



County of El Dorado Meeting Minutes Veteran Affairs Commission

Todd Smith, District I – Alternate John Poimiroo
Chris Cockrell, District II – Alternate Roger Reynolds
Kurt Raffetto, District III – Alternate Stephanie Carlson
Ken Welch, District IV – Alternate Tim Thompson
Daniel Browne, Jr., District V – Alternate Phillip Houseworth
Terry Thomas, VSO, Secretary Ex-Officio
Lauren Odell, Recording Clerk of Veteran Affairs Commission

Department of Veteran Services
130 Placerville Drive, Suite B
Placerville CA 95667
www.edcgov.us/veterans
Telephone: 530-621-5892
Fax: 530-621-2218

**Thursday, February 10, 2022 @ 1200 hours
E16 Winery
8085 Perry Creek Road
Somerset, CA 95684**

Due to increasing numbers of Covid cases in El Dorado County resulting from the Omicron variant, this meeting will follow masking and social distancing protocols per California Department of Public Health directives.

Veteran Affairs Commission Agendas and Minutes are available for viewing in the Veteran Memorial Building lobby at 130 Placerville Drive, Placerville CA 95667 and online <https://www.edcgov.us/Government/Veterans/Pages/Commission-Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>

I. CALL TO ORDER - PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Meeting called to order at 12:00pm. Pledge of Allegiance led by Kurt Raffetto.

II. ROLL CALL

District	Present	Absent
I	Todd Smith, John Poimiroo	
II	Chris Cockrell, Roger Reynolds	
III	Kurt Raffetto	Stephanie Carlson
IV	Tim Thompson	Ken Welch
V	Daniel Browne	Phillip Houseworth

II. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME OF GUESTS

Jerry Epperson, Veteran; Joe Coca, Veteran; Bob Bradshaw, Veteran; Joseph Connolly, Veteran; Cathie Adams, Volunteer; Jim Cahill, Operation Rebound, Veteran; Chris Whittaker, Gilmore Hero Program; Richard Todd, HHS Program Manager for Veteran Services and Senior Services; Tim Whalen, Citrus Heights Vet Center, EDVR/MFSG; David Zelinsky, American Legion Service Officer; Terry Thomas, El Dorado County Veteran Services VSO.

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Dan Browne made the motion to approve the Agenda. Second by Todd Smith. Motion passes 5-0.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Roger Reynolds made the motion to approve the minutes. Second by Dan Brown. Motion passes 5-0.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

No action items

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

VII. GUEST SPEAKER - VETERAN SPOTLIGHT – Joe Coca

Joe Coca, local Marine Corps Veteran, detailed his experience helping Veterans during the Caldor Fire. Joe's efforts were acknowledged by the Commissioners and their appreciation to his ongoing efforts were noted.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

None

IX. EX-OFFICIO REPORT – RECEIVE AND FILE (Thomas)

Terry Thomas presented his report. Report attached.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS – RECEIVE AND FILE

- **TOT (Transient Occupancy Tax)** (Raffetto/Houseworth)
 - **Update to Annual Grants and Total 21/22 funding to the El Dorado Community Foundation for Mini-Grants (originally recommended in the 10/14/21 minutes and approved at the 11/18/21 meeting).** The following chart is updated to reflect the change in awarded amounts to Folsom Lake College, who reported that they did not need funding this year. Additionally, the table shows the balance that will be awarded to the El Dorado Community Foundation to fund the mini-grant program. This amount is calculated by subtracting the total awarded amount from the Annual Grants (\$99,000) from the total amount of TOT funds allocated (\$175,000) for the 21/22 Fiscal Year. Commission voted 5-0 to approve the funding as specified in the table below.

Organization Name	Requested 2020 Grant	Approved 2020 Amount	Suggested 2021 Grant Amount	Notes	Updated Approved 2021 Amount
Folsom Lake College	\$ 35,000.00	N/A	\$17,500.00	No funding needed	\$0
Folsom Lake College	\$ 5,000.00	N/A	\$2,500.00	No funding needed	\$0
Lake Tahoe Community College	\$ 18,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$10,000		\$10,000
Snowline Hospice	\$ 25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00		\$25,000
El Dorado County Veterans Alliance (formerly Friends of Veterans Monument)	\$ 10,000.00	N/A	\$10,000.00		\$10,000
Sierra Chaplaincy	\$ 3,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$5,000.00	Additional \$1,000 for conference	\$5,000
MFSG/EDVR	\$ 8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00		\$8,000
Only Kindness	\$ 12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00		\$12,000
El Dorado Food Bank	N/A	N/A	\$5,000.00	Moved from mini-grant program	\$5,000
Lake Tahoe Veterans Alliance	N/A	N/A	\$3,000.00		\$3,000
EDCVSO General Trainee	N/A	N/A	\$21,000.00		\$21,000
Total	\$ 116,000.00	\$55,000	\$119,000.00		\$99,000.00
Total TOT Funds Available					\$175,000.00
Amount allocated to El Dorado Community Foundation for Mini-Grants				Includes 5% administrative fee	\$76,000.00

- **RULES** (Poimiroo/Houseworth) None

- **SPECIAL COMMITTEE – HOUSING** (Welch) None
- **LEGISLATIVE** (Smith/Raffetto)

Signing up for the VA Newsletter will provide updates regarding any legislation related to the VA. Veterans can also sign up for notifications from Cal-Vet for information related to California specifically.
- **TRANSPORTATION** (Browne/Thompson)

Tim Whalen reported that the EDVR vans are running, and they have a full list of volunteers to provide rides to Veterans on the West Slope. EDVR is also discussing alternate methods of transportation to supplement their volunteer program.

John Poimiroo provided a handout on transportation entitled “Sac-Med” (attached).

Dan Browne discussed his efforts to arrange transportation in the South Lake Tahoe area utilizing the Reno/Tahoe Airporter and DAV shuttles. Airporter can get Veterans from the SLT Casino area to the Reno Airport, and DAV provides shuttle service (by appointment) in the Reno area to the VA in Reno.
- **BUDGET** (Houseworth/Reynolds) None
- **EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT** (Cockrell/Browne)

Dan Browne provided an Handout entitled “World War 11” to discuss education (attached).

John Poimiroo discussed outreach idea that Commissioner Stephanie Carlson had in schools to educate the students on Veterans.
- **SOCIAL MEDIA** (Reynolds/Carlson)

4,578 people reached in January.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS’ REPORTS – RECEIVE AND FILE

- **VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING – VETERANS HOUSE COUNCIL** (Reynolds)

Minutes attached.
- **AMERICAN LEGION SERVICE OFFICER** (Zelinsky)

Report attached.
- **EDC VETERANS ALLIANCE** (Poimiroo)

John Poimiroo provided report. The grant period is now open for organizations or individuals that help Veterans in El Dorado County.

The Josh Tasabia fund has been established through the Veterans Alliance to provide assistance directly to the Tasabia family, now living in El Dorado County. Chris Whitaker, Gilmore Hero Program, is also providing assistance to the Tasabia family.

Memorial Day events will include installation of a memorial brick at the monument for Josh Tasabia.
- **MFSG/EL DORADO VETERAN RESOURCES** (Whalen)

Tim Whalen first reported on activity with the Citrus Heights Vet Center. They are working on filling one open position. The Vet Center covers 10 counties. Consideration for Mobile Vet Center presence in South Lake Tahoe and South County.

EDVR/MFSG has funding for Caldor Fire victims. Tim is working with the board of EDVR to determine how to allocate the funds. Mobility equipment, such as walkers and wheel chairs continue to be donated.
- **REGIONAL VETERAN EVENTS**

Thrive 1035 event March 12 to support Josh Tasabia. Tickets available online.

Women’s History Month (March)

XII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Veteran Owned Business program (Cockrell)

Chris Cockrell reports that progress has been made with the program: window stickers are being made, the letter to businesses has been written, and the list of existing Veteran Owned Businesses has been provided by the tax collectors office. The Chamber of Commerce for all districts have been contacted and are involved. The letters will be generated soon.

Discussion was made regarding a Commissioner making a personal visit to the business to

deliver the letter and the sticker. Suggestion also made to get the newspapers involved in promoting the program.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Change of Committee name from “Social Media” to “Outreach” (Poimiroo)

Based on feedback from another Commissioner to do more outreach, John Poimiroo moved to change the name of the Social Media Committee to Outreach Committee. Second by Todd Smith. Motion passed 5-0.

2. EDC Veterans Affairs Commission Logo and Letterhead (Poimiroo)

The Commission needs to create a logo and letterhead as they cannot use the El Dorado County Seal on their correspondence. John Poimiroo suggested a design committee be formed. Dan Brown identified someone he worked with for his Lake Tahoe Veterans Alliance logo. To be continued outside of meeting.

XIV. GOOD OF THE ORDER (Additional Commission and HHSA Staff Comments)

1. Thank you to Joe Coca and E16 for the location of the meeting this month
2. E16 will be offering free wine tasting and discounted purchases for Veterans during March 18-20.
3. Richard Todd gave an update on the reimbursements for the Veterans Memorial Building Council – checks have been issued.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

J. Connolly (provided attachments); Cathie Adams; Bob Bradshaw; Jim Cahill; Joe Coca

XV. NEXT MEETING LOCATION, DATE & TIME

Thursday, March 10, 2022 @ 1200 Hours (Placerville)

ADJOURNMENT at 1:47pm

Veterans Services – February 2022 Report Terry Thomas, County Veterans Service Officer

1. EDC Veteran Services Updates:

Our office is still short staffed and in the hiring process for a Veteran Service Representative, to be interviewed TBD.

Office Activity for January:

- 298 Incoming phone calls
- 67 Scheduled appointments
- 143 Walk-in visitors

Currently the Veteran Service Office is conducting CDVA audits and we have rescheduled some veteran appointments and scaled down appointments until the end of February 2022.

Please be reminded that Veteran Services is continuing to improve our customer service and all contacts should be channeled to the front office so that Veteran Services can show accountability for the services we provide.

Also, I would like to remind the Commission that our office will be closed to the public every last Friday of the month so that Veteran Services can follow up on the month in review and make updates and changes as needed.

2. Claims Updates

Summary of claims filed in January 2022:

- 2 Decision Review Requests
- 7 Applications for VA Healthcare
- 7 Supplemental Claim Applications
- 29 Intent to File
- 50 Appointment of VSO as Claimants Representative
- 17 Statements in support of claim
- 29 Claims for Service Connected Disability
- 2 Declaration of Dependents
- 5 Applications for Pension
- 5 Applications for DIC

11 Veteran Designation on Driver's License
1 College Fee Waiver
Total Claims Filed: 165

3. South Lake Tahoe Updates:

Tahoe, Feb. 09, 2022, SVSR Jon Brown: I was able to assist 4 veteran/Dependents all had scheduled appointments. I had 1 appointment no show for unknown reasons. I connected with Commissioner Dan Browne and provided him with a wheelchair for a veteran in need.

Proposed Sandy Way Signage:



2597 BLACK'S LANE - PLACERVILLE, CA. 95667

2-2-2022



4. VA Updates:

Starting March 14, 2022 the VA will be transitioning fully into a hybrid work environment that blends in-person, telework and remote work. The VA recognized during the pandemic that leveraging technology and maximizing telework where feasible has helped the VA keep up with claim processing and providing outstanding service to veterans and their dependents.

The Board of Veteran Appeals:

Has learned that a limited number of Veterans may have had their BVA Form 10182 (Decision Review Request; Notice of Disagreement) mistakenly rejected for being untimely.

If a claimant filed a VA Form between Feb 19, 2019 and Mar 23, 2021, and believes it may have been improperly rejected as untimely (within 1 year of decision) please send a letter to the “Clerk of the Board at P.O. Box 27063, Washington, DC 20038 or fax 1-844-678-8979 **No Later Than March 1, 2022.** The letter should state that the claimant is asking the Board to **Recalculate Timeliness. Claimant should include Veteran’s full name or SSN, the date of rating decision being appealed to the board, and the date of the original VA Form 10182 that the Board said is untimely.**

Oakland Regional Office:

The VA has appointed a new Director; Mr. Sergio Chao whom is currently the Director of the Honolulu VA Regional Office (VBA). Mr. Chao has a very motivating raise to his important roles in the VA. He’s an Army veteran honorably discharged in 1996 and in 1998 he started his VA career in the mailroom at the Houston VA Regional Office as a work study, working his way through the ranks as Program Support, Budget Analyst, VSR and Rater in Comp and Pension, and so much other accomplishments. Welcome aboard!

Military.com, Jan. 26: [Anticipating Boom of Aging Veterans, VA to Expand Care, Services for the Elderly](#)

The Department of Veterans Affairs is planning to expand several programs that allow senior veterans to age in their homes or live in home-like settings

as alternatives to elder care facilities. VA officials announced Monday they will expand the Home-Based Primary Care and Veteran-Directed Care programs, which provide medical care and caregiver services to housebound older veterans, and its Medical Foster Home program, which provides housing and services to veterans who otherwise would be in nursing homes.

5. End of report. Questions?

6. Thank you!

Email Correspondence 2/3/22 between John Poimiroo and Matt Mauk, EDC Transit Authority

John,

It was good to talk with you today.

I've noted a few minor clarifications and added some information (highlighted below). Otherwise, your synopsis is correct and I'm hopeful we can collaborate on some meaningful transportation solutions for the veterans in our community.

Best,

Matthew Mauk, Executive Director
El Dorado County Transit Authority
(530) 642-5383 ext. 210

Matt,

Thank you for describing the services of the El Dorado County Transit Authority, as discussed today by phone. As mentioned, the El Dorado County Veterans Affairs Commission is concerned about the ability of veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces in getting to medical appointments at VA Medical Centers.

In particular, it seems that every week that passes our network of volunteers is tasked with helping an elderly, disabled or immobile veteran get from El Dorado County to an appointment at VA Medical Center Mather Field. The same occurs at South Lake Tahoe with transport to the VA in Reno.

Here's a recapitulation of what you described. Please correct me, if I've gotten any of this incorrectly:

- You did not recall anyone representing the veterans community having contacted you previously to discuss the issue of veterans transportation, but could not speak for your staff. I mention this only because it's clear that we - the veterans community - failed to inform the county transportation agency of our transportation needs. In talking to our Operations Manager who's been with us for much longer, our former Executive Director has been in communication with the Veteran's community in the past to explore partnership opportunities, but we've apparently never gotten to the point of implementation. He's not sure why, but assumes it was due to similar issues with staffing resources.
- El Dorado Transit now operates non-emergency medical transportation to medical facilities in Sacramento county on Tuesdays and Thursdays (only) for a

cost of \$10 to and \$10 from the medical facility. These rides can be scheduled up to ~~four days in advance~~. **These rides can be scheduled from at least four days in advance, up to fourteen days in advance.**

- Your biggest constraint, currently, is the availability of staffing to operate this service. As such, you're investigating other ways of staffing transit services, such as reimbursing volunteers, though no decision has been made about such a method of providing transportation.
- Previously, you allowed scheduling up to 14 days, but the availability of staffing has limited how many days in advance transport may be arranged. **We still allow scheduling up to fourteen days in advance, but the biggest consequence of being short staffed is on the general availability of rides. As it stands today, we only have a handful of vehicles in operation at any given time, and we just can't provide nearly as many rides as we were a couple of years ago.**
- These Sac Med busses/vans depart from centralized transit centers and park and ride lots in: Placerville, Missouri Flat, Diamond Springs, Ponderosa Rd and El Dorado Hills. Dial-a-ride service to these departure locations can be scheduled from private residences.
- Return rides are scheduled at the same time that the initial ride to a medical facility is reserved, and El Dorado Transit is mindful that medical appointments might take longer than scheduled and accommodates such delays.
- El Dorado Transit welcomes further discussion on how it might assist the El Dorado County Veterans Affairs Commission and such volunteer organizations as El Dorado Veterans Resources and Military Family Support Group in transporting veterans to non-emergency VA appointments.

