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BEFORE THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	.	
	.	Case Number 21-cr-3
Plaintiff,	.	
	.	
vs.	.	
	.	Washington, D.C.
JACOB ANTHONY CHANSLEY,	.	November 17, 2021
	.	10:09 a.m.
Defendant.	.	

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TRANSCRIPT OF SENTENCING HEARING  
BEFORE THE HONORABLE ROYCE C. LAMBERTH  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

For the United States:	KIMBERLY PASCHALL, AUSA United States Attorney's Office 555 Fourth Street Northwest Washington, D.C. 20530
For the Defendant:	ALBERT WATKINS, ESQ. Kodner Watkins, LC 7733 Forsyth Boulevard Suite 600 Clayton, Missouri 63105
Official Court Reporter:	SARA A. WICK, RPR, CRR United States District Court for the District of Columbia 333 Constitution Avenue Northwest Room 4704-B Washington, D.C. 20001 202-354-3284

Proceedings recorded by stenotype shorthand.  
Transcript produced by computer-aided transcription.

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Call to order of the court.)

COURTROOM DEPUTY: Your Honor, we are on the record for Criminal Case 21-3, United States of America versus Jacob Anthony Chansley.

Counsel, please approach the lectern and identify yourselves for the record.

MS. PASCHALL: Good morning, Your Honor. Kimberly Paschall for the United States.

MR. WATKINS: Your Honor, Albert Watkins on behalf of the defendant. Pleasure to meet you.

COURTROOM DEPUTY: Your Honor, let the record reflect that Ms. Crystal Lustig is here from Probation as well.

THE COURT: All right. I have the final presentence report. I take it both sides are satisfied with the report and there are no further objections for the Court to resolve; am I correct?

MS. PASCHALL: That's correct for the government, Your Honor.

MR. WATKINS: Your Honor, I have had the opportunity to review the final iteration of the presentence investigation report with the defendant. The defendant has approved and signed off on it, as have I as counsel for the defendant. Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. The Court sets forth for the

1 record that in the calculations in the report, the total offense  
2 level of 22, criminal history category I results in a guideline  
3 provision of 41 to 51 months of custody, supervised release term  
4 of one to three years, and, under the guidelines, ineligible for  
5 probation, a guideline fine in the range of \$15- to \$150,000,  
6 restitution of \$2,000, special assessment required to be imposed  
7 by statute of \$100.

8 Under the plea agreement, the defendant, of course, is able  
9 to argue for a variance from the guideline sentence or for -- it  
10 can also argue, I guess, for a below guideline sentence as well.

11 The government may allocute first.

12 MS. PASCHALL: Thank you, Your Honor.

13 Sentencing recommendations weigh heavy on the minds of all  
14 prosecutors, knowing that what we are asking for is the  
15 deprivation of someone's liberty in an attempt to quantify what  
16 is justice. It is incredibly difficult in this case --

17 THE COURT: You may need to speak more into the  
18 microphone so everybody can hear you.

19 MS. PASCHALL: Sure. Is that better, Your Honor?

20 THE COURT: Yes.

21 MS. PASCHALL: It is even more difficult in this case.  
22 This defendant was the very first defendant indicted with  
23 criminal acts perpetrated on the January 6th attack on the  
24 Capitol building. In many ways, this is unprecedented territory  
25 for all of us.

1           So we as prosecutors learn to begin with the rubric set out  
2           in 18 U.S.C. 3553 and the sentencing guidelines. As Your Honor  
3           has just noted, the parties and Probation in this case are all  
4           in agreement. The guidelines suggest a range of 41 to 51 months  
5           of incarceration. The government has asked for the top of that  
6           guidelines range.

7           The government is not going to belabor all the points that  
8           we have made in our sentencing memorandum, but we do think that  
9           a few of the factors bear special import, and we want to  
10          highlight for Your Honor today. Those three factors are the  
11          nature of the conduct, the need to avoid unwarranted sentencing  
12          disparities, and general deterrence.

13          Your Honor is well aware now of the nature of the conduct  
14          in this case. We're not going to rehash all of the actions of  
15          the defendant on the grounds of the Capitol on January 6, 2021.  
16          The events are well publicized. They speak for themselves.

17          But I do want to highlight some of those actions for the  
18          Court as they pertain to a particular word that keeps coming up  
19          in these proceedings, and that word is "peaceful." It's come up  
20          in prior pleadings from defense counsel. It has come up in the  
21          letters of support for this defendant. And the right to  
22          peaceably assemble is enshrined in the First Amendment to our  
23          Constitution. If the defendant had been peaceful on that day,  
24          Your Honor, we would not be here.

25          So what the government finds troubling when viewing the

1 evidence of this case is the knowledge that the defendant's  
2 activities were anything but peaceful. In the months leading up  
3 to January 6, the defendant posted vitriolic messages on social  
4 media, encouraging his thousands of followers to expose corrupt  
5 politicians, to ID the traitors in the government, to halt their  
6 agenda, to stop the steal, and end the deep state in the United  
7 States. That is not peaceful. That's a call to battle.

8 The Court is well aware by now from the government's  
9 evidence submitted with our sentencing recommendation how the  
10 government has alleged that the defendant entered the U.S.  
11 Capitol on that day. I have pulled up Sentencing Exhibit  
12 Number 3 to show the exact moment when the defendant and the mob  
13 who joined him on January 6 entered the building.

14 (Audio recording played.)

15 MS. PASCHALL: Your Honor, that is not peaceful. That  
16 is chaos.

17 We know the defendant then makes his way outside of the  
18 Senate. He is face to face with Officer Keith Robishaw. He  
19 ignores the requests of law enforcement to leave the building,  
20 and he ends up in the Senate gallery, at which point the  
21 following interaction from Government's Exhibit 7 occurs.

22 (Audio recording played.)

23 THE COURT: That video's not showing.

24 MS. PASCHALL: Court's brief indulgence.

25 (Video recording played.)

1 MS. PASCHALL: The audio on that video is a little bit  
2 difficult to hear, but the government also submitted  
3 Government's Exhibit 8, which the government believes better  
4 articulates exactly what the defendant was saying while he was  
5 screaming in the gallery at the Senate.

6 (Video recording played.)

7 MS. PASCHALL: That last statement, "Time's up, you  
8 motherfuckers," that is not peaceful, Your Honor. That is  
9 chilling.

10 We then know that the defendant makes his way to the dais  
11 of the Senate, where minutes before the Vice President of the  
12 United States was present, and he leaves this now famous note:  
13 "It's only a matter of time. Justice is coming."

