MEMORANDUM FOR Members of the Business Record

FROM: CC

SUBJECT: Letter of Reference for Zach Nunn

1. It is with confidence and personal experience that I write to recommend Zach Nunn for the Business Record’s 40 under 40 recognition. As commander of the 132d Wing, I’m Major Zach Nunn’s senior rater and I’ve witnessed Zach’s military leadership first-hand.

1. Zach joined the Air Force shortly after 9/11, becoming an airborne intelligence officer. Volunteering immediately for combat deployment, Zach’s service included three overseas tours flying reconnaissance mission and leading a team of crypto linguists in operations ENDURING FREEDOM, and IRAQI FREEDOM. During one of his combat sorties, flying in extremely hazardous conditions, US forces became engaged with the enemy – Zach’s aircraft took mission command for directing a 10 aircraft strike package. Zach and his enlisted crew were able to identify enemy command nodes for kinetic targeting by inbound F-16 and A-10 aircraft. His quick action resulted in life-saving intelligence alerts to Special Operations Forces and helped break a stronghold of 2,000+ insurgents firing on US forces. For his actions, Zach was awarded the Air Medal and he and his airmen earned the Gen. O’Malley Aircrew of the Year Award – the USAF’s highest aircrew honor.
2. As an officer, Zach’s skillsets have developed and refined him in several roles. His accomplishments include serving in the White House as the Director of Cybersecurity Policy on the National Security Council, where he helped author the President’s 1st Executive Order on cyber safeguards for the nation’s critical infrastructure. At the tactical level, Zach served as Branch Chief leading counter-intelligence operations with the National Security Agency, halting a $75 million take-over of key US technology sector from a foreign intelligence service. His range of experiences, from tracking foreign fighters in Rabat to embassy security evaluation in Guangzhou, have presented this intelligence officer with boots-on-the-ground training that ensure his analysis and assessments are developed with high-confidence – because Zach knows first-hand, US lives and national security demand the most refined information for action to be taken.
3. In his transition from active duty, to his role with the Iowa Air National Guard, Zach remains committed to a mission of service to his country, and his state. This year, I was proud to evaluate him as an outstanding officer, joining generals and admirals who have consistently ranked him in their top 1% of officers. Equal in importance to Zach’s military commitment, is his devotion to his family and his community. The father of three young children, and supportive husband to a wife managing her own successful small business, is a reflection of Zach’s willingness to prioritize a balance life.
4. It is with full confidence that I support the nomination of Zach Nunn for 2016’s 40-under-40 nomination.