I hope that I've captured our discussion correctly. If not, please reply with any suggested changes, as I will be presenting this to the EDC Veterans Affairs Commission at its next meeting next Thursday in Somerset.

Again, thank you. Your responses were most helpful and informative.

Most respectfully yours,
John Poimiroo, Chairperson (CAPT, USN-Ret)
El Dorado County Veterans Affairs Commission
(916) 801-1013

El Dorado Transit - SAC-MED

SAC-MED is a shared-ride, non-emergency, medical appointment, transportation service operated by the El Dorado County Transit Authority.

SAC-MED operates on Tuesdays and Thursdays only transporting passengers to medical appointments in the greater Sacramento area. Medical appointments must be scheduled between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Registration Process and Application

Complete and return the Dial-A-Ride or ADA application to the El Dorado Transit office.

[Dial-A-Ride Application PDF](#)

[ADA Complementary Application Form](#)

Making a Reservation

SAC-MED rides must be scheduled at least four (4) but no more than fourteen (14) business days in advance by calling (530) 642-3696 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Ride requests are accepted on a first come/first served basis.

If passengers need assistance, they must provide a Personal Care Attendant (PCA) and include such information when making the reservation.

Passengers receive a confirmation call back by 4 p.m. the day before the scheduled trip to confirm the exact pickup location and time.

Pickup and Drop Off Locations

SAC-MED is a flexible service that transports passengers directly to the curb of their destination in the greater Sacramento area.

SAC-MED pick-up and drop-off locations in El Dorado County are:

- Placerville Station (Mosquito Road)
- Missouri Flat Transfer Center (near WalMart)
- Central Transit Center (Diamond Springs)
- Ponderosa Road (Wild Chaparral) Park and Ride
- El Dorado Hills Park and Ride

To get to and from pick-up and drop-off locations, schedule separate [Dial-A-Ride](#) trips.

Fare

The fare for SAC-MED is \$10 each way. PCAs travel at no charge.

Subject: World War Eleven

There ya go. It's not gonna get any better)

World War Eleven?

YOUNG PEOPLE CANNOT LEARN FROM HISTORY ANY MORE BECAUSE HISTORY IS NO LONGER TAUGHT AS A REQUIRED SUBJECT IN PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS.

Theodore "Dutch" J. Van Kirk was the navigator on the "Enola Gay" when it dropped the bomb at Hiroshima, Japan, and is the last surviving member of the crew. This really happened.

Dutch was asked to speak at a grammar school this past week. The young teacher introduced him by saying the speaker was a veteran of World War Eleven (as in WWII).

Dutch stood up and walked out of the school without saying a word.

End of story..

GOD HELP US!

For those who understand, no explanation is needed.

For those who do not understand, no explanation is possible.

**MINUTES OF THE 2/3/22 MEETING OF THE EL DORADO COUNTY
VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING COUNCIL**

Officers and members – 7/1/21-6/30/22: Chairman – Mac McAdams, VFW Post 10165; Vice Chairman – Bud Sweet, FRA Branch 275; Treasurer – Bud Sweet; Secretary – Dave Sauvé, VFW Post 10165; Trustees- Joe Young, FRA Branch 275 and Victor Mansfield, MCL Branch 697; At Large members – Bill Fiedler, VFW Post 2680, Mike Raffety, American Legion Post 119, Allen Amaro, DAV Chapter 63.

Guests: David Zelinsky phoned in before the meeting and announced that Kirkwood Mountain Resort was offering free day passes for snowshoe and cross-country skiing, including equipment, for all veterans. No reservation required, just show up and show veterans I.D. We also were introduced to the new EDC VSO, Terry Thomas, who came to us from his last assignment in Santa Clara and is a USMC veteran. More from Mr. Thomas in the Veterans Service Office report.

Chairman McAdams opened the business meeting with the flag salute and pledge of allegiance at 6:20 PM with 11 total in attendance. All officers were present and all organizations represented. The minutes of the 1/6/21 meeting were accepted as published on a motion by Allen Amaro and a second by Trustee Mansfield. The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented by Treasurer Sweet, subject to audit, on a motion by Secretary Sauvé and a second by Trustee Young.

Organization events schedule for building use:

VFW Post 2680 – Monthly meeting 2/11/22
FRA Branch 275 – Breakfast 2/6/22, monthly meeting 2/19/22
MCL Detachment 679 – Monthly meeting 2/9/22
VFW Post 10165 – Monthly meeting 2/1/22, Breakfast 2/13/22
Veterans Commission – Monthly meeting 2/10/22 in Somerset
CAP – Meeting every 2nd and 4th Thursday – 6:00 PM in the East room
DAV Chapter 63 – Dark at the VMB
American Legion Post 119 – Monthly meeting was 2/2/22 at their facility

Building Manager's Report: Dave Sauvé mentioned that in the last few days the Placerville Garden Club, along with volunteers from VFW Post 10165, had done a landscaping/beautification/cleanup of the area along Armory Drive and that the dumpster enclosure had been cleaned out. He reported that Pro-Line Custodial Service had been doing a much improved job cleaning the building since his letter to them last month, and he handed out info on a grant program involving funds from the American Rescue Plan Act via El Dorado County for local non-profits who suffered revenue loss due to the Covid-19 restrictions over the last two years.

Veterans Service Office report: New County VSO Terry Thomas gave us an extensive report on the workings, needs and goals of the EDC Veterans Service Office. Included in his presentation were facts and figures on how many cases our local office handled in the last year (854 phone consultations, 844 appointments, 1276 walk-ins, etc.) and the fact that at this point the staff is short-handed. They are seeking candidates for a Veterans Service Representative. He reminded us of the working hours and days of the week options for walk-ins and appointment procedures. South Lake Tahoe office is now active and open on a limited basis. He is making accountability of staff members a priority.

No unfinished or new business offered up for discussion

“Good of the Council.” Tim Whalen of EDVR/MFSG let us know that there are various mobility assistance devices available from his group. Treasurer Sweet would like a meeting with Leo Cooper of “Feed our Vets” to discuss kitchen and storage use. We will set one up for next Thursday. Secretary Sauvé moved to adjourn, Allen Amaro seconded and Chairman McAdams adjourned the meeting at 6:38 PM after a final flag salute. Next meeting is Thursday, March 1st, 2022.

Respectfully submitted, Dave Sauvé, Secretary

American Legion Service Officer Report 2/1/22

Vet court

Recent phone calls.

End:

After eight years, I finally get the phone call.

“I graduated from Vet Court!”

Married. Kid on the way. New home. 100% service connected. Drug and Alcohol counselor. Wants to help his fellow Veterans.

Middle:

“I want someone from the VA to be at our house meeting to advocate for us Veterans.”

I gave him the name and phone contact.

I cautioned him that clients are always fighting over rules and restrictions when they are in a recovery program.

“That’s not it. I do not want to go to another place. I just want this place to do better, to be as good as it is capable of being.”

He might make it.

Beginning:

Why is he still in custody? I thought he was all set to be transferred to treatment.

“The D.A. is going for a felony this time, not a misdemeanor.”

If the Vet flunks out of his recovery program, he will be a convicted felon, and on his way to state prison. His success record is abysmal.

Still, with that hammer hanging over his head it might be the motivation he needs to succeed.

He has no choice.

David Zelinsky
Service Officer

February 10, 2022

From: Joseph Connolly, M.A., QMCS, USCG (Ret.)

To: El Dorado County Veterans Affairs Commission

Copy: Mr. Richard Todd, Program Manager, Veterans Services
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
El Dorado County Chief Administrative Officer

Subj: For the Good of the Order

The agenda item, “Good of the Order,” generally refers to “that portion of the agenda or meeting during which members may make statements or offer observations about the character or work of the organization without having any particular item of business before the meeting.” It is “also the time to offer a resolution to bring a disciplinary charge against a member for offenses committed outside of a meeting.”¹

The enclosed information is submitted as public comment for your consideration. In summary, the chairperson’s previous claims that commissioner Cockrell “has no affiliation with the Proud Boys and never has” or “[he] has no connection to them at all” were not accurate then, nor are they now.

Commissioner Cockrell has a link with the Hangtown Proud Boys that existed prior to his January, 2021 nomination. He has other friendships with people and groups who openly support Proud Boys and neo-Nazis, and is friends with a Proud Boy who participated in that group’s attack of the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.

Since last February I have urged the commission to responsibly address these issues, with multiple opportunities for any commissioner to respond. Instead, you sought to deny my right to public comment in court, attacked me in private, and chose to remain mute in public.

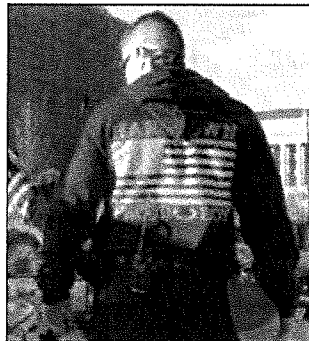
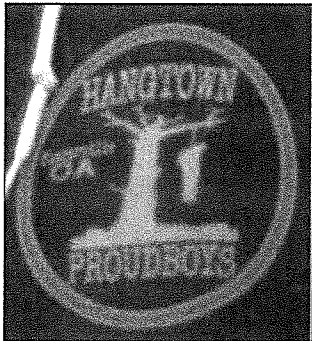
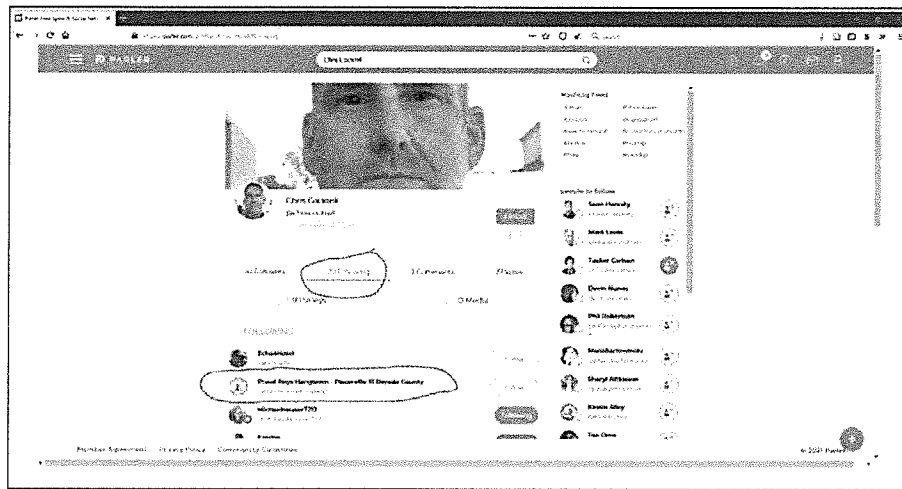
I urge you again to face the facts of an inappropriate relationship that is counter to the core values of our Armed Services and to the oath we all took to defend our country from all enemies, including the domestic ones who conspired to end our nation’s historical legacy of a peaceful transfer of elected power.

¹ See e.g., <https://oaedm.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Part-5-Appendix-D-For-the-Good-of-the-Order-1.pdf> [as of January 13, 2022].

“POYC”:

El Dorado County’s Acceptance of Extremist Influences Amongst Veteran Affairs Commissioners

Part I: The County’s Big Lie



An Independent Citizen’s Review of Commissioner Chris Cockrell’s
Contested Appointment: December, 2020 to February, 2022

Prepared and Submitted by:
Joseph Connolly, M.A.
U.S. Coast Guard Senior Chief Petty Officer (Ret.)
February 10, 2022

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INTRODUCTION

On February 9, 2021 the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors (“Board”) voted 4-1 to approve the nomination of Mr. Chris Cockrell (“Cockrell”) to the County’s Veteran Affairs Commission. Cockrell, a U.S. Army veteran, was nominated by newly elected Supervisor George Turnboo.

Cockrell’s nomination was strongly opposed for questionable associations with the Proud Boys organization, including a newly formed chapter known as the “Hangtown Proud Boys” (“HPB”). The group’s logo includes a body hanging by a noose from a large tree, as shown on the cover of this review. Opponents also took note of Cockrell’s social media posts disparaging those he identified as “Democrats” or “Progressives.”

The chairperson of the Veteran Affairs Commission, John Poimiroo (“Poimiroo”), repeatedly denied that Cockrell had any relationship with the Proud Boys. For example, Poimiroo told the Board on February 9, 2021 that Cockrell “had no relationship with Proud Boys, he was not a member and had no association. He didn’t know them. ... He has no connection to them at all.”

For his part, Cockrell never addressed the substance of the Proud Boys before the Board. On January 5, 2021 he simply said, “I deny any of the accusations that had been communicated.” On February 9, 2021 he said, “There’s not one substantiated allegation by any of these in writing, that are slandering me, that can be proven true,” adding, “we need to step aside from the political attacks.”

The facts in this review cast doubt on Poimiroo and Cockrell’s unsupported denials. They show that prior to Cockrell’s nomination he had an undisclosed link to the HPB President, was following the HPB on Parler, and had other undisclosed connections to Proud Boys supporters.

Following his appointment Cockrell befriended an avid supporter of the Proud Boys who also supports neo-Nazis, has maintained a link to the HPB President, and befriended a Proud Boy who participated in the January 6, 2021 attack upon the U.S. Capitol.

COCKRELL'S PRE-NOMINATION EXTREMIST LINKS

The Proud Boys in 2020 were described by the Anti-Defamation League as “an unconventional strain of American right-wing extremism. ... In reality, the Proud Boys bear many of the hallmarks of a gang, and its members have taken part in multiple acts of brutal violence and intimidation.”¹

The most notorious act of Proud Boys violence was their attack of the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. Joseph Biggs, a U.S. Army veteran and Proud Boy from Florida, led a nationwide group of Proud Boys from the Washington Monument around the Capitol, then facilitated the first breach of the Capitol grounds. Another Proud Boy and veteran, Dominic Pezzola of New York, used a stolen police shield to first breach the Capitol building itself, allowing hordes of rioters including Biggs, to follow inside.



Dominic Pezzola, USMC Reserve veteran and New York Proud Boy
U.S. Capitol - Jan. 6, 2021

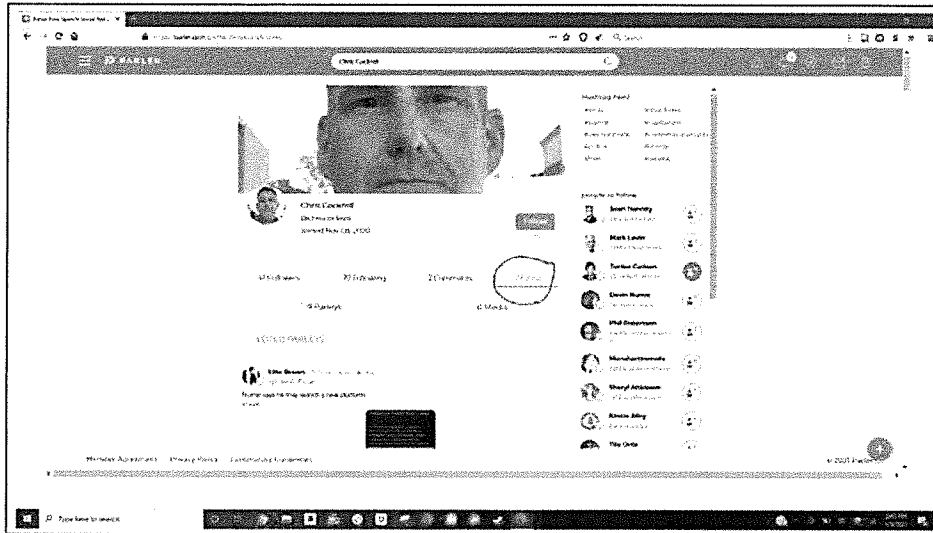
¹ Anti-Defamation League. (n.d.) *Proud Boys*. Retrieved March 7, 2021 from <https://www.adl.org/proudboys>.