14 Your Honor, those words mean something different when the  
15 defendant is literally in the place where the object of his  
16 vitriol and hate had been an hour before. Those words hit  
17 differently knowing that he is not across the country. He is  
18 not hours away. He's minutes away. He is not miles away. He  
19 is not a plane ride away. He's feet away from the object of his  
20 contempt and his hatred. This note is not peaceful. This note  
21 is a threat.

22 The Senate continues to fill with additional rioters,  
23 despite Keith Robishaw's attempts as the lone law enforcement  
24 officer in the chamber to clear everyone out.

25 The defendant gives this invocation in Government's Exhibit

1 11 over his bullhorn to the rioters gathering.

2 (Video recording played.)

3 THE COURT: Now, in that particular video, have you  
4 counted the number of -- he appeared to be the leader and  
5 speaking to all of that crowd. Have you counted the number of  
6 people there in the Senate chamber?

7 MS. PASCHALL: I think it's approximately 20 at that  
8 point in time, Your Honor. Over the course of the day, the  
9 government has estimated that between 55 and 60 rioters entered  
10 the chamber. This is in the secondary portion of that time  
11 frame. So I believe there's approximately 20 people gathered  
12 there.

13 THE COURT: At that moment, okay.

14 MS. PASCHALL: Yes, Your Honor.

15 That invocation, Your Honor, is not peaceful. It's  
16 terrifying.

17 And finally, Your Honor, his statements after January 6  
18 about how "the fact that we had a bunch of our traitors in  
19 office hunker down, put on their gas masks, and retreat into  
20 their underground bunker is considered a win" shows that this  
21 defendant knew exactly what the rest of the world did not, that  
22 a mob of people descended on the Capitol with the express  
23 purpose of disrupting the activities of the lawmakers that day.  
24 That is not peaceful. That is criminal obstruction.

25 It is true, and the government will not deny, that this

1 defendant did not assault any law enforcement officers, did not  
2 steal any property, did not destroy anything on the grounds that  
3 day, as many others did. That alone does not a peaceful person  
4 make. These moments -- screaming, asking for the lawmakers,  
5 time is up -- in the gallery of the Senate really says all we  
6 need to know about the peacefulness of that day.

7 THE COURT: Now, I take it, to be fair, at the time --  
8 the government has no evidence that at the time he wrote that  
9 note to the vice president that "your time is coming," the  
10 government has no evidence that he knew that noose was hanging  
11 outside and the hangman's noose was -- had been constructed  
12 outside the Capitol?

13 MS. PASCHALL: We have no evidence of that.

14 THE COURT: There's no evidence that he had  
15 participated in putting that up or that he knew about that?

16 MS. PASCHALL: We have no evidence of that. Your  
17 Honor is correct.

18 THE COURT: But that makes that even more difficult.

19 MS. PASCHALL: It does. It's chilling, given the  
20 context of the day.

21 THE COURT: Right.

22 MS. PASCHALL: And what we know to have actually  
23 occurred.

24 THE COURT: What we know now.

25 MS. PASCHALL: What we know now.

1 THE COURT: But we have no evidence he knew that at  
2 the time?

3 MS. PASCHALL: Correct.

4 What the government finds so interesting about this  
5 peacefulness portrayal is that it is in direct contrast to what  
6 should have been happening that day, the peaceful --

7 THE COURT: Let me ask one more in that regard.

8 MS. PASCHALL: Sure.

9 THE COURT: There were people -- I have seen tapes.  
10 There were people saying Trump should be hung -- Pence should be  
11 hung that day. I take it there's no evidence that he heard  
12 those tapes -- or you don't have any tapes showing that he heard  
13 those expressions that Trump should -- I keep saying the wrong  
14 thing, that Pence should be hung? There are no tapes that  
15 you're aware of that demonstrate that he actually heard those  
16 threats?

17 MS. PASCHALL: I don't have that, Your Honor, correct.

18 THE COURT: Okay. That would make this a far  
19 different case.

20 MS. PASCHALL: It would. However --

21 THE COURT: But still, what was meant by what he wrote  
22 there is still a big problem.

23 MS. PASCHALL: It is, Your Honor, and it is especially  
24 when you know the timing of the day. So the defendant enters  
25 the Senate at approximate 3:00 p.m. All of the videos that we

1 have submitted to the Court before that show that he was on the  
2 grounds at least an hour before that with those members of the  
3 mob. And we know what those people were chanting. We know that  
4 this defendant was using his bullhorn to incite the crowd. We  
5 know the tenor of what was going on that day, and I think we can  
6 use that context and apply it to that note, especially given --  
7 and the government did not play this portion of the video, but  
8 before that note happens, the defendant takes the dais and says,  
9 excuse my language, that "Mike Pence is a fucking traitor." So  
10 I think the context is quite clear.

11 THE COURT: I did hear that said. Right.

12 MS. PASCHALL: All of this on a day that should have  
13 been peaceful, when the world should have witnessed the peaceful  
14 transfer of power. That is what our democracy is built on. It  
15 is what we show the world to explain why our government is so  
16 strong, why our government is so special. None of what happened  
17 on January 6, 2021, was peaceful.

18 And to contrast this defendant's alleged peacefulness  
19 against the backdrop of what should have been the peaceful  
20 transfer of power is hugely problematic. And the government  
21 hopes that with this sentencing recommendation we get at the  
22 heart of the issue here, which is his obstructionist activities.

23 The government addressed possible sentencing disparities,  
24 as we must, when we look at 18 U.S.C. 3553 in our sentencing  
25 memorandum. Your Honor is well aware that the defendant is now

1 the third defendant to be sentenced for a violation of 18 U.S.C.  
2 1512(c)(2).

3 The government has asked for the top of the guidelines here  
4 because the guidelines are driven by that obstruction count.  
5 And the defendant's obstructionist activities are the most clear  
6 of any defendant who has thus been sentenced on this count. He  
7 is one of the first 30 people to enter the building. He is  
8 there for almost an hour. He is ignoring the requests of law  
9 enforcement at every turn. He is spewing obscenities aimed at  
10 our nation's lawmakers. He leaves that chilling note for the  
11 Vice President of the United States. He is literally in the  
12 spot in which this congressional proceeding should have  
13 occurred, and it cannot occur while he is doing these activities  
14 there that day. In the government's mind, that distinguishes  
15 him from others.

16 And finally, the government asks that the Court focus on  
17 one of the sentencing factors that we believe to be incredibly  
18 impactful and drives our sentencing recommendation, and that's  
19 deterrence. Specific and general deterrence both weigh heavily  
20 on the government's recommendation here.

