

Ventris Gibson
Nominee to be the Director of the U.S. Mint
Nominations Hearing before the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee
April 6, 2022

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, and distinguished members of the Committee for allowing me to appear here today. With me today are my children: my son Alexander and his wife Katherine, my daughter Heather, and my son Charles. I am honored that the President nominated me to serve as the Director of the U.S. Mint, a responsibility that I do not take lightly; and I would like to thank Vice President Harris, Secretary Yellen, and Deputy Secretary Adeyemo for their support.

My career in public service began more than 40 years ago when, following high school, I joined the U.S. Navy. My time as a Navy Air Traffic Controller in Tennessee, Cuba and Sicily was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

After military service, I continued to serve my fellow veterans for 23 years at the Department of Veterans' Affairs. At VA, I advanced from an entry level professional to one of VA's most senior executives – Deputy Assistant Secretary. In those roles, I dedicated my life to our Nation's veterans by further developing employment programs and changing the diversity landscape of the Department.

In January 1998, I led the development of the Office of Resolution Management at the VA, where I was responsible for handling the Department's unlawful discrimination complaints and its alternative dispute resolution cases. I was also responsible for the development, articulation, and delivery of Department-wide human resources policies, plans, and programs for 260,000 employees.

A highlight during my time at the VA was serving as one of the first volunteers during the opening and dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. We were called upon to assist family members and friends in finding their loved ones' names on the wall. I can still see and feel the tears of those mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, and fellow soldiers. For me, this moment crystalized our debt as a Nation to these fallen heroes and how their loss of life preserved our freedom and defended our democracy.

In 2003, the former Administrator for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Marion Blakey, asked me to join her team as FAA's top human resources executive. In that role, I stabilized a human resources environment in the middle of a transition to a centralized model without negatively affecting the agency's mission. Then, in 2011, after 35 years of service I retired.

In 2014, I was pulled from retirement and appointed to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as the Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Resources. In that position, I worked with the Office of Personnel Management on several initiatives that led to flexible-hiring programs for HHS.

In 2015, Mayor Muriel Bowser appointed me to her cabinet as the city's Director of Human Resources, where I transformed the District of Columbia's human capital organization into a high performing, results-oriented organization. I managed a billion-dollar health benefits program for 80 agencies and 37,000 employees.

Last fall, I was honored to join the U.S. Mint as Deputy Director. The Mint has a rich and meaningful history, and it is the largest and most respected Mint in the world. I would consider it a privilege and a defining moment in my professional life to serve as Director.

If confirmed, I am ready to lead a workforce dedicated to connecting America through coins. I will focus on people – as they are key to the Mint's success; on our programs – from commemorative medals to collectible coins to circulating coins; and on our performance – one that is high performing and results-oriented.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before the committee today, and I welcome your questions.