A.
PARLER ACCOUNTS

Cockrell submitted an application for the veteran affairs commission in January, 2021 and was appointed by the Board on February 9, 2021.

Five days after the November 3, 2020 U.S. Presidential election, Cockrell established an account on Parler.² At that time the Anti-Defamation League said, “Parler has attracted a range of right-wing extremists” including Proud Boys; proponents of the QAnon conspiracy theory; anti-government extremists including members of the Oath Keepers, Three Percenters, and other militia groups; and white supremacists including members of the alt-right and accelerationists such as the terrorist group Atomwaffen Division.”³

Since the U.S. Capitol attack, multiple Proud Boys have been arrested and charged with conspiracy and obstruction of Congress, including Biggs and Pezzola. The leader of the Oath Keepers, Stewart Rhodes, and ten others have been arrested and charged with seditious conspiracy.⁴



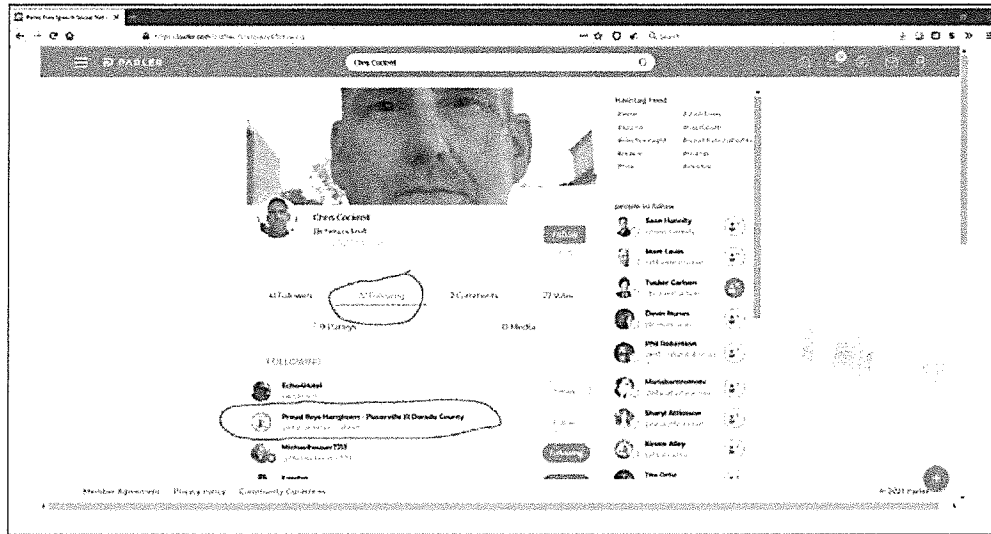
Chris Cockrell Parler screenshot
“Joined Nov. 08, 2020”

² Cockrell, C. @chriscockrell. (n.d.) <https://parler.com/profile/chriscockrell/>.

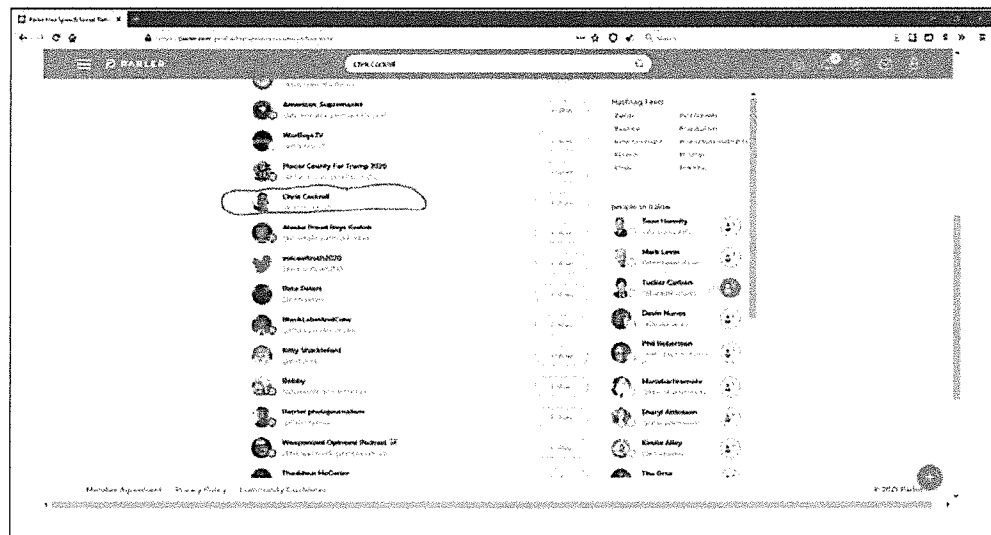
³ Parler. (2021, Mar. 7). In *Wikipedia*. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parler#User_base.

⁴ See e.g., <https://www.rawstory.com/oath-keepers-leader-charged-with-seditious-conspiracy-for-jan-6-insurrection-report/>; <https://www.justice.gov/opa/press-release/file/1462481/download>.

The HPB joined Parler on November 16, 2020. Screenshots from Cockrell’s Parler account show that he and the HPB were following each other’s Parler accounts.



Cockrell Parler screenshot
Following “Proud Boys Hangtown - Placerville El Dorado County”⁵

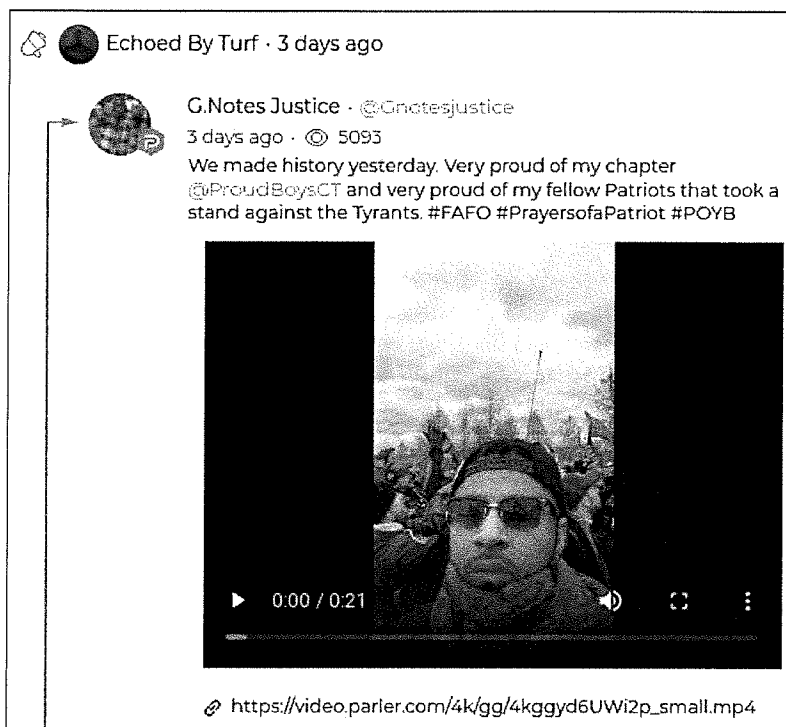


HPB Parler screenshot
Following “Chris Cockrell”⁶

⁵ Cockrell, C. @chriscockrell. (n.d.) <https://parler.com/profile/chriscockrell/following>.

⁶ Proud Boys Hangtown - Placerville El Dorado County@Hangtownproudboys. (n.d.) <https://parler.com/profile/Hangtownproudboys/following>.

Besides following Cockrell on Parler the HPB followed at least 54 Proud Boys groups and individuals.⁷ Those included the groups “Proud Boys CT” and “Helena Proud Boys.” Among those group’s members were two Proud Boys who participated in the U.S. Capitol attack, Gernaro Nunez of the Connecticut chapter, and Dallas Davis, President of the Helena chapter.⁸

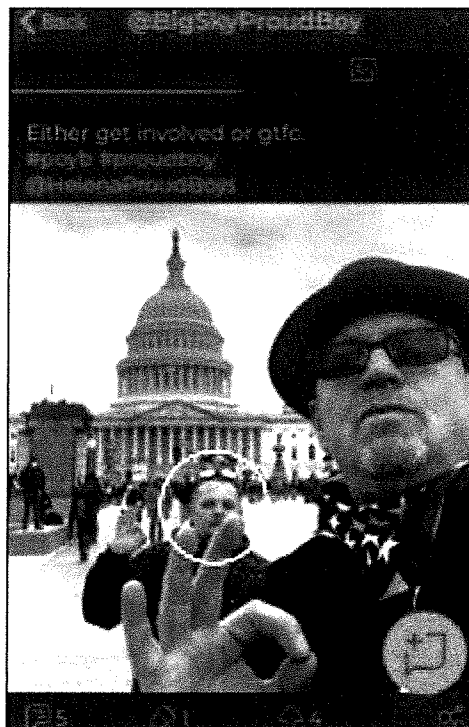


Genero Nunez - Parler
@ProudBoysCT chapter

Note: the acronym “FAFO” above stands for, “Fuck Around Find Out.”

⁷ Enrique Tarrío (Chairman of the Proud Boys organization); Mtlproudboys; Helena Proud Boys; SDPROUDBOYS; ProudBoysCO; POYB; ProudBoysDOP; OFFICIAL PROUDBOYS USA; PBF (France); ProudBoys NM; Richmond Indiana pb; Harris County TX PB; Proudboysdeutsc; ProudBoys; Proudboys Toronto; East Idaho Proud Boys; ProudBoysBogota; ProudBoysMA; ProudBoysCanada; Westvirginiaproudboys; HOU ProudBoys; Edmonton Proud Boys; Proud Boys CT; Proud Boy Magazine; Alaska Proud Boys Mat-Su; North Central PA Proud Boys; ProudBoysCentralTexas; Proud Boys Las Vegas; ProudBoysNJ; PB Australia; Proud Boys Chicago; Proud Boys POR; Proud Boys Saskatchewan; Proud Boys Calgary; Minnesota Proud Boys; Cincinnati Proud Boys; Proud Boys Iowa; Proud Boys Cleveland; Proud Boys Alabama; Proud Boys Manitoba; DFW Proud Boys; Knox Proud Boys; Arizona Proud Boys; Proud Boys Boise; Proud Boys Philadelphia; Proud Boys Mississippi; Proud Boys WA; St. Louis Proud Boys; Proud Boys Harrisburg; The Proud Boy's Girls; Proud Boys USA; Proud Boys Michigan; Seattle Proud Boys; Alaska Proud Boys Kodiak.

⁸ See <https://detrumpify.org/person.php?ID=2143> (Nunez) and <https://montana161.noblogs.org/post/2021/01/13/montana-proud-boys/> (Davis) [as of Feb. 8, 2022].



Dallas Davis (circled in yellow)
@HelenaProudBoys chapter

B. DECEMBER, 2020 TOYS FOR TOTS EVENT

On December 5, 2020 the HPB, along with members of the “State of Jefferson Proud Boys” donated toys at a downtown Placerville Toys for Tots event, then posed for group photos along with Cockrell, who joined in flashing the group’s divisive “OK” sign.

Cockrell was distinctively dressed in Santa Claus attire, claimed to have been invited by the event organizers, and posed for photos in front of and behind the Proud Boys group.⁹

Three members of the Proud Boys group later proclaimed to the Placerville City Council that they were former Marines.

⁹ See e.g., Frey, T. (2020, Dec. 11). Proud Boys toy drop-off riles community. *The Mountain Democrat*; Hodson, D. (2021, Feb. 12). Commission appointment draws controversy. *The Mountain Democrat*. <https://www.mtdemocrat.com>.



Cockrell, as “Santa,” with HPB and State of Jefferson Proud Boys
Dec. 5, 2020

Members of both Proud Boys groups posed for other photographs in Placerville. That image, and both Proud Boys groups, are highlighted in an article titled “In the Closet of Jefferson State – Part 3: Racism, White Supremacist Neo-Nazis, Militias & the State of Jefferson Proud Boys.”¹⁰

The State of Jefferson Proud Boys website includes a page titled “Heinrichs Hintz,” featuring a photo of Heinrich Himmler, leader of the Nazi SS and overseer of the Nazi’s genocide programs.

¹⁰ <https://anewscafe.com/2021/05/26/redding/in-the-closet-of-jefferson-state-part-3-racism-white-supremacist-neo-nazis-militias-the-state-of-jefferson-proud-boys/>.



HPB and State of Jefferson Proud Boys (some SOJPB circled in yellow)
Dec. 5, 2020



State of Jefferson Proud Boys Website

On December 8, 2020 the local Toys for Tots organization disavowed the Proud Boys gathering, saying, “It is unfortunate that while we were conducting our drive-thru donation event, that others chose to use our event to further their own political or personal agenda. ... The mission of collecting and distributing new, unwrapped toys to our Nation’s most precious resource – its children – is carried out by tens of thousands of Marines, sailors, and volunteers who adhere to the Core Values of our Corps – Honor, Courage, and Commitment. By doing so, we provide that beacon of hope to millions of children. ... We have no affiliation with the Proud Boys.”¹¹

On February 12, 2021 Poimiroo publicly defended Cockrell in a Mountain Democrat article. In response to community criticism of Cockrell and the Proud Boys, Poimiroo “called the accusations “absolutely without merit. The best way to describe them is as patently untrue, libelous and a disturbing effort at character assassination. Chris has no affiliation with the Proud Boys and never has. He was invited by Toys for Tots ... to portray Santa Claus at their Toys for Tots event in Placerville.”¹²

The same article noted, “The Marine Corps League SSgt. Sky Mote Detachment No. 697 issued a statement clarifying that Cockrell was not the official Santa Claus invited by Toys for Tots organizers or the Marine Corps League to participate in the Dec. 5 Toys for Tots collection event.”¹³

On February 13, 2021 the local Toys for Tots organization issued a Facebook statement that read, “Unfortunately it appears we must address this again as *no one from the veterans commission* nor the media have contacted us on this issue. Please see below announcement from the Placerville MCL and our post from December 6th *with our authorized Toys for Tots Santa* and the Mrs who were following Covid 19 guidelines during our December 6th event. Thank you.”¹⁴ (emphasis added.)

¹¹ Toys for Tots - Placerville - El Dorado County. (2020, Dec. 8). *We are aware that a lot of people have questions about the incident that happened Saturday afternoon in downtown Placerville*. Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/edct4t/posts/942054536324354>.

¹² Hodson, Dawn. (2021, Feb. 12). Commission appointment draws controversy. *The Mountain Democrat*. <https://www.mtdemocrat.com/news/cockrell-commission-appointment-draws-controversy/>.

¹³ *Ibid*.

¹⁴ Toys for Tots - Placerville - El Dorado County. (2021, Feb.13). Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/edct4t/posts/982950302234777>.

C.

BOOTS ON THE GROUND CALI, AARON BATE LINKS

On January 6, 2021 the Board received an email regarding Cockrell's link to Aaron Bate, a local supporter of "Proud Boys, Bikers and III'ers." Attached to the email were two photos from Bate's Facebook page, indicating Cockrell "liked" a photo between Jan. 1-6, 2021.¹⁵

Subject: Chris Cockrell

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 1/6/2021, 1:06 PM

To: "bosone@edcgov.us" <bosone@edcgov.us>, "bostwo@edcgov.us" <bostwo@edcgov.us>, "bosfour@edcgov.us" <bosfour@edcgov.us>, "bosfive@edcgov.us" <bosfive@edcgov.us>, "bosthree@edcgov.us" <bosthree@edcgov.us>

Reply-to: [REDACTED]

It's obvious to many of us who follow local politics that Chris Cockrell aligns himself with the local Proud Boy hate groups. Here is the clear linkage.

There is a local man named Aaron Bate who consistently rallies Proud Boys, Bikers, and III%'ers with the same messages of hate. He was a primary instigator in the violence that occurred with the BLM protests in Placerville, and also runs the Facebook Page AJ Boots which is his group called "Boots on the Ground". Chris Cockrell can be seen "liking" posts in which these members are flashing the "White Power" sign. If you go to AJ Boots Facebook page and look at the January 1st photo of Bates and a woman flashing a White Power hand sign, you will see that Cockrell has "liked" the photo.