21 For this specific defendant, the government can only hope  
22 that this period of incarceration will be sufficient to deter  
23 any criminal activity of this kind ever again. But perhaps most  
24 importantly, we ask for a sentence at the top of the guidelines  
25 for this flag bearer of the January 6 Capitol riot events to

1 send this strong message to this defendant and any other,  
2 regardless of their creed, belief, political persuasion, or  
3 otherwise, to anyone who may wish to do harm to this city or  
4 country or democracy, the message today is don't. Don't think  
5 that your illegal actions come here without consequences. Don't  
6 think that the federal law enforcement agencies will take  
7 lightly the crimes you commit in this city. And don't think  
8 that the justice system will sit idly by while you attempt to  
9 end that peaceful transfer of power. Just don't.

10 For all those reasons and those put forth in our sentencing  
11 memorandum, we ask humbly of this Court for 51 months of  
12 imprisonment, three years of supervised release, and \$2,000 of  
13 restitution.

14 THE COURT: Thank you very much, Ms. Paschall.

15 Mr. Watkins?

16 MR. WATKINS: Thank you, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Good morning, sir.

18 MR. WATKINS: Before I start, I want to make sure I  
19 make a public record about the appreciation I have for the  
20 professionalism of Ms. Paschall as the Assistant U.S. Attorney  
21 in this case. I want to express my appreciation for your court  
22 personnel who have helped me, my office serve our client in this  
23 case. I want to thank the Court personally, not having had the  
24 privilege of meeting you before in person, for a lot of  
25 compassion and patience that you've demonstrated, not simply for

1 the defendant but for an old white guy from the heartland,  
2 skinny guy, and I appreciate it.

3 Your Honor, you have been reasoned throughout these  
4 proceedings. When I have been asked repeatedly to opine about  
5 one ruling or another in this case, I felt secure and genuinely  
6 accurate in a good way when I would respond it was a very  
7 reasoned decision.

8 When I first started using that word within the context of  
9 this case to describe your decisions, it was designed to shroud  
10 my disappointment and to do it respectfully. As the case  
11 developed, I used it in a true sense of the word, to express  
12 appreciation for not just the legal reasoned basis for your  
13 decision, but I came to appreciate, as has my client, how those  
14 decisions, as reasoned as they were, not only served justice,  
15 but my client.

16 And we're here today uniquely presenting, not just as  
17 defense counsel but uniquely presenting as a defendant. We as a  
18 nation, as a democracy, as a country of people that are brothers  
19 and sisters and relatives and colleagues and coworkers, we are  
20 at a crossroads of divisiveness. It's on all levels. It's  
21 political and socioeconomic and racial-based divisiveness. It's  
22 intrafamilial divisiveness. Our dinner tables, my dinner table  
23 has been compromised by that divisiveness.

24 I have come to conclude -- and my opinion means nothing.  
25 The opinion of this Court means something. But I've come to

1 conclude that the events of January 6 are not of the same degree  
2 of abhorrence as that which has been described about Pearl  
3 Harbor, the day that will live in infamy, or 9/11 and the tragic  
4 circumstances that surround that.

5 And while I can shun those comparisons, I cannot, as a man  
6 who was appalled on January 6, deny the attack on democracy that  
7 occurred. It occurred with alarming clarity and in a calculated  
8 fashion.

9 January 6 gave rise to the eyes of the world being able to  
10 see repugnancy on display, unbridled, unfettered repugnancy, the  
11 cause of which is not our issue here. Those responsible in one  
12 form or another is not the issue here.

13 I have said that I truly believe that January 6 will be a  
14 day that we look back and view in our rearview mirror as the day  
15 that collectively, as a nation, no matter who is responsible for  
16 all the machinations and marches and trespass and obstruction,  
17 that will be the day when we were compelled as a nation to belly  
18 up to the bar and to own our own role in permitting the auger of  
19 January 6 to blossom. Whether our role was active or passive,  
20 we all had a role.

21 So the cause of the assault, those who were planners and  
22 schemers, those who funded and orchestrated, those questions  
23 remain to be answered, and they're not for us today.

24 And I certainly will not belabor the Court with that which  
25 I have, in my own humble opinion, eloquently set forth in my

1 sentencing memorandum on behalf of the defendant. I will not  
2 belabor the obvious when it comes to the laws governing  
3 sentencing and the magic language and the keys that permit this  
4 Court to entertain lawfully bona fide and substantial requests  
5 for downward departures from the range of sentencing suggested  
6 by the federal sentencing guidelines.

7 I will and am compelled to note that I recognize and Jake  
8 Chansley recognizes that this case presents every bit as  
9 uniquely as Jake presented on January 6. This Court is in a  
10 remarkably unique position to simultaneously mete out justice  
11 and to emphasize common ground upon which all of us can premise  
12 somehow a way to bridge this great divide. As a nation, we have  
13 prided itself and indeed bloomed, blossomed, grown, and  
14 demonstrated its greatness by protecting its weak and the  
15 world's weak. We're retched masses.

16 The government -- and when I say "the government," I need  
17 to make it very clear, I am not talking about the Assistant U.S.  
18 Attorney Ms. Paschall. The government expended virtually  
19 limitless resources, and they had those limitless resources to  
20 expend, within the context of a prosecution of anyone and  
21 everyone who should be prosecuted within the context of  
22 January 6.

23 The government knew; the government knew before they  
24 prosecuted the defendant, before he was charged that indeed he  
25 was a member of our Armed Forces. He was a sailor. The

1 government, if they did not have access to and ready possession  
2 of those military records before they prosecuted the defendant,  
3 they should have. They had the resources. They had the  
4 ability. They had the access. And it would have been nothing  
5 but a call. Those resources are great for a reason.

6 The government has deployed those virtually limitless  
7 resources in response to January 6 in a way that's very noble.  
8 They moved fast. Those investigations are still going on. The  
9 government on all sorts of levels is moving forward with  
10 investigations.

11 But we're not in a position of slowing this court  
12 proceeding down because we don't have to, because those  
13 investigations, those outcomes are irrelevant as to my client,  
14 as to the defendant in this case, as to the decision of my  
15 client to enter a plea, not because of any reason other than he  
16 is accountable and wants to be held accountable based on  
17 evidence that we have today, that this court has seen.

18 I've provided you with videos. I've provided the  
19 government with videos. The government's given me videos. The  
20 government's given you videos that I've given her. This isn't a  
21 drive-in movie theater. You don't need to see more video.

