bondi examine all orders and regulations to assess if they infringe on the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens. The reforms started almost immediately. The Department of Justice, along with ATF, formally announced the end of the “zero tolerance” policy and is reconsidering the “Engaged in the Business” final rule and the final rule regarding factoring criteria for firearms with attached “stabilizing braces.” NSSF applauded those announcements.

ATF recently issued two new rulings that allow for the importation of non-lethal training rounds, or simulation rounds, mostly used by the military and law enforcement for training purposes, and for dual-use barrels. The training rounds were banned for import in 2023 by the Biden administration. Dual-use barrels were banned for import in 2005 if they had previously been used in a firearm determined to be “non-sporting.” ATF also confirmed to NSSF that the Demand 2 Program is ending. That program, begun in

February of 2000 during the antigun Clinton administration, required federal firearms licensees that have 25 or more firearms traced back to them subsequent to the recovery at a crime scene and the time from retail sale to trace is three years or less (what ATF calls “time-to-crime”) to submit an annual report followed by quarterly reports of used firearms acquired by the firearm retailer. NSSF has been critical of the misuse of this protected firearm trace data to attempt to

NSSF has also confirmed that ATF is working to simplify and shorten the Form 4473, making it less cumbersome for firearm retailers and the customers they serve.

“name-and-shame” firearm retailers for crimes in which they had no involvement. NSSF has also confirmed that ATF is working to simplify and shorten the Form 4473, making it less cumbersome for firearm retailers and the customers they serve. NSSF is eagerly awaiting further reforms as ATF refocuses on its core mission of combating violent crime with the industry as its partner.

Lawrence G. Keane is the Senior Vice President and General Counsel for NSSF, The Firearm Industry Trade Association.

First Annual Freedom Festival at Camp Nelson from sports-Military 2

Camp Nelson represents the courage and determination of formerly enslaved African Americans to secure their own emancipation. It also illustrates the nation's struggle to define the meaning of freedom during and after the Civil War...

erate occupation in East Tennessee in 1863. The following year, the base evolved to become one of the country’s largest recruitment and training centers for African American soldiers during the Civil War and served as a refugee camp for their wives and children. Thousands of enslaved African Americans risked their lives escaping to the camp, located within the slaveholding state of Kentucky, with the hope of securing their freedom and ultimately, controlling their futures by contributing to the destruction of slavery. Camp Nelson represents the courage and determination of formerly enslaved African Americans to secure their own emancipation. It also illustrates the nation’s struggle to define the meaning of freedom during and after the Civil War.” The camp has all the historical attributes to make it the ideal location to host the “Freedom Festival.” According to Superintendent Ernie Price, the event was the most integrated activity held on

the grounds since its designation as a national monument. Black History and cultural Location along the eighty-mile Kentucky stretch of Highway 68 were represented at the event. People participated from as far away as Georgia, Michigan, California and Washington, DC for the one-day event. It is our hope that next year we can have a three-day event with activities planned to include a meet and greet to host Veterans and guests in Louisville. In addition, with allocating a day for some scene sighting. We plan to reach out to Veteran Organizations/Associations to invite their participation in the planning. In conclusion, we are grateful for the support received from sculptor Ed Hamilton who was the keynote speaker for the event. The Marshall Law Band provided the outstanding music for the day-long festivities. Among those who addressed the gathering were State Senator Gerald Neal, Representative George Brown, Jr, and Whitney Allen, commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs who represented Governor Andy Beshear. “The event was an overwhelming success, and we hope to see you next year if not sooner on the Corridor.”

For Information contact cnmmmf@aol.com.

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