Cockrell has no business in gaining any role of influence in your town.

¹⁵ Source: El Dorado County public records act request.

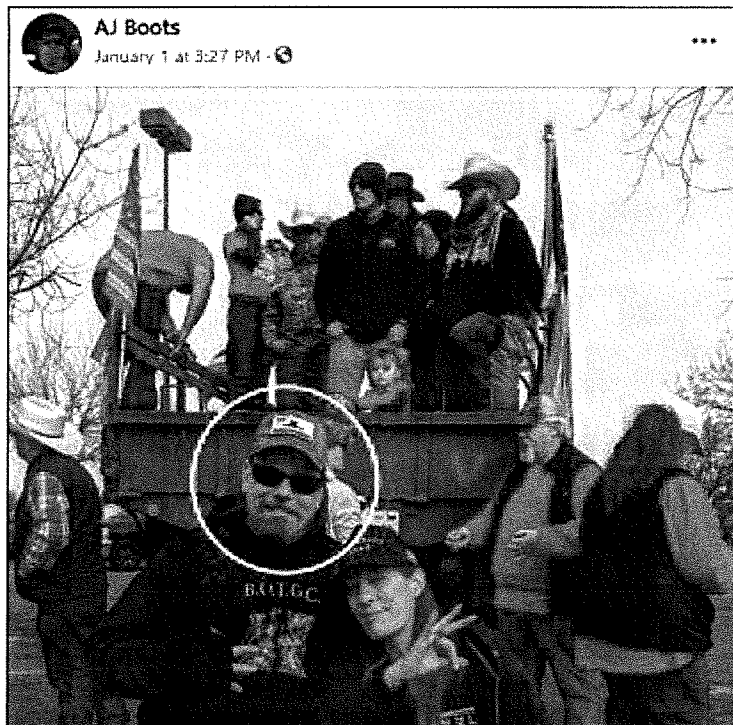


Aaron Bate

40m · 🌐

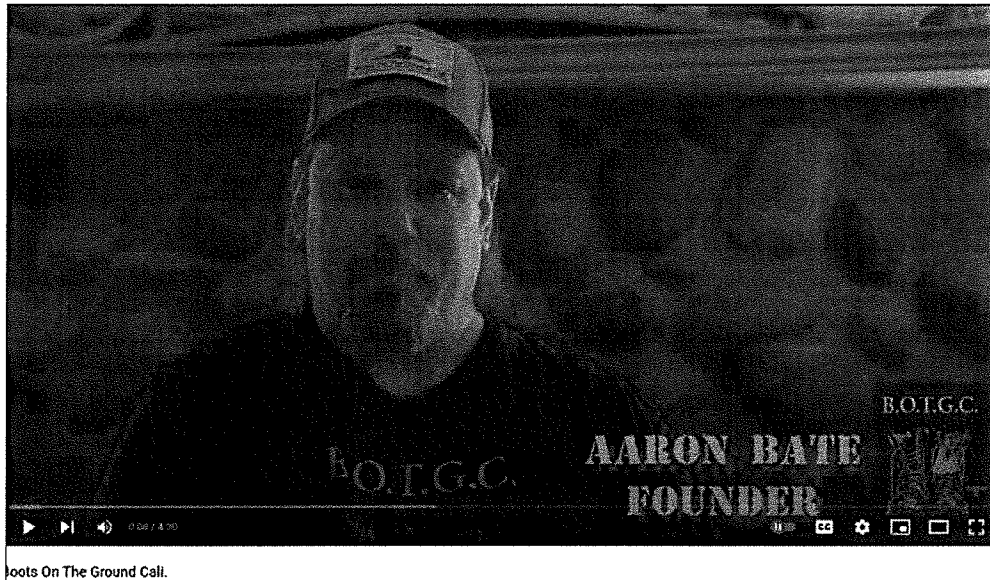
Calling All Bikers, Ill%, Proud Boys, American Guard, Clampers, Etc. We could really use your help with these BLM Wanna Be Pukes In Placerville!!! Please come to Main Street and help shut these Idiots down!!!

Cockrell Public Comment, Attachment 1
Jan. 6, 2021



Cockrell Public Comment, Attachment 2
Jan. 6, 2021
Aaron Bate (circled in yellow)

Aaron Bate is the founder of “Boots on the Ground Cali” (“B.O.T.G.C.”), whose website includes photos of multiple demonstrations in the Sacramento region.”¹⁶



Foothill 7 TV YouTube video
“Boots on the Ground Cali.”



Boots on the Ground Cali website - Home page

¹⁶ See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TbzLOBA90Ck&ab_channel=Foothill7TV (Founder); <https://www.bootsotgc.com/> (Website).

B.O.T.G.C.'s website includes a "Photo" page, including "Misc." photos. Among those photos are group pictures of Aaron Bate with Sacramento area Proud Boys, including Marcos Santos, who participated in the attack of the U.S. Capitol, and Jeffrey Perrine, a well known Proud Boys antagonist.^{17 18}

Perrine has the distinction of being expelled by the Sacramento County Republican Party on February 18, 2021, based on his "desire to maintain membership in an organization despite his views and actions being categorically inconsistent with the values of the Republican Party."¹⁹



Aaron Bate (center)
Proud Boys Jeffrey Perrine (circled in red) and Marcos Santos (circled in yellow)

¹⁷ <https://www.bootsotgc.com/pictures-misc-photos?pgid=k03q6u36-97a169bc-3053-4ced-bd64-04bf3602d4a1>.

¹⁸ See <https://detrumpify.org/person.php?ID=2548> (Marcos Santos).

¹⁹ See, e.g. KCRA. (2021, Updated Mar. 18). *Sacramento County GOP expels member affiliated with Proud Boys*. <https://www.kcra.com/article/sacramento-county-gop-proud-boy-member/35550836>.



Proud Boy Marcos Santos (foreground) assembling with Proud Boys
Washington, DC - Jan. 6, 2021

NOTE: The yellow object on his waist was reported to be a taser



Proud Boy Marcos Santos - U.S. Capitol attack
Jan. 6, 2021

Bate and Perrine’s friendships include posing for pictures with Lindsay Grathwohl, a San Lorenzo resident with neo-Nazi and other extremist ties.²⁰



Lindsay Grathwohl (circled in yellow), Jeffrey Perrine (circled in red)
California State Capitol


SAFETY ALERT

VIOLENT RACIST IN YOUR AREA


LINDSAY DANAEE GRATHWOHL

Your neighbor Lindsay Danae Grathwohl lives at 15830 Via Del Sol. Lindsay Grathwohl is a prominent figure in Northern California's far-Right activist network and has ties to violent fascist formations including the Proud Boys, American Guard, and the Golden State Skinheads. On social media, Grathwohl expresses hatred for immigrants as well as anti-black racism. Her unhinged and vile posts have resulted in her being permanently banned from using Facebook and Instagram. She has appeared as a guest on Info Wars with Alex Jones, who claims the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting was fake, though that claim is demonstrably false. In 2018, Alex Jones gave Grathwohl \$5,000 to fund her activism. Over the past four years, this "activism" has brought Grathwohl to march side-by-side with neo-Nazi groups such as Rise Above Movement, Identity Evropa, and Traditionalist Worker Party, many of whom were involved in planning the Charlottesville "Unite the Right" rally in August 2017 that resulted in the death of activist Heather Heyer.


Lindsay constantly invokes her late father Larry David Grathwohl, who infiltrated the Weather Underground for the FBI and also made appearances on Info Wars to discuss the (non-existent) "new world order" with conspiracist wingnut Alex Jones. Following in her father's footsteps, Lindsay Grathwohl peddles old and tired conspiracies that date back to the height of the John Birch Society. Much like the racist arguments against the work of Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights activists in the 1960s, Lindsay accuses movements such as Black Lives Matter to be nothing more than "communist" or "Marxist" in an effort to dehumanize and vilify protests against police brutality, subsequently provoking violent attacks against protesters in the process. Lindsay has shown support for Kyle Rittenhouse, the 17-year-old who shot and killed two Black Lives Matter protesters in Kenosha, WI earlier this year.



Lindsay Grathwohl at fascist rally in Sacramento
November 16th, 2020



Lindsay Grathwohl with member of neo-fascist group
Proud Boys, November 16th, 2020



Lindsay Grathwohl with neo-Nazi activists
November 4th, 2017

Neighborhood Warning Excerpt

Nov., 2020

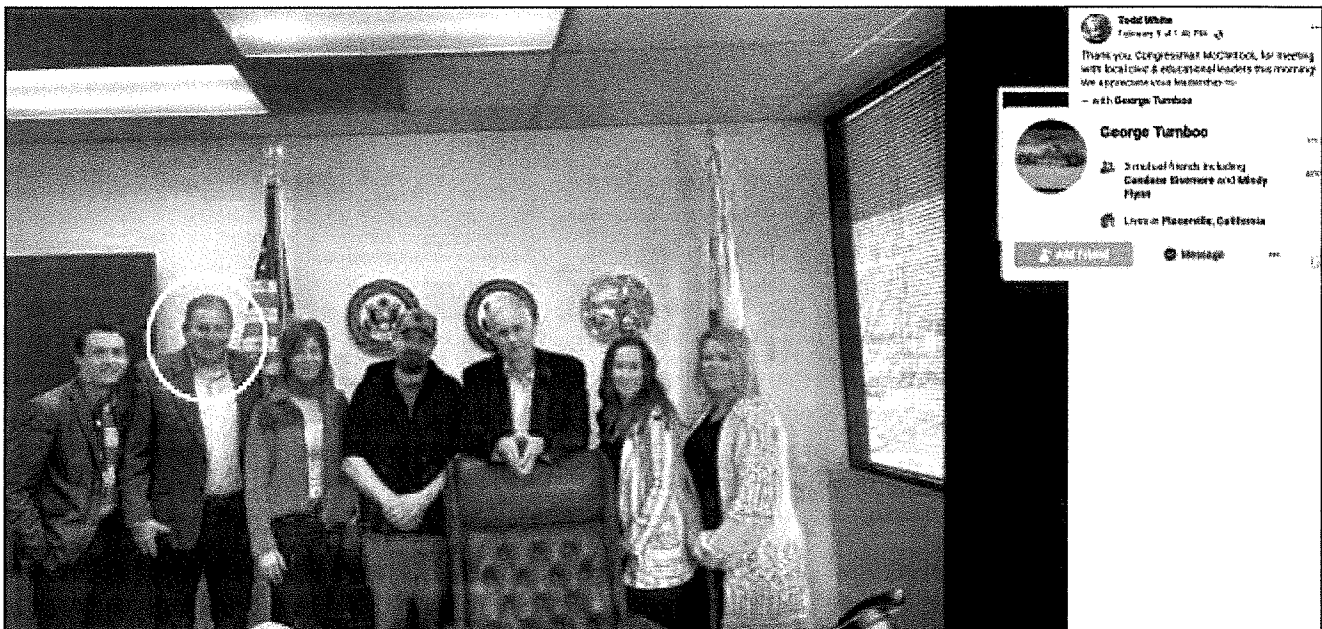
²⁰ See e.g., <https://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2020/12/01/18838745.php>.

B.O.T.G.C.'s Facebook page shows Cockrell as a member since December 21, 2020.

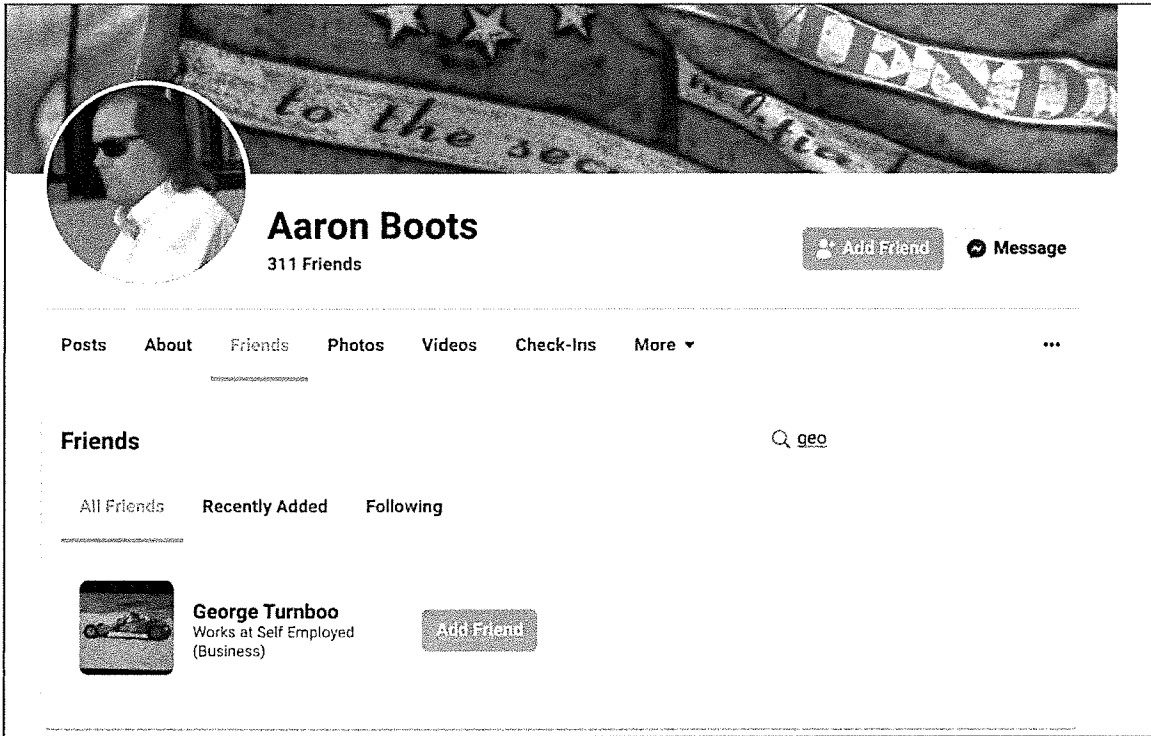


B.O.T.G.C. Facebook page
Cockrell membership since Dec. 21, 2020

Cockrell was nominated to be a commissioner by Supervisor George Turnboo. Bate and a Facebook account for Turnboo are linked, as are Turnboo and Cockrell.