22 I need to emphasize to this Court that the government in  
23 2006 had in their charge a young man who was 19 years old, pie  
24 faced. I gave you a photograph of him from that era. It looks  
25 like he's 12. It looks like he's in a Macy's Department Store

1 of yesteryear having a Christmas photo taken in a uniform. That  
2 young man, that kid, for the first time in his life at the age  
3 of 19, he had access, access to medical care. And that young  
4 kid who had forged his way all the way to the Navy at the age of  
5 19, at that time had already been through one trauma after  
6 another, significant trauma, he had the foresight, the insight,  
7 and the introspection to go to the doc on the ship and say hey,  
8 I want to find out if I'm crazy.

9 And in looking back, 2006 wasn't that long ago. The doctor  
10 took his time, and he diagnosed Jake. What was the doctor's  
11 duty? He was a sailor, too. His duty was to ascertain the  
12 answer to one question: Is this sailor fit for duty? It wasn't  
13 oh, let me diagnose you, let me hold your hand, let me tell you  
14 what your diagnosis is, and let's see if we come up with a  
15 treatment plan. If it was cancer, they would have had to treat  
16 my client. If it was a broken bone, if it was any one of  
17 virtually any health ailments that were diagnosed, treatment  
18 would have been given.

19 In those medical records, you see identification of  
20 folliculitis because of ingrown hairs. They have a diagnosis.  
21 They have a treatment plan. But you have a mental health  
22 disorder, a life-long disorder that's diagnosed, that's serious.  
23 And in 2006, the government didn't share that with the patient.  
24 Their question was, is he fit for duty?

25 There's a 15-year window of opportunity that the defendant

1 lost. The government didn't do what the government should have  
2 done. Not Ms. Paschall, not the Department of Justice, but it's  
3 one government. This is our government. And for 15 years, that  
4 decision -- it wasn't malicious. It wasn't evil. But the  
5 decision not to share that diagnosis, not to make sure that this  
6 young man, the pie-faced young man in a sailor outfit, was at  
7 least aware of a diagnosis that required attention, that was a  
8 fateful decision, because there was a 15-year quest of this  
9 young man, socially isolated, mentally challenged with respect  
10 to this pronounced mental health disability, moving forward on  
11 a -- not mindless, but a really committed, disciplined quest for  
12 answers. Why am I different? What's wrong with me? Why am I  
13 bullied? Why am I isolated? Why am I not a part of everyone?

14 That 15-year window, one can't help but to wonder if this  
15 government had in 2006 said, hey, Jake, you got a problem, we  
16 gotta address it, we need to deal with it, and you need to be  
17 aware of it, had that been done, speculation, I know Jake's  
18 discipline on a lot of levels, if one-tenth of that discipline  
19 was employed during those 15 years to address this issue, we  
20 would not be in this courtroom today. Jake would not have been  
21 at the Capitol on January 6. But that's could have, should  
22 have, would have.

23 Since the outset of this case, the government, as a matter  
24 of record over and over, has attempted to portray Jake as a  
25 leader, a planner, an organizer, leading the charge into the

1 Capitol. Finally, as the Court acknowledged, no, he wasn't  
2 violent. He wasn't destructive. He didn't steal. He wasn't a  
3 planner. He wasn't an organizer.

4 I shared with this Court the candid reality that Jake, for  
5 better or for worse, because of his costume, because of his  
6 paint on his face, his torso, tattoo-ridden, fur pelt, horns,  
7 that costume, that part of his shamanic commitment and faith,  
8 whether you're seeing it in my eyes as hey, hell of a costume,  
9 or in the eyes of another shaman, it doesn't matter. That image  
10 stuck.

11 THE COURT: He made himself the image of the riot,  
12 didn't he?

13 MR. WATKINS: Correct.

14 THE COURT: For good or bad, he made himself the very  
15 image of this whole event.

16 MR. WATKINS: That's correct, Your Honor. There's no  
17 question about it.

18 THE COURT: Even walking down the avenue, he made  
19 himself that image, before he even got there.

20 MR. WATKINS: Before he ever got to D.C., before he  
21 ever had a dream of walking from The Ellipse to the Capitol.

22 THE COURT: Yeah.

23 MR. WATKINS: The government has made representations  
24 to this Court that support the detention of Mr. Chansley while  
25 this case has been proceeding. The government has cast Jake in

1 a pretty horrific light. And I will be the first to acknowledge  
2 that the one-dimensional light that has been utilized by the  
3 government fully supports the proposition that Jake is a  
4 horrific image indeed, supporting the proposition that his role  
5 in this horrible day, this assault on democracy was repugnant.

6 But the government knows. I know. Jake knows. And I'm  
7 very hopeful that by the end of this presentation this Court  
8 will understand obviously there's more to the story. There's  
9 the other side of the story. There's the rest of the story.

10 Being polite, the government knew that many of its  
11 representations were, at best, strained. It was not until only  
12 recently that the Court actually had the government acknowledge  
13 to it that Jake was not an organizer or a planner. The  
14 government has never publicly affirmed that until today.

15 The government has harped on flagpoles or tired threats,  
16 obscenities. The informal posture of the government is  
17 different, and the professional compassion demonstrated by  
18 Assistant U.S. Attorney Paschall is heart-warming. It is true  
19 blue to the job of the Department of Justice. It is that which  
20 has rendered the Department of Justice the ability to be the  
21 crown jewel for the world to see.

22 I recognize and am tremendously respectful of the fact that  
23 the assistant U.S. attorneys who are the boots on the ground  
24 within the context of these January 6 cases have, to a certain  
25 and not insignificant extent, had their wings clipped. There is

1 a chain of command. There is an overwhelming optics-driven  
2 desire, not an ignoble desire, but it's still an optics-driven  
3 desire, and that man has the greatest optics appeal in the world  
4 for that chain of command.

5 The moral duty has one which -- has been one which courts  
6 have been hesitant to rely upon for precedence. The ethical  
7 duty, the legal duties of the government require pursuit of  
8 justice, an evenhanded justice born of candor and transparency  
9 and respect for all accused, for the rights of the accused. The  
10 importance of this case is not simply to Mr. Chansley, but  
11 clearly, by virtue of the circumstances, the image, effectively  
12 the brand and the logo and the tag line all wrapped in one for  
13 January 6, personified by Jake has rendered this case important  
14 for the nation.

