

Pam Hemphill

EX-MAGA Granny

Twitter: @PamHemphill79

Email: pamhemphill53jd@gmail.com



"The ignorance of one voter in a democracy impairs the security of all."

- John F. Kennedy

My name is Pam Hemphill. I am a cancer survivor, a retired Substance Abuse Counselor, I owned and operated a state approved DUI Treatment Center, and I am recovering alcoholic with 44 years sober in August. I was in the crowd at the Capitol on January 6, 2021.

I would appreciate my story being entered into the public record, to attempt to right the wrongs I have done, and to hopefully provide the American people with facts that sadly, too many of us did not know when we arrived in the morning on January 6th. I was charged for my participation in the events that day, I pleaded guilty, and I served 60 days in prison. I am not a victim of the government, the Justice Department was not weaponized against me, I was a participant who broke the law.

I would like to do my part to contribute to the collective healing that our nation needs after the events of January 6th as well as address the constant gaslighting perpetuated by those who refuse to accept accountability for their part in what happened that day and that continues to go on across America.

As I mentioned, I am a retired Substance Abuse Counselor. For over 28 years I provided assistance and support to people struggling with addiction. As a person in recovery myself, my program involves making direct amends which means more than just words or simple apologies. It takes action that demonstrates our new way of life. It requires acknowledging

and aligning our values to our actions by admitting wrongdoing and then living by those principles.

My speaking out with the facts has come at great risk to my personal safety and well-being, but I believe that not speaking about what I have learned only serves those who continue to gaslight and lie in order to protect their own interests. I also want others who have felt betrayed or misled to know that they are not alone. We have an opportunity to accomplish what we thought we came to the Capitol on January 6th for by admitting our wrongs and sharing the facts.

After I retired, I began a hobby of videotaping and documenting political events for the local Women's MAGA groups. When I attended those rallies I felt welcomed. I felt like I was part of a group of people who truly cared about the country and the constitution. Looking back, I realize much of what I was being told was propaganda, things like "the Democrats were trying to turn us into a Communist country," or "the Left wanted to do away with the constitution." That gaslighting caused a lot of fear. That fear kept me engaged because I thought we were saving the country and protecting the constitution. I was deceived.

On January 6 the betrayal of my trust and loyalty to the movement was not yet realized by me. It wasn't until much later I would understand that those people who I had believed were Patriots, had been using my fear. The desire to be a Patriotic American was weaponized against the Capitol, the rule of law, and against the peaceful transition of power. The events on January 6 did not match the ideals I believed I was supporting. I feel ashamed that I couldn't see it at the moment.

Part of my motivation to write this letter is to set the record straight about the events leading up to January 6, and the narrative that has been pushed by others who attended or who facilitated its inception. Mainly, I want to thank the Capitol Police Officers for their heroic and patriotic efforts that day. You see, I'm 70 years old, I had just gone through cancer surgery a few weeks before January 6th. In the crowd I was pushed down, my head was trampled on, my shoulder pulled out, cut my knee, and my glasses smashed. The

Capitol Police saved my life that day and I want them to know how truly grateful I am to them and how deeply sorry I am for what happened, and how they continue to be treated to this day.

The Capitol Police were not causing the violence. They did not start the violence. They protected the Capitol, the people inside the Capitol, and even rioters - like me - from the violence that day. They deserve our gratitude and acknowledgement of their sacrifice and the continued scars they carry still today.

Aside from the events at the Capitol on January 6, the danger to this country still exists. The constant gaslighting and propaganda that continues to fan the flames of grievance, hate and anger towards our fellow Americans, Democrats, President Biden, and the Federal Government must stop. If we are to be Patriots who love this country, we must stand up and speak out with the facts. That includes elected officials who claim to demand facts and evidence, but refuses to operate in the same fact-based reality.

I am hoping this letter can serve as part of my amends to the country. I believe there are others like me out there who see what the gaslighting is doing to hurt our country. I hope they join me in pushing back against the lies. We need more truth tellers, fact finders, and courageous leaders who are willing to admit when they are wrong and speak up for the truth.

I have learned so much in my journey since January 6, and I continue to learn. I am grateful to be able to share my experience with you and my fellow Americans. I ask that everyone work together to build a more perfect union, but in order to build this ideal we must establish a foundation of facts. If we do this, we can all help this country heal.

Lastly, I want to add, **STOP THE SPIN**. Thank you.