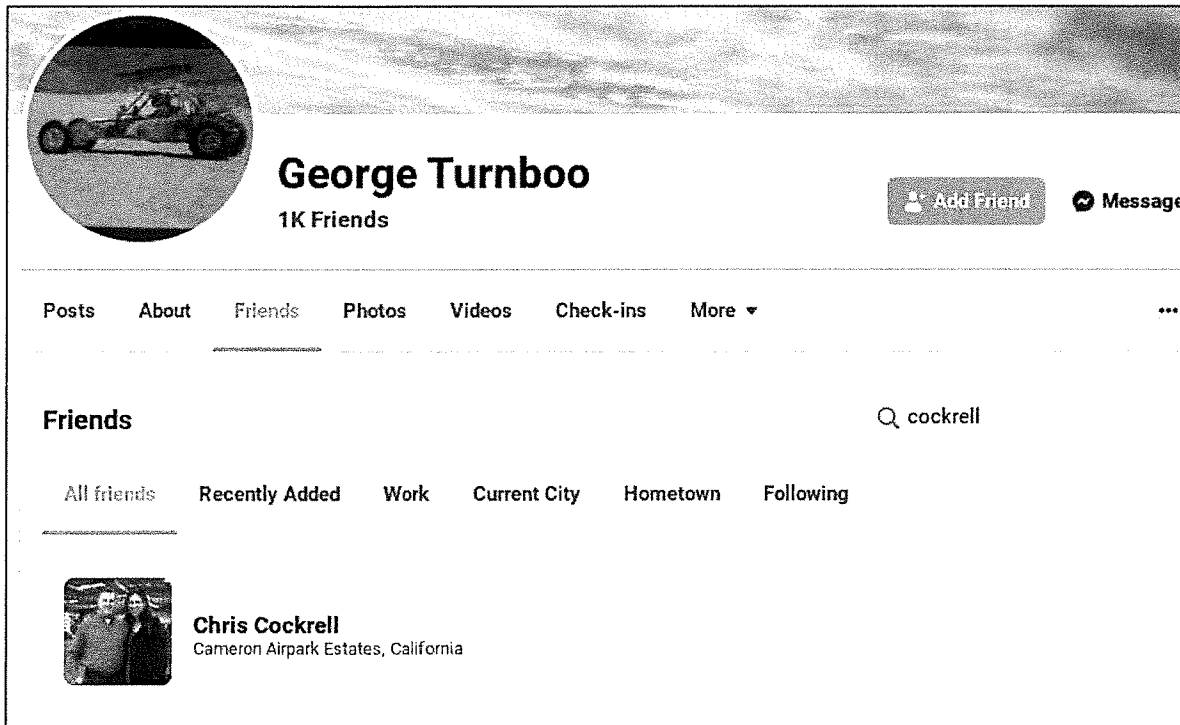


Supervisor George Turnboo (circled in yellow)
George Turnboo Facebook account profile picture (in yellow rectangle)



A screenshot of a Facebook profile for Aaron Boots. The profile picture shows a young boy in a white shirt. The cover photo features a banner with the text "to the sea" and a star-patterned background. The name "Aaron Boots" is displayed in large black font, with "311 Friends" below it. To the right are buttons for "Add Friend" and "Message". Below the header is a navigation menu with "Posts", "About", "Friends", "Photos", "Videos", "Check-Ins", and "More". The "Friends" section is active, showing a search bar with "geo" and tabs for "All Friends", "Recently Added", and "Following". A friend card for George Turnboo is visible, with a small image of a dune buggy, the name "George Turnboo", and the description "Works at Self Employed (Business)".

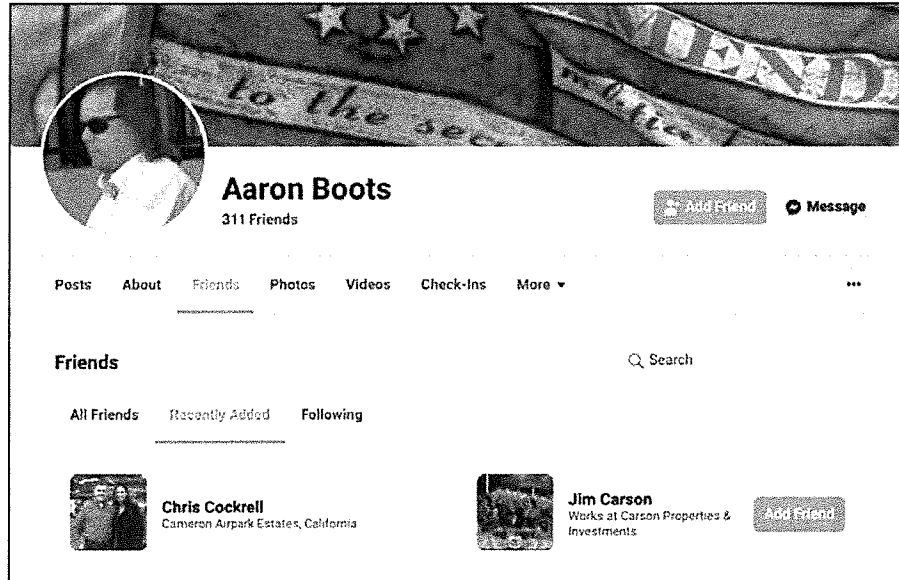
Turnboo - Bate Facebook link



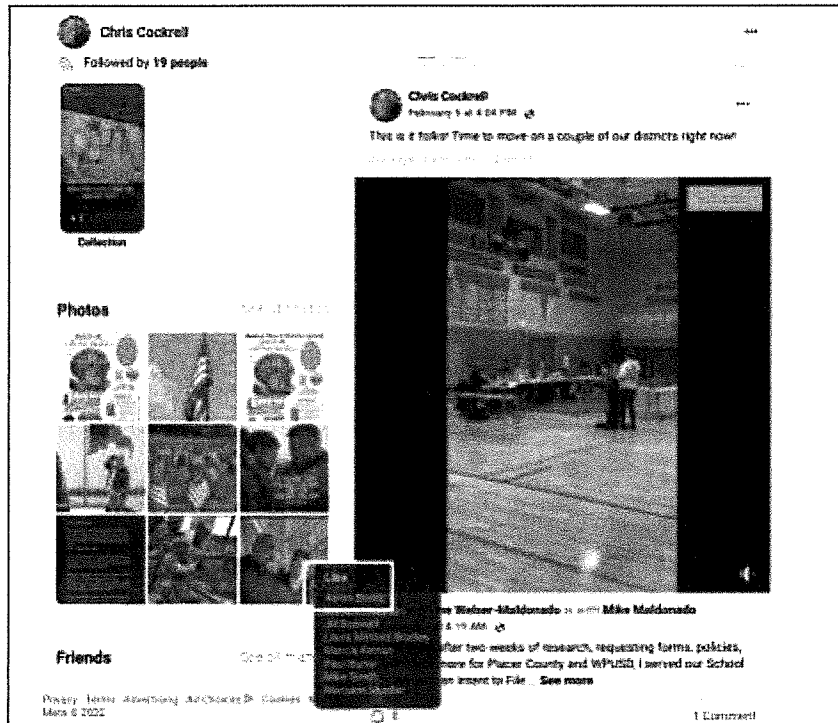
A screenshot of a Facebook profile for George Turnboo. The profile picture shows a dune buggy on a beach. The cover photo is a wide landscape image of a beach at sunset. The name "George Turnboo" is displayed in large black font, with "1K Friends" below it. To the right are buttons for "Add Friend" and "Message". Below the header is a navigation menu with "Posts", "About", "Friends", "Photos", "Videos", "Check-ins", and "More". The "Friends" section is active, showing a search bar with "cockrell" and tabs for "All friends", "Recently Added", "Work", "Current City", "Hometown", and "Following". A friend card for Chris Cockrell is visible, with a small image of two people, the name "Chris Cockrell", and the location "Cameron Airpark Estates, California".

Turnboo - Cockrell Facebook link

Bate and Cockrell have been Facebook friends since at least November, 2021.



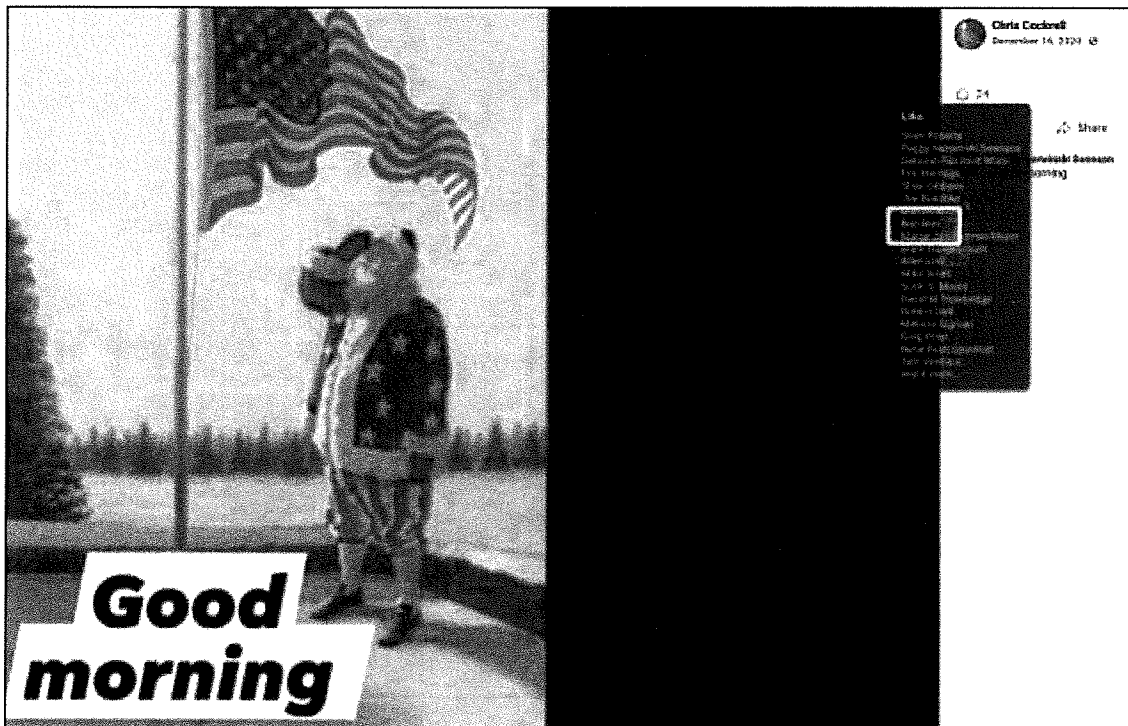
Bate - Cockrell Facebook Link
Nov., 2021



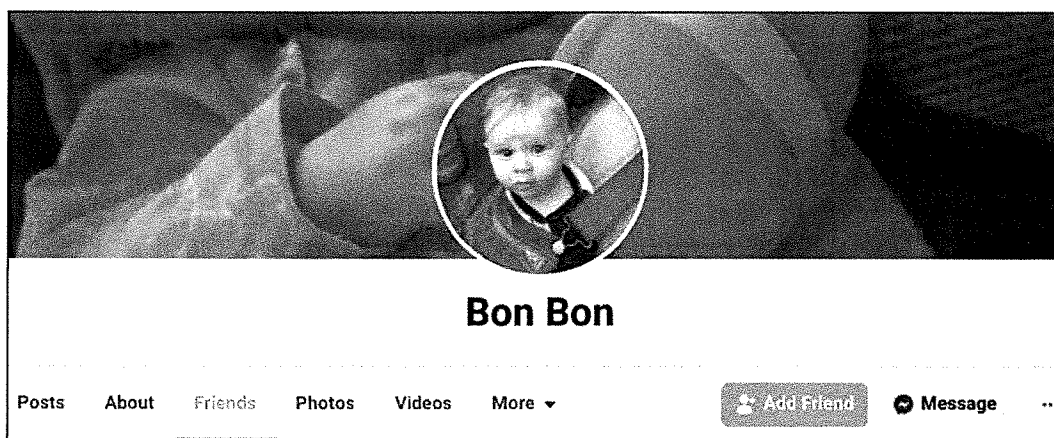
Cockrell Facebook page - "Like" by "Aaron Boots"
Feb. 5, 2022

D.
HANGTOWN PROUD BOYS LINK

Cockrell has maintained an undisclosed connection to the HPB via its chapter President, Patrick Kiehl (“Kiehl”), and/or Kiehl’s wife Bonnie, since at least December, 2020. Kiehl has multiple Facebook accounts under different aliases, including one titled “Bon Bon,” which posted a Facebook “Like” on a Cockrell post dated December 16, 2020.



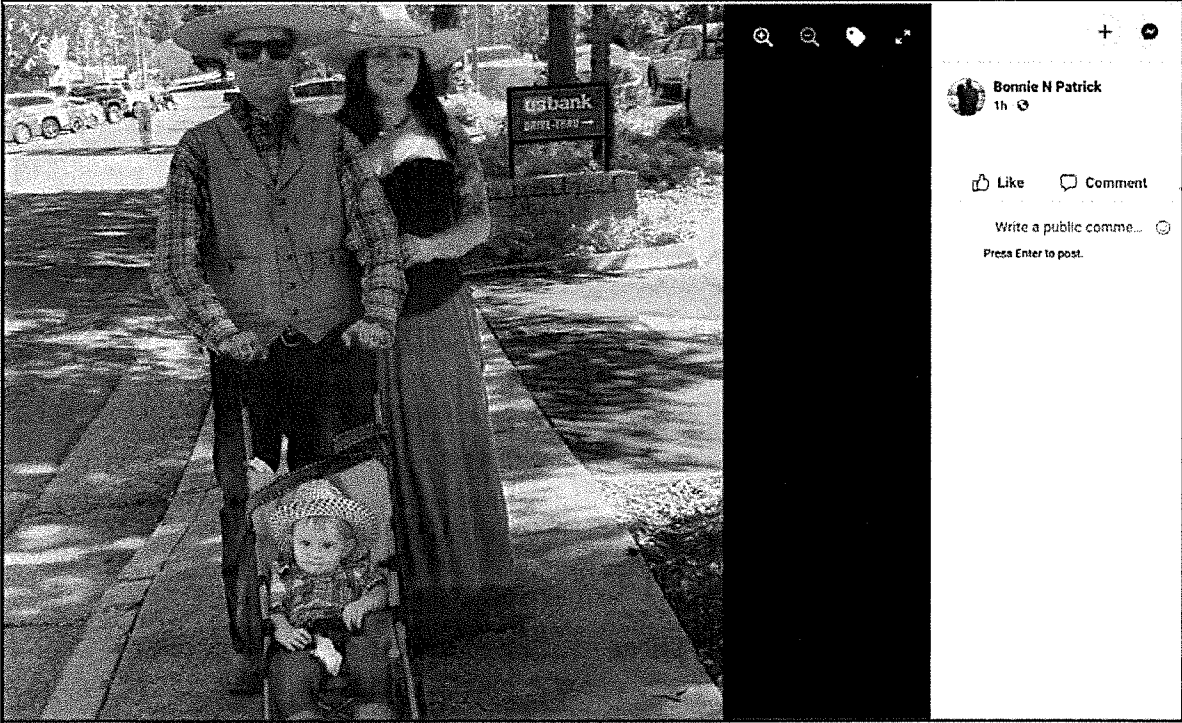
Cockrell Facebook post with “Like” by “Bon Bon”
Dec. 16, 2020



The preceding profile picture for “Bon Bon” is of one of Kiehl’s children, who is pictured below with his parents Patrick and Bonnie in June, 2021.



“Bon Bon” Facebook profile picture
Dec. 12, 2020




Patrick and Bonnie Kiehl
June, 2021

Kiehl is the President of the HPB chapter; previously he was the chapter President of the Sacramento Proud Boys, alongside Proud Boys Marcos Santos, identified above as one of the Proud Boys to attack the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

21. APRIL 2021 BY ANTIFASACRAMENTO

On Blast: Patrick Kiehl, Placerville Proud Boys Leader



Patrick Kiehl. Note the face and arm tattoos.

Patrick George Kiehl is the president of the Placerville "Hangtown" Proud Boys. He owns Liberty Handyman LLC, and currently lives in Pollock Pines with his wife Bonnie Mae. He was also active in the NorCal punk/hardcore music scene in the early 2000's. Kiehl has been involved with Proud Boys in the Northern California area since at least 2018, and has been connected to numerous far-right extremist actions and events since then. This article offers an overview of the Proud Boys as an organization, a timeline of Kiehl's activity, information on the Hangtown Proud Boys chapter, and Kiehl's personal details/identifying information.

WHO ARE THE PROUD BOYS?

Patrick Kiehl Proud Boys profile
Apr., 2021



Proud Boys Marcos Santos - HPB President Patrick Kiehl

Kiehl and his wife Bonnie have each been pictured in "Hangtown" Proud Boys attire.