15 As a nation, as citizens, as members of those who breathe  
16 air in our land, citizens or not, we have a right to rely on the  
17 integrity of our government. We have a right to rely on the  
18 accuracy of their representations. We have a right to expect  
19 nothing short of decency. It should be the proud duty of our  
20 government to protect the weak and the vulnerable. It's a  
21 burden that the government should continue to wear as a badge of  
22 honor.

23 The government's sentencing memorandum and the sentencing  
24 presentation, legally sound, but they constitute a rote refrain  
25 which the government has in this case opted to sing over and

1 over again until such time as that message, despite its cracks  
2 and its weaknesses and despite its obvious oversight of a  
3 glaring tragedy that occurred in 2006, it has morphed into a  
4 commercial truth.

5 That doesn't mean it's false. That's the reality here.  
6 That's the unique nature of this case. The government has its  
7 story, and it has prosecuted nobly based on that story.

8 But you cannot characterize every defendant, every  
9 January 6 defendant based on and labeled under one moniker. The  
10 government, the Department of Justice has done the noble thing  
11 and the right thing. They had to shift gears to do it, and they  
12 shifted away from trying to label everybody under one moniker to  
13 actually drilling down. And they've done it. They've done it  
14 in large part with how they're charging, what they're charging,  
15 who they're charging.

16 Jake presents as a very unappealing defendant to drill  
17 down, to drill down on, scratch the surface, and find out who he  
18 is. But it's particularly because of that absence of appeal  
19 that renders him most worthy of drilling down and scratching  
20 that surface, for he is, he is a part of our weak.

21 The country has come to see that in no small part not all  
22 of those who participated in events on January 6 were the same.  
23 The nation has the choice to evaluate things based on  
24 information that they garner. The government has the right and  
25 the duty to prosecute based on the information and the evidence

1 that they have. This Court has the choice and the opportunity  
2 to ensure that justice is indeed done, an opportunity to right a  
3 wrong that occurred and was perpetrated by the government, not  
4 the Department of Justice but the Navy, 15 years prior to  
5 January 6. The government's doctor diagnosed Jake in 2006 and  
6 didn't tell Jake. With the limitless resources of the  
7 government, one would think somebody would have told Jake.

8 Tragically, that decision in 2006 is impacting us today.  
9 Jake does not present to this Court with some spontaneously  
10 identified medical ailment curiously found only by the doctor  
11 that I hired and spent a lot of money on to say what I wanted  
12 him to say. Jake presents with a long-standing diagnosis by a  
13 government doctor. Jake re-presents with a 2021 forensic  
14 psychiatric exam by Dr. Van Der Walt which was like none other I  
15 have seen in almost four decades of practice before the federal  
16 bench.

17 THE COURT: One of the best I've seen.

18 MR. WATKINS: It was an admirable piece of work, and  
19 it took work.

20 Jake has schizoid personality disorder, ups and downs of  
21 depression. These are diagnoses by government agents. Jake is  
22 a man who in July, when that psych evaluation report came out,  
23 he became a new man. He became a new man who had just a month  
24 earlier been slipping into an abyss that scared me and those who  
25 knew him. Jake presented as a new man because he had an answer

1 to a question that he had been consumed with for all of his  
2 knowing life, not just adult life but going back to grade school  
3 days, between the abuse, the neglect, the bullying, and all the  
4 unreconciled childhood traumas that we all have and hang our hat  
5 on. These were real.

6 Jake has served 317 days effective today, and with the  
7 exception of the short stint in Englewood, Colorado, they were  
8 in solitary, not administrative segregation because of a  
9 wrongdoing or disciplinary issue. It's COVID; it's COVID.

10 I am compelled, while I'm thinking about it, the personnel  
11 at the Alexandria Detention Facility, Warden Quentin Wade, every  
12 single one of them with respect and dignity discharged their  
13 duties and did so in a fashion consistent with the high  
14 standards that we all hope are followed by others.

15 Jake has endured the trauma of being held, at first being  
16 held and not being able to eat. Curiously, Jake's dietary  
17 restrictions, while shamanic based, interestingly, those very  
18 types of dietary treatment -- or dietary restrictions are used  
19 as treatment for people with the type of mental health disorder  
20 that he has, as but one of many incremental measures that can be  
21 taken to help. In a very real sense, his faith became his  
22 self-medication.

23 Jake has endured the entirety of his 317 days alone, no  
24 family visits. The resources weren't there. So perhaps more  
25 tragically than anything else, Jake's sole touchdown to humanity

1 was me, and that's horrific. Being a counsel whose skill sets  
2 have never ever included holding hands or singing Kumbaya, I'm  
3 grateful to Jake, because while I didn't learn the words to the  
4 song, I'll tell you what, it did teach me, at least  
5 professionally and as a human, to hold hands, because it was  
6 necessary. It was needed. I grew because of him. Graciously,  
7 he taught me.

8 Being at counsel with a guy like Jake alone in jail while  
9 I'm in St. Louis and he's in Alexandria, it's humbling. Jake  
10 endured his detention, his incarceration through discipline,  
11 meditation, contemplation, self-reflection, introspection, all  
12 the neat things that kind of touchy-feely and therapists like to  
13 talk about. But he did that. He did that in a way that was  
14 devoid of any disciplinary issues. He did that in a way that  
15 was noble and humane and peaceful. Every day that was spent by  
16 Jake in solitary, in my opinion, it's worth more than a day in  
17 general.

18 Jake presents, as this Court knows all too well, because  
19 that's been my rote refrain, he has no criminal history, zero.  
20 Jake self-surrendered. He showed up. They wanted to talk to  
21 him. Here I am. Here's my clothes. Here's my horns. No  
22 disciplinary issues while confined.

23 But this case has not occurred in a vacuum. Jake went  
24 through a process, a process which in hindsight wasn't a process  
25 that was anticipated. This is a process that started with a

1 loud mouth proclaiming that Trump should pardon the shaman.  
2 That was a part of the extrication. Nobody held their breath  
3 believing that President Trump --

4 THE COURT: There's no question his views evolved.

5 MR. WATKINS: I'm sorry?

6 THE COURT: There's no question his views have  
7 evolved.

8 MR. WATKINS: That's correct, Your Honor.

9 When Jake was not pardoned, he expressed disappointment.  
10 He didn't say I hate Trump. He said he was disappointed. And  
11 that morphed into having had the opportunity, without the socio-  
12 stressors and all the malarky that gave rise to this euphoric,  
13 manic state, of being horrified by what he saw, as I had to go  
14 through the painful process of navigating one-dimensional WebEx  
15 or Zoom to show videos to Jake as a part of the discovery  
16 disclosure process.

