

WisDems: Top National U.S. Military Veterans Sign Letter Calling on Nicholson to Apologize for Disparaging Veterans

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MADISON — Today, top national U.S. military veterans signed a joint open letter calling on Wisconsin Republican U.S. Senate candidate Kevin Nicholson to apologize for [questioning the “cognitive thought process”](#) of Democratic service members and veterans.

Nicholson, a Marine captain veteran, has been [facing](#) significant backlash from veterans from [all backgrounds](#) after he asserted that his military service “did not mean much” to Vukmir, and subsequently questioned the “[cognitive thought process](#)” of veterans who don’t share his own political viewpoint on a later radio show.

Since then, Nicholson has [doubled](#), [tripled](#), then quadrupled down on those comments, including [sending a campaign fundraising email](#) in which he again reaffirmed, “I won’t back down,” then [tried to raise money off of his attack](#) on veterans.

Below is the letter:

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

Patrick Murphy

Former Acting Secretary of the Army

Jason Kander

Former Army Captain and President of Let America Vote

Stephen Cheney

Brigadier General, USMC (Ret)

Jan H Donatelli

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

Terron Sims, II

CPT, US ARMY (former)

Vice Chair, Recruitment, DNC Veterans and Military Families Council

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

Mayor Thomas McDermott (Hammond, IN)

Six-year U.S. Navy Submarine veteran

Ken Harbaugh

Former Navy pilot

Maura Sullivan

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

Max Rose

CPT, IN Army National Guard

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.