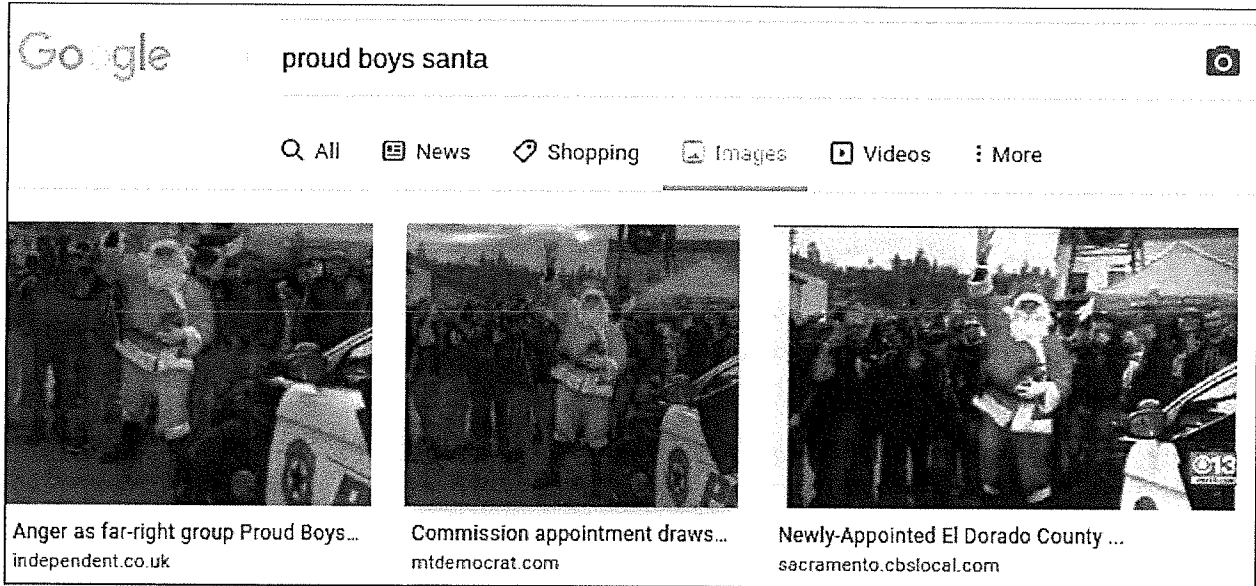


Patrick Kiehl (with sunglasses)



Bonnie Kiehl (circled in yellow)

Cockrell and Kiehl were obviously photographed together at the now infamous “Proud Boys Santa” photo shoot. If you search for that phrase on Google, the picture of Cockrell flashing the Proud Boys divisive “OK” sign is the first image shown.



Google search - Feb., 2022



Kiehl (circled in yellow) with Cockrell (Santa)

Dec. 5, 2020

Poimiroo dismissed Cockrell’s participation with the Proud Boys at the Toys for Tots event in a Sacramento Bee article, among other public denials published by the Mountain Democrat newspaper and KOVR, a Sacramento CBS affiliate.²¹

VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEMBERS WEIGH IN

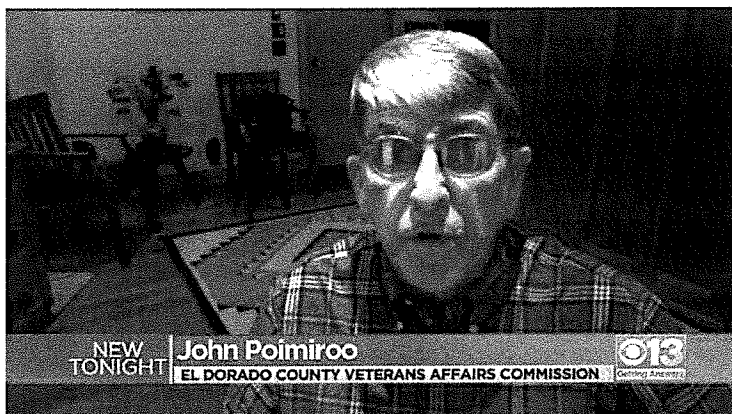
Poimiroo, of the Veterans Affairs Commission, said during Tuesday’s public comment period that he and a colleague undertook “an investigation of what happened with Proud Boys” and determined it to be a misunderstanding, as Turnboo had written.

“He was there in Placerville simply to portray Santa Claus,” Poimiroo said. “He has read conservative sites, he has looked to see who they are, but he has no association with them. And to be maligned and mischaracterized as being a supporter of Proud Boys is absolutely false. He has no connection to them at all.”

Poimiroo called Cockrell “very conservative” but not hateful.

Newly-Appointed El Dorado County Official Posed With Proud Boys While Dressed As Santa

February 10, 2021 at 6:01 am Filed Under: El Dorado County, Placerville News, Toys for Tots



PLACERVILLE (CBS13) – A man who dressed as Santa Claus and was seen posing with the Placerville Proud Boys has just been appointed to a leadership position in El Dorado County.

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MOST VIEWED



Who Is Raymond Michael Weber, The Man Accused Of Killing 2 Females In Vacaville And Live Streaming Video Of Their Bodies?



Raymond Weber's Livestream Of Alleged Homicide After math Slayed Up On YouTube For Nearly 20 Hours



Fed Up Neighbors Stuck Footing The Bill After Homeless Vandal's Trash Community Pool Again

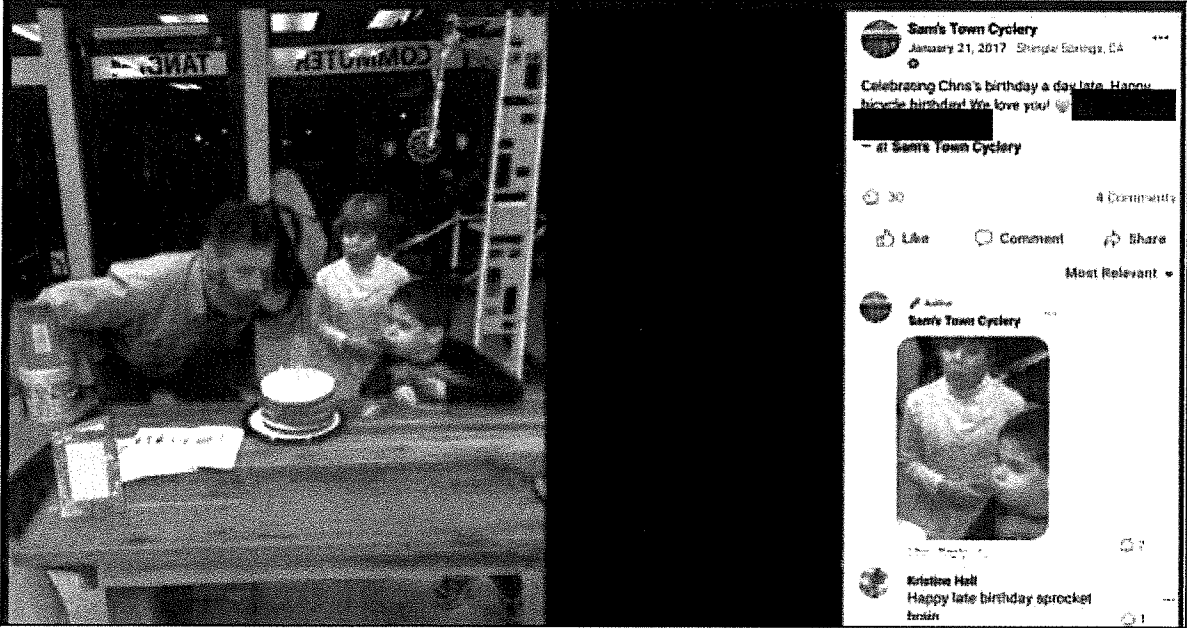
Veteran Affairs Commission Chairperson John Poimiroo

KOVR TV Interview – Feb., 2021²²

²¹ See “Is ‘Hangtown Santa’ a Proud Boy? California County Argues Over Political Appointee.” <https://www.sacbee.com/community/folsom-el-dorado/article249121920.html>.

²² CBS Sacramento. (2021, Feb. 9). *Newly-Appointed El Dorado County Official Was The Placerville Santa Who Posed With Proud Boys* [Video attached]. <https://sacramento.cbslocal.com/video/5285075-newly-appointed-el-dorado-county-official-was-the-placerville-santa-who-posed-with-proud-boys/>.

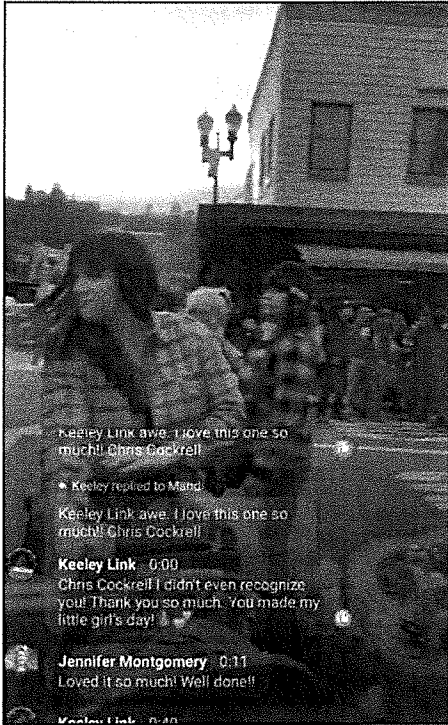
Cockrell may have one other potential Proud Boy link through a mutual friend of the Kiehls, Kristine Hall, whose boyfriend appears to be a Proud Boy. Kristine has known Cockrell since at least 2017, posed for pictures with him at the December 5, 2020 Toys for Tots event, and helped Bonnie Kiehl with the Proud Boys delivery of Christmas presents at that event.



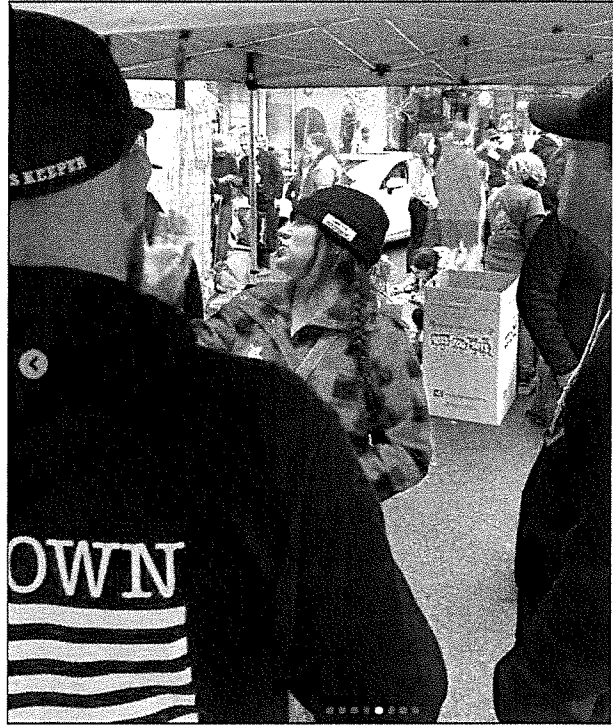
Kristine Hall - Cockrell link
Jan., 2017



Cockrell - Kristine Hall - Toys for Tots event
Dec. 5, 2020

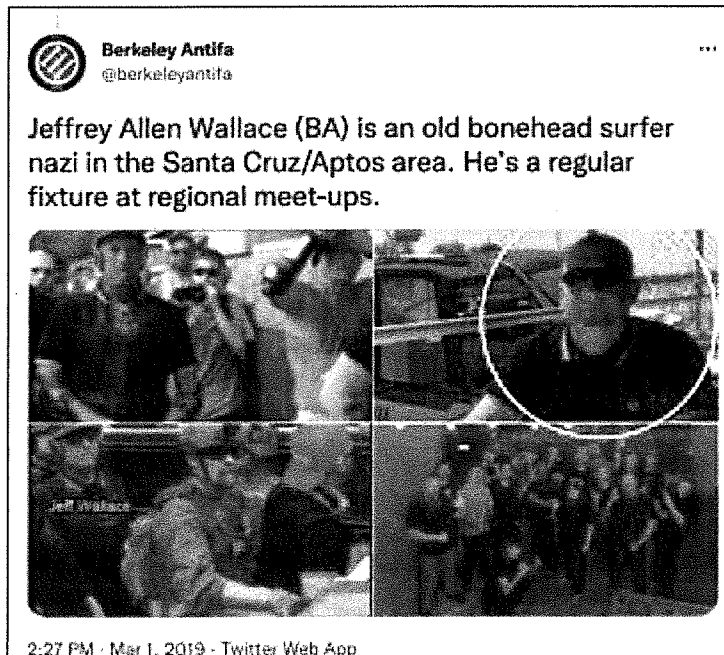


Bonnie Kiehl - Kristine Hall
Dec. 5, 2020



Kristine Hall - Hangtown Proud Boys
Dec. 5, 2020

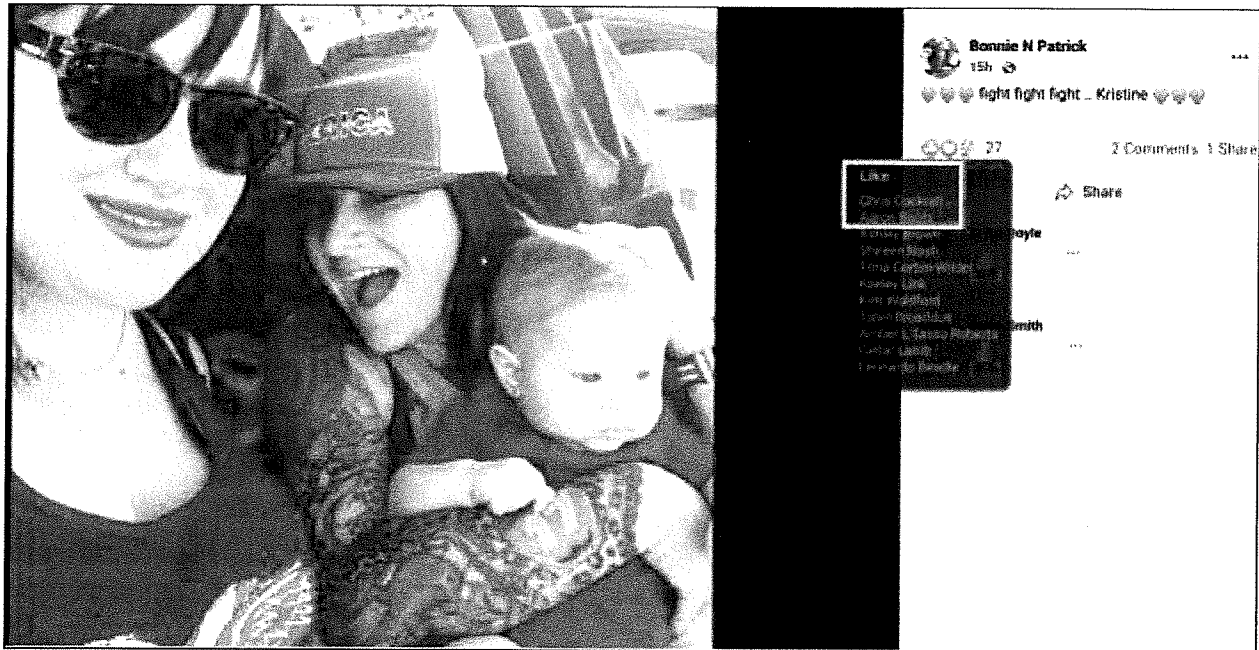
Kristine Hall's boyfriend has been identified as Proud Boy Jeffrey Allen Wallace.