17 I couldn't watch Jake watch them anymore, hours of them. I  
18 had support personnel watching Jake watch them. And they all  
19 were drained, not by the videos, drained by watching his  
20 response to himself, a detached view of a former self.

21 Jake presents to this Court having all on his own and  
22 without promises of good treatment or a 5K1.1, he has  
23 voluntarily submitted to debriefing, not once, multiple times.  
24 He has been candid, forthcoming, truthful. He went out of his  
25 way to make sure I had the information necessary to garner from

1 a third person who would never ever in a million years do  
2 anything to provide anything to the government to give to me a  
3 video to give to the government which depicted actions which the  
4 government was looking for, did not have, and demonstrated the  
5 faces of individuals who were responsible for breaking into and  
6 compromising the integrity of a highly elected official and  
7 stealing and being destructive to classified property.

8 He did that without promise. He didn't do that as a  
9 bargaining chip. He did it. He's there. He's available. He  
10 was available, will remain available to demonstrate to the  
11 government that he wants to make right, make good by the  
12 government, to the government, because he's never been a man who  
13 wanted to be who he is. He never wanted to be seen or depicted  
14 as anything other than a noble lover of his land.

15 Jake presents with having apologized without equivocation.  
16 No buts, no blames, I did it, I want to be accountable, I want  
17 to be held accountable. Jake presents with a life-long history  
18 of kindness, peacefulness.

19 Oh, peaceful wasn't the tenor of the day. No, January 6  
20 was not peaceful. We're not talking about tenor. Jake presents  
21 as a guy who is completely devoid of any benefits, because he  
22 sought none, from having done anything that he's done with the  
23 government from the time he peacefully self-surrendered to date.  
24 He did not ask for, did not want. To be pure, you give not to  
25 be recognized. I'm not pure. I'm asking the Court to recognize

1 me. I'm asking the Court to recognize that this is a bright  
2 young man. I'm asking the Court to take special note, because  
3 Jake's going to speak. I'm representing to this Court as an  
4 agent of the court, I have not told Jake what to say. I have  
5 not suggested to Jake any words. I have not reviewed a thing  
6 that he's written, rewritten, thought about writing, or even  
7 what he's going to say.

8 I know that Jake works well with pictures. He communicates  
9 well with pictures. I implore the Court to not simply listen to  
10 what Jake has to say within the context of this case. It's  
11 important to watch, see how he speaks and some of the  
12 characteristics which may to a trained eye but not to an  
13 untrained eye be indicia that supports that perhaps a long time  
14 ago someone in a learned position of authority in his life could  
15 have said hey, you know what, come on over here, we've got to  
16 take care of you.

17 Jake has prepared his own words, and how he articulates is  
18 important. The Court has the military records. The Court has  
19 the psych evaluation from 2021. But it's really important that  
20 this is recognized by Jake and that the Court recognize that  
21 Jake recognizes this isn't a case about Trump. This isn't a  
22 case about pardons or whether Jake was duped, used, exploited.  
23 Whether Jake has anyone to cast blame on is wholly irrelevant,  
24 because he doesn't.

25 This is not a case about social media or COVID or social

1 isolation made me do it. This is certainly not a case that  
2 should be a film festival. It's not about guilt or innocence  
3 anymore. The defendant has entered a plea competently,  
4 genuinely. The Court has accepted that plea.

5 This is about culpability, a different analysis. It's  
6 important for you to hear from Jake. I'm confident that this  
7 Court has heard limitless pleas for mercy and leniency. I am  
8 confident this Court has witnessed tears of significant  
9 magnitude, some of which are alligator tears.

10 You won't get that from Jake. This is not Jake being a  
11 pleader. This is a straight-shooting young man who's got some  
12 problems, problems that he has overcome because of a loving,  
13 caring, unbelievably dedicated mother, hard working, but she  
14 couldn't be there all the time.

15 Jake was in jail. He lost the one male role model of  
16 positive significance in his life while incarcerated, and Jake  
17 gets that the only one responsible for that was Jake. It tears  
18 him up, but he gets that he's the one that made decisions.

19 The sincerity and genuineness of the words of Jake will  
20 show, and when Jake has concluded, I would request just a few  
21 more minutes, not even that, to conclude.

22 Mr. Chansley?

23 I want the record to reflect that I am going to step aside  
24 while he talks, Your Honor, because I think it's important that  
25 he do so, in a presentation sense, naked, not in the January 6

1 sense.

2 THE COURT: All right. Good morning, Mr. Chansley.

3 THE DEFENDANT: My humblest regards, Your Honor,  
4 seriously.

5 I want to start by saying I really wish I would have met a  
6 man of your honor and stature under far different circumstances.  
7 That's to say the least. And thank you for your service to our  
8 military, our Constitution, and our federal court system.

9 Also, thank you for the Court-ordered organic diet while I  
10 was in solitary. It did wonders for me. Thank you.

11 THE COURT: I took a lot of flak for that.

12 THE DEFENDANT: God bless you for it. Seriously,  
13 thank you. It made all the difference.

14 I would also like to say that I'm going to be upfront with  
15 Your Honor as I was upfront with the FBI, with the prosecution,  
16 and with the doctor in Colorado. And I would like to start with  
17 a quote from Max DePree. The quote goes something like, you can  
18 help yourself understand problems by asking yourself questions.

19 To understand my predicament, you know, while I was in  
20 solitary, I asked myself a lot of questions. But I think the  
21 most important question I asked myself was, what would Jesus do.  
22 And I followed that up with, what would Gandhi do in this  
23 situation.

24 And the truth of the matter is, I came to the conclusion  
25 that Jesus would love, understand, and respect everybody

1 involved in this court proceeding, and that would result in his  
2 acceptance of responsibility, no matter what the consequences.  
3 And Gandhi, who viewed God as truth and truth as God, would  
4 allow his loyalty to God and to truth to guide him to accepting  
5 responsibility even and especially when it incriminated him.

6 As I implemented this strategy, because I look up to these  
7 men, I look up to Gandhi, I look up to Jesus, I want to mirror  
8 their character as much as I can, part of the reason why,  
9 looking at the video, I was just like, oh, my God.

10 So I tried to remain objective and impartial. And in the  
11 process of being objective and impartial, I was blessed with  
12 hearing a quote from, of all people, Clarence Thomas, Justice  
13 Clarence Thomas, because I actually admire him quite a lot as  
14 well. And he likened being a Supreme Court justice to being a  
15 referee on a football field. And he said that, you know, if you  
16 make a ruling on the field that causes people's favorite team to  
17 lose, well, then, the people are in an uproar, and they say the  
18 referee should be fired and he's blind, but if the referee makes  
19 a call and a ruling on the field that the people like and it  
20 makes their team win, well, then all of a sudden, the referee is  
21 deserving of praise and is to be promoted and, you know,  
22 glorified.

23 And so when I heard that, I thought to myself, well, you  
24 know what, if I'm going to remain objective and impartial, then  
25 I need to put myself in Your Honor's shoes. I have to put

1 myself in your shoes. I have to put myself in the prosecution's  
2 shoes. I have to put myself in the shoes of everybody that saw  
3 the coverage, shall we say, in the media and saw my image from  
4 their subjective perspective without knowing me.

5 And so if I'm asking Your Honor to be impartial, I need to  
6 be impartial, too. I have to look at the situation from a  
7 third-party perspective, not looking at it from Jake's  
8 perspective.

9 I believe in freedom, Your Honor. I believe in freedom  
10 with all of my heart and soul. It's why I joined the military.  
11 I support the Constitution. I support this country. Every  
12 fiber of my being, I am willing to die for it, much like  
13 yourself, which God bless you. Thank you for your time and  
14 service in 'Nam.

15 But I also believe in law and order, because without  
16 freedom -- without law and order, you can't have freedom. And  
17 in order for freedom and law and order to coexist, freedom has  
18 to be exercised with accountability and responsibility. Those  
19 things have to be practiced in tandem with freedom. Otherwise,  
20 I mean, what's the point. If the law is broken and there's no  
21 punitive action, then there's no point in having the law. It's  
22 anarchy.

23 So I had to come to terms with the fact that I was in  
24 solitary confinement because of me, because of my decision. I  
25 broke the law, and if I believe in freedom, if I believe in law

1 and order, if I believe in responsibility and accountability,  
2 then that means that I should do what Gandhi would do and take  
3 responsibility even and especially when it incriminates me. No  
4 ifs, ands, or buts about it. That's what men of honor do.

5 It's painful logic, but I subscribe to the truth even when  
6 it hurts and especially when it hurts, because that's the only  
7 way we can grow as a human being.

8 Your keeping me detained was your right as a federal judge,  
9 and I don't blame you. I don't. Looking at it objectively, I  
10 understand completely, and I respect you for it. Because in all  
11 honesty, I needed the time to re-evaluate.

12 In short, if I didn't like the ruling on the field, I  
13 should not have behaved in a way that caused the Department of  
14 Justice and the Court to blow the whistle and throw the yellow  
15 flag. That's just all there is to it.

16 In solitary confinement, I did a lot of quiet reflection.  
17 I did a lot of soul-searching. I learned a lot about myself  
18 that -- you really dig when you're locked up 22 hours a day,  
19 Your Honor. And me being as introspective as I am, as you know,  
20 I'm kind of a loner. I've also been introspective. I've always  
21 kind of done this self-examination. I'm into enlightenment and  
22 Christ and Buddha and Gandhi. So spirituality and looking  
23 inward and meditating has always been a part of me. That's what  
24 shamanism is all about, is looking inward.

25 So I asked myself a lot of questions, and I forced myself

1 to answer those questions, no matter how painful they were, with  
2 impartial answers. And I re-evaluated a lot of my premises, my  
3 first premises, and I came to some conclusions that I would like  
4 to share with Your Honor.

5 Number 1, men of honor admit when they're wrong, not just  
6 publicly but to themselves. So I would like to use this as an  
7 opportunity to admit to Your Honor, to the prosecution, to the  
8 nation, to the world, I was wrong for entering the Capitol. I  
9 have no excuse, no excuse whatsoever. The behavior's  
10 indefensible.

11 Number 2, I may be guilty of this crime, absolutely, but I  
12 am in no way, shape, or form a dangerous criminal. I am not a  
13 violent man. I am not an insurrectionist. I am certainly not a  
14 domestic terrorist. I'm a good man who broke the law, and I'm  
15 doing all I can to take responsibility for that, Your Honor.

16 Number 3, in all honesty, from an objective perspective, I  
17 am nothing like these criminals that I have been incarcerated  
18 with. Some of these people, you know, God love them, not only  
19 are we miles, light years away mentally, but like they're acting  
20 like they're in the Holiday Inn while they're incarcerated.  
21 Multiple offenders, yeah, I've been here a bunch of times. And  
22 I'm just like thinking to myself, how do you go through  
23 something like this and come back? Why would you ever do  
24 anything that would bring you back to this?

25 Number 4, I am truly, truly repentant for my actions,

1 because repentance is not just saying you're sorry. Repentance  
2 is apologizing and then moving in the exact opposite direction  
3 of the sin that you committed. And that's what I've been trying  
4 to do ever since I realized the magnitude of my error and the  
5 magnitude of my mistake.

6 That's why I called the FBI as soon as I heard I was wanted  
7 for questioning. It's why I set up an appointment with the FBI  
8 without a lawyer present. And I told them everything. Even  
9 stuff that I knew would incriminate me, I told them everything  
10 because I am loyal to the truth. And if I did it, I'm not going  
11 to try and battle it in court. I'm just going to say no, that's  
12 the truth, this is what happened. That's the reason why I  
13 worked with the prosecution without any promise of anything.  
14 It's the reason why I took the plea deal of the crime for which  
15 I'm guilty.

16 Number 5 is, in retrospect, I would do everything  
17 differently on January 6. In all honesty, I would do everything  
18 differently. I would, with all of my heart and soul, try to  
19 stop people from allowing anything like that to happen. I'm not  
20 going to try and tout the things I did prior to the trespass  
21 that happened. But when people were throwing stuff at the  
22 police, I told them to stop. When I saw what was going on on  
23 the scaffolding, I got down because I saw that things were  
24 getting kind of crazy, and I was walking along with my megaphone  
25 saying hey, the cops are our friends, leave them alone.

1           But there's no excuse for once the breach was made, you  
2 know. I watched it. There's no excuse. But I'm just being  
3 honest with you.

4           Number 6 is -- oh, we live -- I heard a saying that we live  
5 two different lives: One life that we learn from and the other  
6 life after that. And I would like to believe that after  
7 watching those videos, you know, there's something that you  
8 learn from watching yourself objectively, you know, especially  
9 when you're in a frenzy. It's incredible what a third-party  
10 perspective can do.