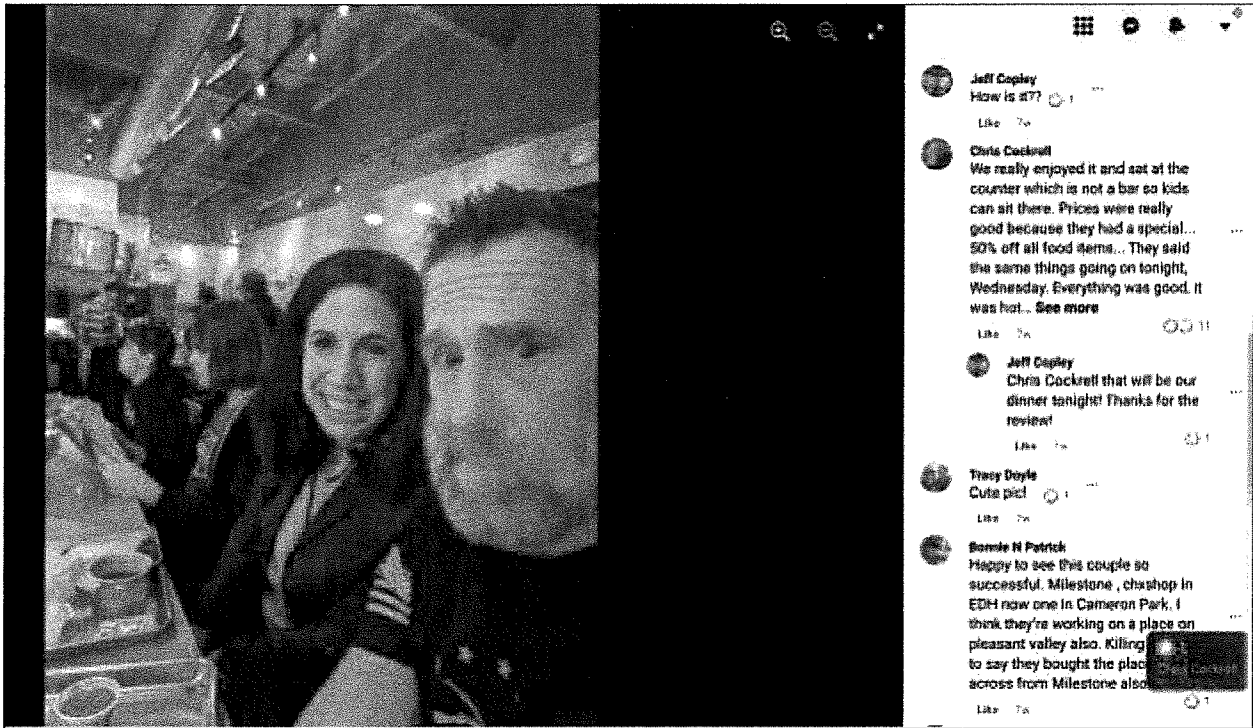


Kristine Hall - Jeffrey Allen Wallace
2018

Cockrell and the Kiehl's have had a mutually open Facebook relationship subsequent to his February 9, 2021 appointment as a commissioner.



Bonnie Kiehl - Kristine Hall - "Bon Bon"
Facebook "Like" by Cockrell & Bate



Cockrell Facebook post – Feb., 2022
Commented on by Kiehls – “Like” comment by Cockrell

COCKRELL’S ATTEMPTS TO REMOVE EXTREMIST LINKS

In response to public criticism of his contentious nomination Cockrell demonstrated a habit of attempting to hide information that was criticized. For example, on January 6, 2021, just one hour and five minutes after the Board was notified of Cockrell’s links to Bate, Cockrell removed himself from that link.²³

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 2:11 PM
Subject: Re: Chris Cockrell
To: The BOSONE <bosone@edcgov.us>

Interestingly, Chris Cockrell has just now removed himself from the site I mentioned. Perhaps he was tipped off by one of the Council.

SMH

²³ Source: El Dorado County public records act request.

After public criticism of his public Facebook posts, the Board was notified before its appointment vote that Cockrell had removed all but three posts, one of them being the saluting Santa image liked by “Bon Bon.”²⁴

Communications and Character: My January 4th letter described Mr. Cockrell's open disparagement of "Progressives" and "Democrats" on his Facebook accounts. As of today (Feb. 3, 2021), Mr. Cockrell's Facebook account has been scrubbed clean (or publicly blocked) of those views. His public page has only three administrative posts: (1) a 2017 update of his biography, which simply lists his business name and address; (2) a December, 2020 cover photo update of a Santa dressed in American flag attire, saluting an American flag; and (3) a January 15, 2021 cover photo update showing a field of American flags and the line "Freedom isn't Free." (See https://www.facebook.com/1_chriscockrell). His political account is not available or may have been removed. (See <https://www.facebook.com/ForABetterEIDoradoCounty>).

COCKRELL'S POST-APPOINTMENT EXTREMIST LINKS

As highlighted above, Cockrell has retained previously undisclosed links to Bate, Kiehl, and the HPB, who each have their own extremist links.

One of those extended links is to Linda Hanna (“Hanna”), an El Dorado Hills woman with her own extensive ties to extremists, including Proud Boys, neo-Nazis, and a Proud Boy who participated in that group’s January 6, 2021 attack of the U.S. Capitol. Hanna is an activist with “Latinos for Trump” and attended political rallies in Washington, DC, including on Jan. 6th.²⁵ It is not known if Hanna was at the U.S. Capitol, but friends of hers are publicly documented as being on the Capitol grounds.

Hanna and her husband, Greg, an Army veteran, are also active members of the “New California” movement, which advocates for forming a new State from the State of California.²⁶

²⁴ Board Public Comment received Feb. 4, 2021. DISCLAIMER: I submitted the excerpted public comment.

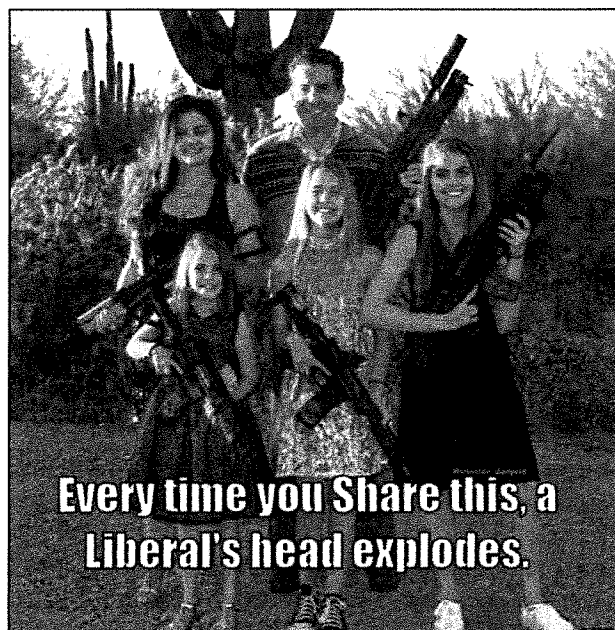
²⁵ See e.g., “Meet the Mexican Americans in California who are voting for Trump,” <https://www.agenda21radio.news/2020/10/30/latinos-for-trump/>; “ ‘Disowned by Family’ for her politics, why this Latina supports Donald Trump’s reelection,” <https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/article246566258.html>.

²⁶ See e.g., <https://newcaliforniaonline.com/>; “ ‘New California’ is actually an old-school idea for breaking up the state,” <https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-new-california-state-20180117-story.html>.

Furthermore, there is no record of Cockrell publicly acknowledging his Parler account, or how long he may have continued to use it after his 2021 appointment. His Parler posts included anti-government views as illustrated below. Cockrell's Parler account listed "1Surfaben" as being followed by Cockrell.



Cockrell Parler post



Original online meme shared by Cockrell

A.

LINDA MARTINEZ HANNA - PROUD BOYS / NEO-NAZI LINKS

Hanna and Cockrell have been openly linked on social media accounts since at least May, 2021, and are mutually linked to Aaron Bate and a Proud Boy who participated in attacking the U.S. Capitol. Cockrell has retained his link to Hanna as of February, 2022.



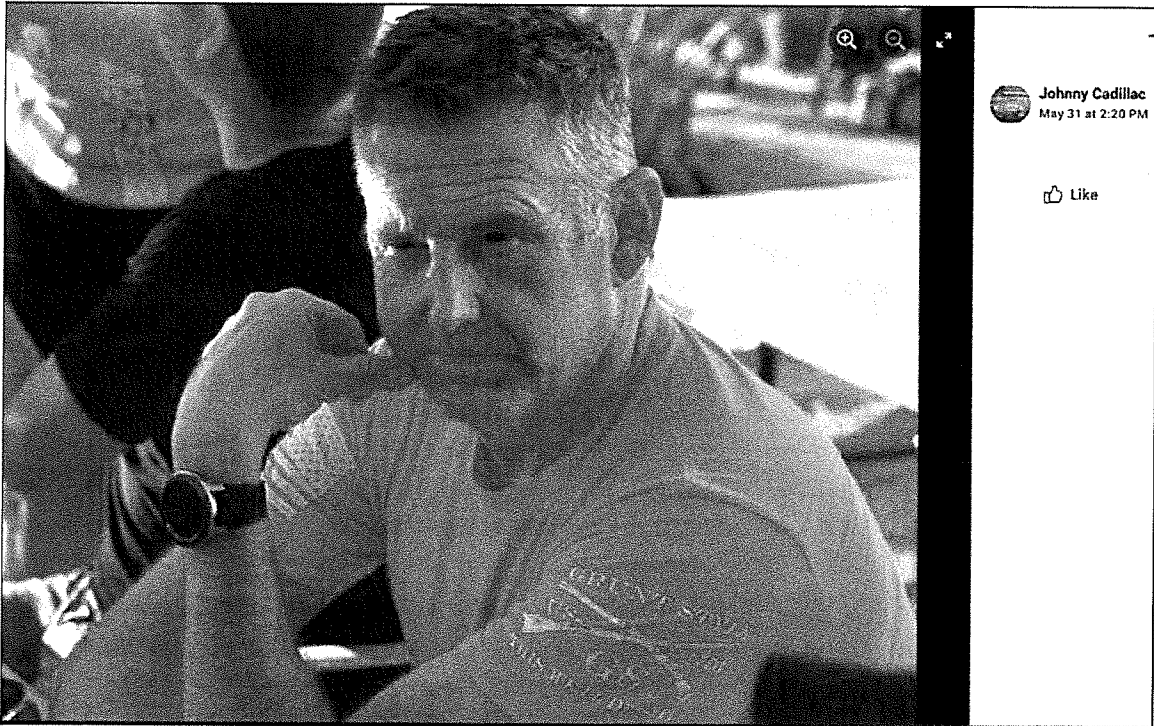
Linda Martinez Hanna - El Dorado Hills



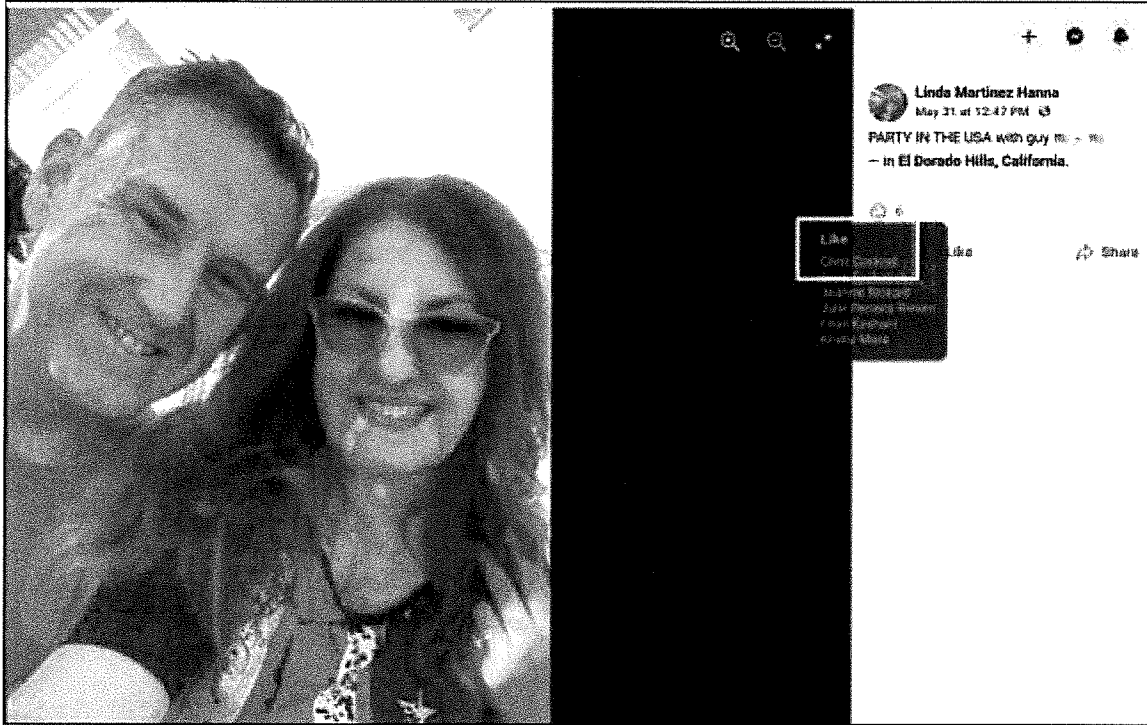
Hanna - B.O.T.G.C. link

On Memorial Day weekend, 2021, Cockrell was photographed attending a party at Hanna's home, in which local Proud Boys were present. Among those were Jeffrey Perrine, described above, and Cosmin Merca ("Merca"), who has links to a December 12, 2020 Proud Boys march in Washington, DC.

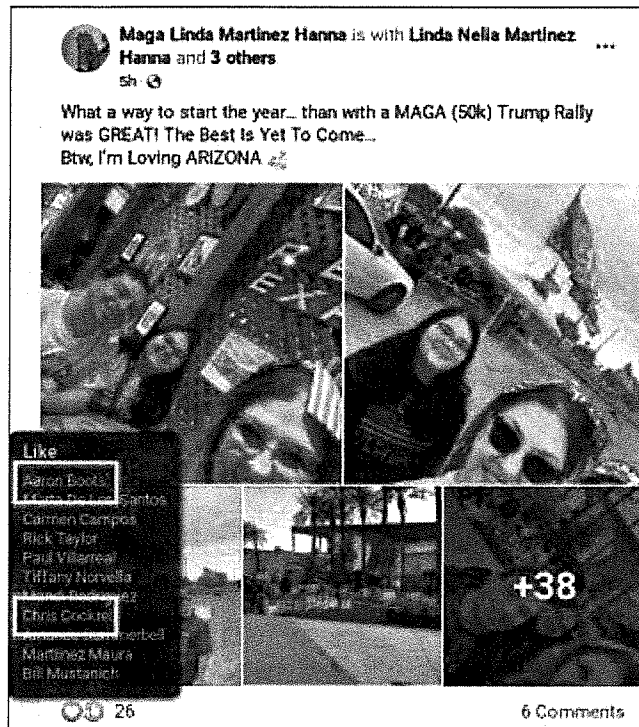
In June, 2021 I showed the veteran affairs commission some photos of Cockrell and the Proud Boys attending Hanna's party. Cockrell was not present at that meeting.



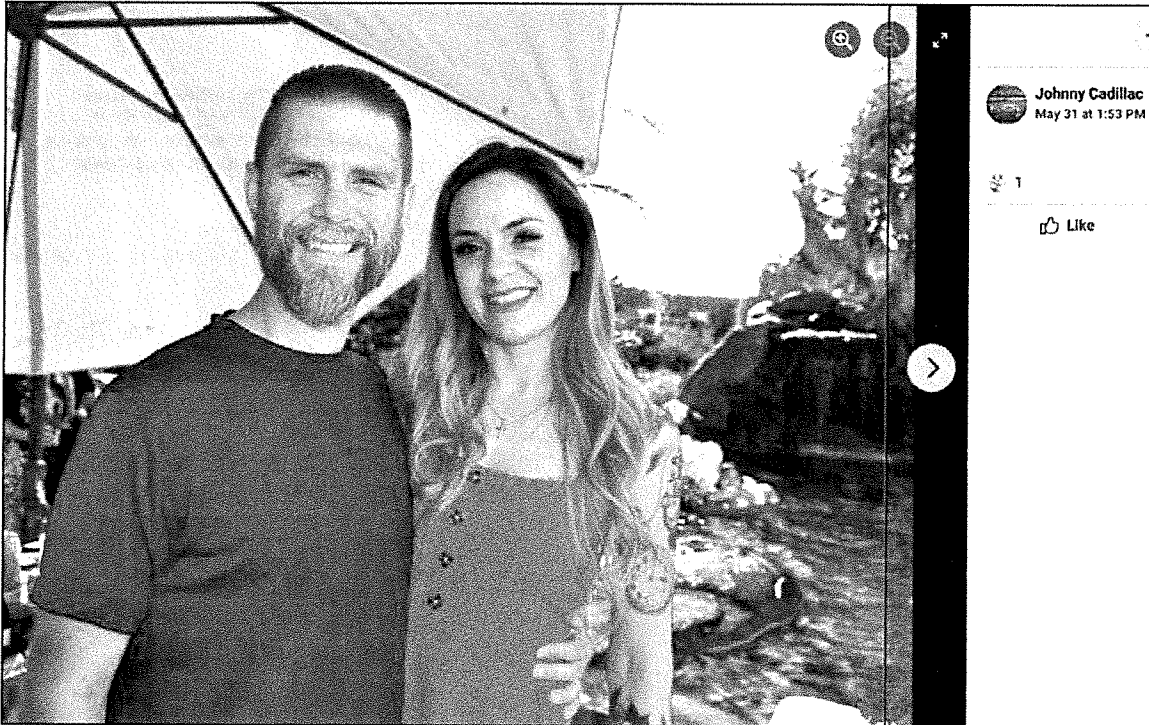
Cockrell - Home of Linda and Greg Hanna - El Dorado Hills
Memorial Day weekend, 2021



Cockrell - Hanna, with "Like" by Cockrell
 Memorial Day weekend, 2021



Hanna - Florence, Arizona - Jan. 16, 2022
 "Like" by Bate, Cockrell



Proud Boy Jeffrey Perrine - Hanna Party
Memorial Day weekend - May, 2021



Proud Boy Cosmin Merca - Hanna Party
Memorial Day weekend - May, 2021

Proud Boy Cosmin Merca shares a unique “Santa” link with Cockrell. In December, 2020 Merca wore a Santa coat underneath a tactical armor plate carrying vest at Proud Boy rallies in Sacramento and Washington, DC.

In Washington, DC, Merca was joined by a Proud Boy wearing Hangtown Proud Boys attire.



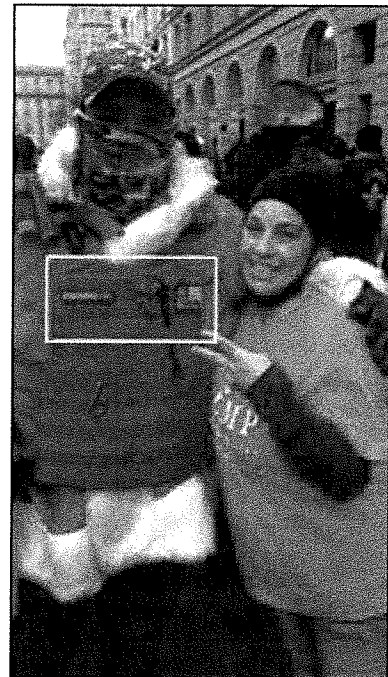
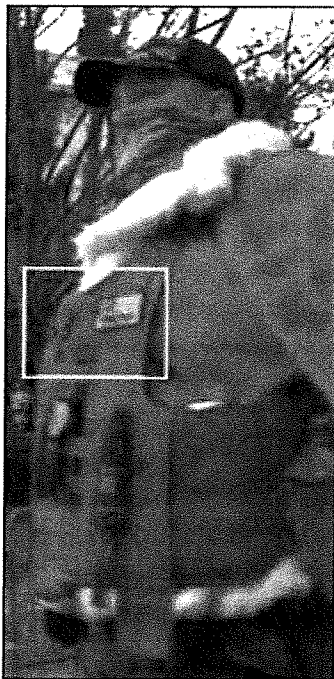
Proud Boys Richard Merca (Left) and Cosmin Merca (Right)
Sacramento - Dec. 5, 2020

NOTE: Richard and Cosmin Merca are brothers who attended multiple political rallies in the Sacramento region in 2020. Cosmin is holding pepper spray in his right hand, and a large knife in his left hand.²⁷

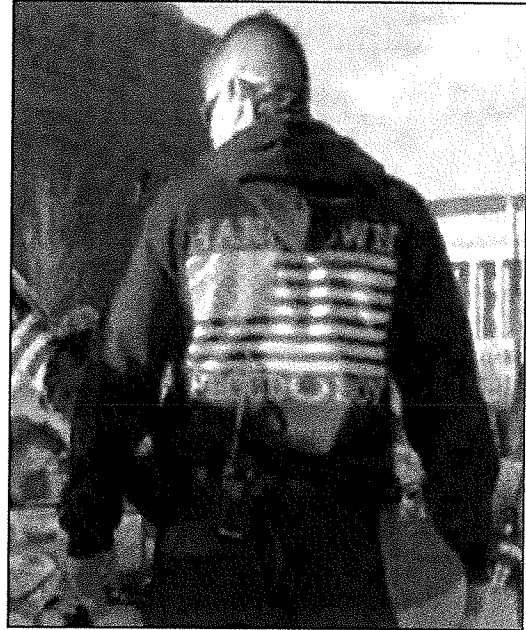
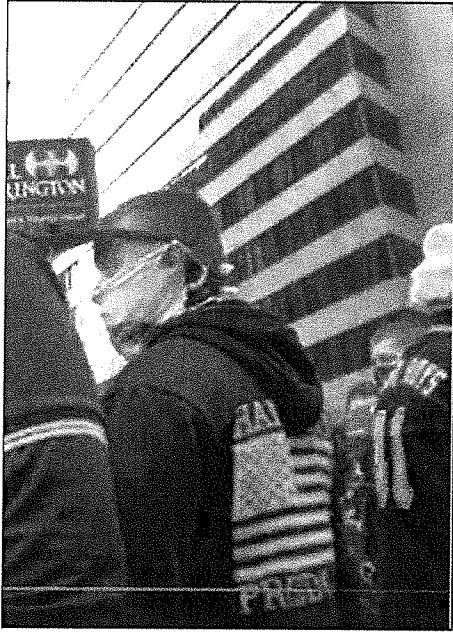
²⁷ See e.g., “Trump supporter in Santa suit uses knife to defend himself from Antifa members at Sacramento rally,” <https://abc7news.com/trump-supporter-state-capitol-proud-boys-santa-suit-anti-fascist-groups/8540155/>.



Merca (Left) - Hangtown Proud Boy (Right)
Washington, DC - Dec. 12, 2020



Merca - Same patches on tactical vest - Sacramento (L) and Wash., DC (R)



Hangtown Proud Boy - Washington, DC Proud Boys March
Dec. 12, 2020

The HPB pictured above, along with Merca, marched in Washington, DC with hundreds of Proud Boys from around the country. Those included Biggs, Pezzola, Nunez, and Davis (as mentioned above), who all would return to attack the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.



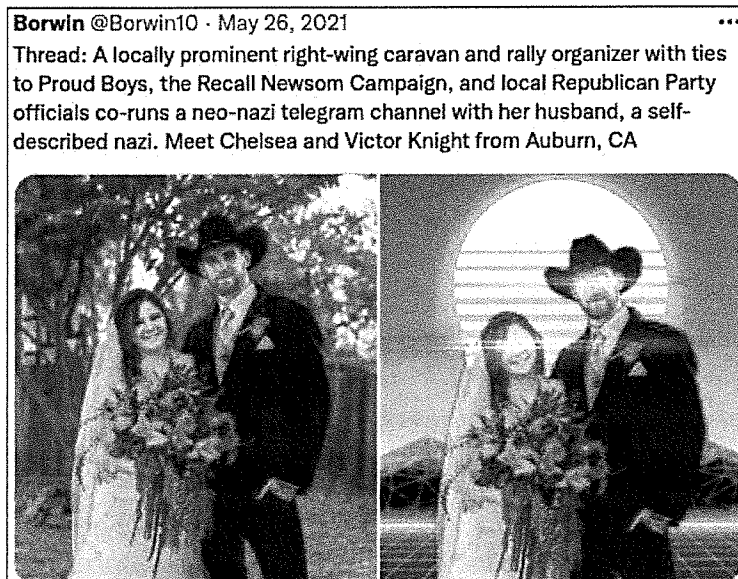
Proud Boy Dominic Pezzola - Washington, DC Proud Boys March
Dec. 12, 2020

Hanna’s extremist orbit includes some neo-Nazis. One of those links is to Chelsea Knight (“Knight”), who has her own links to Bates and Merca, among others.



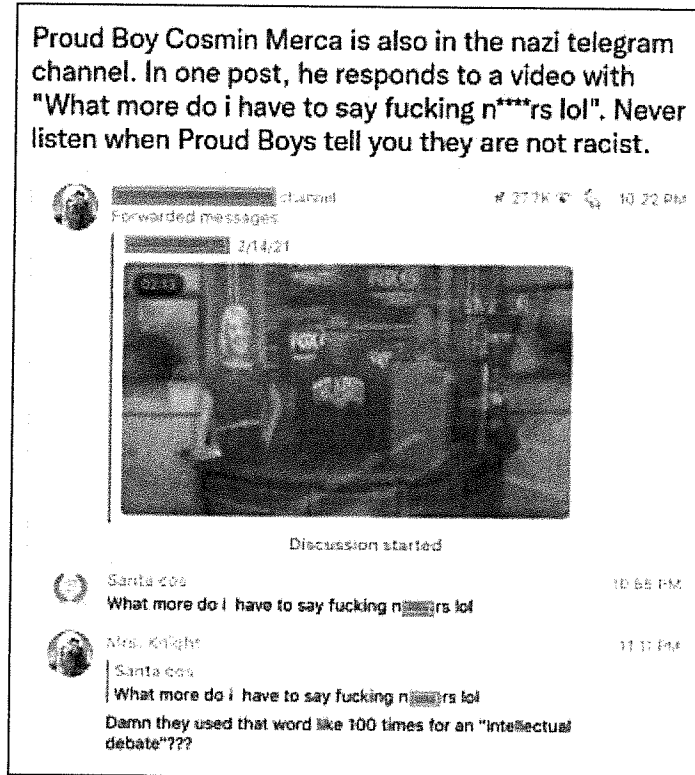
Chelsea Knight (Left), husband Victor Knight (Center), Merca (Right)

Knight and her husband’s neo-Nazi links were the subject of a lengthy Twitter post in May, 2021. It describes how they co-ran a neo-Nazi telegram channel that Merca was part of. The entire post is published online in an article form.²⁸



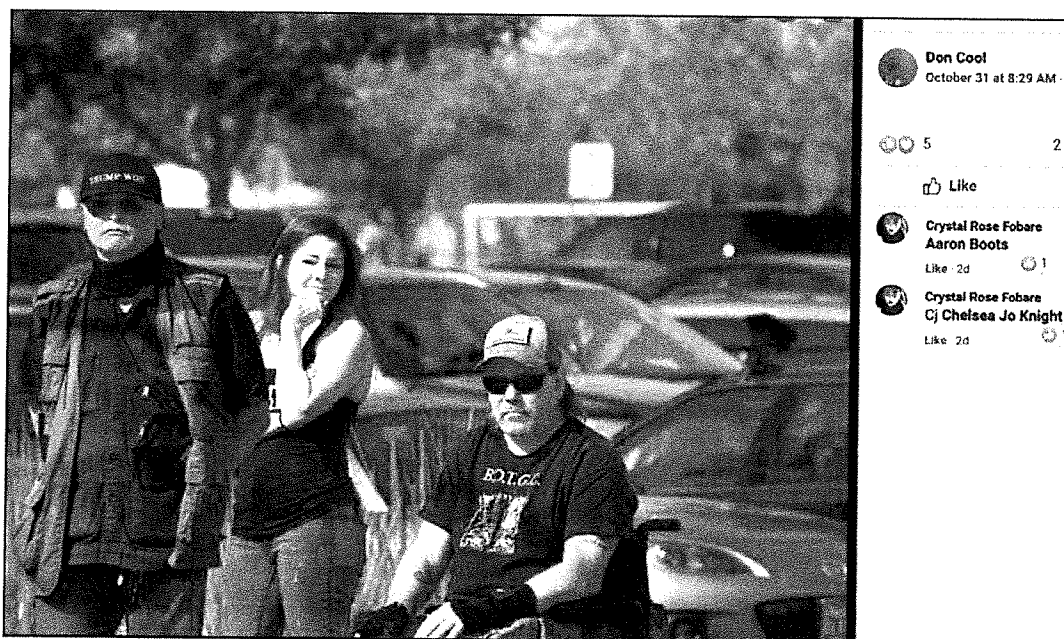
Chelsea and Victor Knight neo-Nazi profile

²⁸ See <https://borwin10.wordpress.com/2021/05/26/33/>.

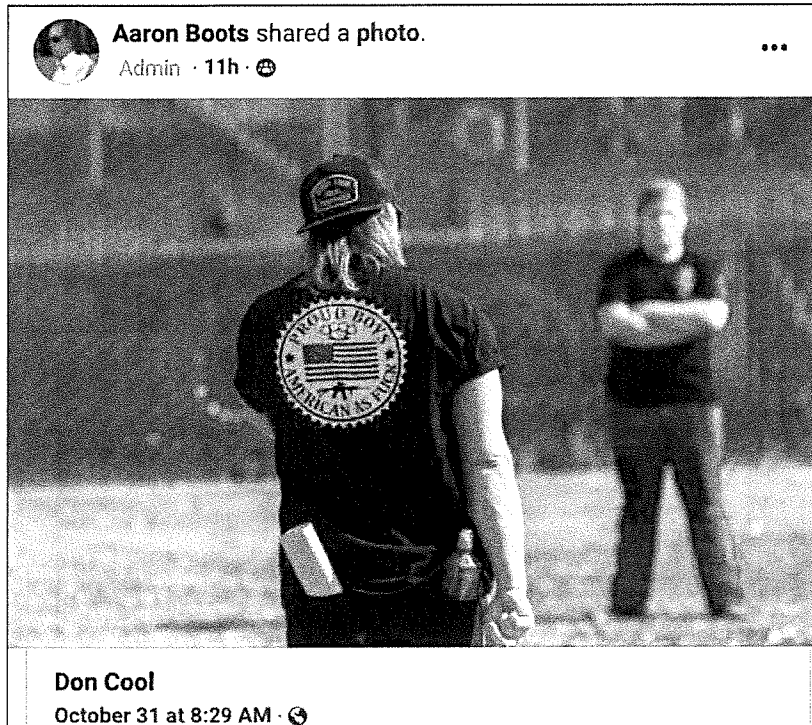


Merca, AKA "Santa cos" on neo-Nazi telegram channel

Knight and Bate have attended extremist rallies at the same time, as they did at a "Patriots United Freedom Rally" in Ceres, CA on October 30, 2021.



Knight - Bate
Ceres, CA - Oct., 2021



Bate Facebook Post - Ceres, CA Freedom Rally
Oct., 2021

PART II PREVIEW: ATTACK OF THE U.S. CAPITOL LINKS

The most significant impact of the extremist links summarized above is the eventual attack of the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. Cockrell and Hanna each have a direct link to a Proud Boy who participated in that attack. That Proud Boy describes himself as the son of a veteran.

The details of the Proud Boys attack on the U.S. Capitol are too lengthy to include here but will be described in full, showing Cockrell and Hanna's links, who was involved in the attack, and how the Proud Boys literally led the first breach of the Capitol grounds and the Capitol building.

CONCLUSION

Cockrell and Poimiroo's unsubstantiated denials of links to the Proud Boys were not supported then, nor are they now. There is no daylight between Cockrell and the attack of our nation's Capitol, and there is no daylight between Cockrell and the commission, whose members have remained mute about these links for a year now. None of this is befitting the core values of our Armed Forces, the oath all military members take to support and defend the U.S. Constitution, or the County's integrity.