11           Number 6 is, most of the time when we look at other people,  
12 and myself included, we tend to think that the small part of  
13 them that we see is the whole of who they are, you know. In  
14 many cases, some people think that the small part that they see  
15 is who they are in their completeness all the way until their  
16 death. But then I thought to myself, well, what if we all  
17 judged Gandhi based on the fact that he used to beat his wife  
18 before his spiritual awakening and his liberation movements.  
19 What if we judged Jesus based on the fact that he overturned the  
20 merchant tables outside the temple in Jerusalem before he went  
21 to the crucifixion for his passion.

22           So I'm doing all I can, including some of the people that  
23 I've been incarcerated with, to not judge them. Like Christ  
24 said, judge not lest you be judged. And I'm trying to live  
25 that.

1           Number 7 is the media puts intense pressure on the public  
2 and targeted individuals to do this process of looking at a  
3 small portion of somebody and saying that's who they are, you  
4 know, and then they regurgitate the same narrative over and over  
5 and over again to like engrain this stuff in the public's mind  
6 of the narrative that they want people to absorb.

7           And there's a term for this persecution through propaganda.  
8 It's called controversialization or controversializing somebody.  
9 I most certainly have been controversialized for sure.

10           With all of that said, I would like to bring up another  
11 quote from Max DePree. We cannot reach our full potential by  
12 remaining who we are. And I would like to add to that that it's  
13 hard to grow to our full potential when we're treated based on  
14 the bias of a mistake, especially if it's just one mistake in a  
15 long history of trying to do the right thing. I believe that  
16 the measure of a man is the extent to which he grows and  
17 acknowledges -- grows beyond and acknowledges his mistakes and  
18 tries to correct errors and admit mistakes and grow past them.  
19 I believe the measure of a man is how much they work to evolve  
20 and to change, to be a better person.

21           The PSI, presentence investigation report -- or  
22 investigation, I have come to discover, is meant to give Your  
23 Honor a much broader perspective of the defendant in the case,  
24 much broader a perspective than the media labors to give the  
25 public. That's the reason why we have a justice system and Your

1 Honor has a probation officer to look into and investigate this  
2 guy, tell me who he is, what he's done, where he's been, what  
3 he's about, et cetera, or she.

4 So I guess I'm asking Your Honor to judge a tree by its  
5 fruits. You read my high school career paper. My career choice  
6 has not changed since high school. That's what the shamanism is  
7 all about. Despite the way the tattoos may look, I consider  
8 this therapy for all the pain that I've been through. I use  
9 physical pain to deal with the mental and emotional trauma that  
10 I've been through. That's what the tattoos are about. I don't  
11 get a tattoo unless I earn it or unless it's to overcome some  
12 kind of trauma. Like these sleeves, I got these sleeves when my  
13 dad committed suicide. It took about 36 hours total to get them  
14 done, and so during that process, I was meditating and I was  
15 grieving.

16 I would also like to say that I hope that you see my heart  
17 and my desire to live the life of like a Christ or a Gandhi in  
18 my chosen work for the past several years. I've worked with  
19 kids in group homes, which let me tell you something, that is  
20 tough work, Your Honor. Working with troubled teen boys in  
21 group homes, especially some of them fresh out of corrections  
22 facilities, that was tough.

23 THE COURT: Some of the letters I saw --

24 THE DEFENDANT: What's that, sir?

25 THE COURT: Some of the letters I saw were very good

1 about what you've done there. I agree.

2 THE DEFENDANT: Thank you, Your Honor. I did it  
3 because I love kids, and I don't want any kid, I don't want any  
4 child to have to grow up the way that I grew up. I was trying  
5 to give these young men and the children in my care when I was  
6 in Free Arts for Abused Kids of Arizona doing art with abused  
7 children a positive role model, you know.

8 I tried to start my own business twice. That failed.  
9 Maybe it's because I'm just not good with numbers and I'm kind  
10 of a loner and isolated. Maybe that's why I failed. I don't  
11 know. But I joined the military because I believe -- I live  
12 this way because I believe that spiritual evolution is most  
13 reliably achieved when we have selfless -- when we give of  
14 ourselves and have selfless service to others, not expecting  
15 anything back but giving, the way that Christ gave, the way that  
16 Gandhi gave, the way that Buddha or any saint throughout history  
17 has given.

18 This is, I think, the -- the best way to be of service to  
19 others is the best way to be of service to God. And most people  
20 will never understand the horrors of war that Your Honor has  
21 suffered. And for that, you have my utmost respect. Similarly,  
22 most people, the media, the prosecution included, will never  
23 understand what it is like, nor should they because it is my  
24 fault, what it's like to not only be in solitary confinement for  
25 22 hours a day, but to go starving for 11 days and then to have

1 the DOJ, the FBI, and the media all putting intense amounts of  
2 pressure on you and nitpicking and picking apart your life, your  
3 political beliefs, using your image and saying words that are  
4 nothing of what you are again and again and putting it out  
5 there. The pressure is unreal.

6         Granted, Your Honor's pressures -- the fact that you went  
7 through the things you went through gives me confidence and  
8 belief that you actually have a greater understanding of any  
9 sort of pressure that I've been going through because of what  
10 you've gone through. The horrors of war, comparatively, I'm  
11 lucky, because I would never want to go through something like  
12 that.

13         Most people will never understand what it's like to have  
14 every comfort that they ever had suddenly ripped from them and  
15 replaced with discomfort, starvation, confinement, daily  
16 multiple panic attacks, praying until you are exhausted, losing  
17 a loved one knowing when you're talking to them on the phone  
18 that they're going to die, and you, because of your actions,  
19 were not able to be there for them.

20         I was my grandfather's first grandchild. And when my mom,  
21 because my mom wasn't with my father when I was born, she would  
22 go to my grandfather, and my grandfather, when she needed sleep,  
23 my grandfather would do the dad thing. He would get up at 5:00  
24 in the morning, you know. So we had a really special  
25 connection. And the fact that I wasn't there when he died eats

1 me up every day, every day.

2 And my condolences to you for your loss as well.

3 THE COURT: That was my grandfather as well.

4 THE DEFENDANT: Oh, it was? Well, my condolences,  
5 Your Honor. It's not easy. And the fact that you know -- it  
6 doesn't necessarily do my heart good because I feel for you, but  
7 thank God that you know.

8 I think the hardest part about all of this is I know that  
9 I'm to blame. Yet, most people will never have any idea what  
10 it's like to have to look in the mirror and say, you know, you  
11 really messed up, man, like royally. Everything that's brought  
12 me comfort has now become a source of agony and despondency,  
13 because whether it be music I used to enjoy, movies I love,  
14 talking to family, eating food, I can't even cook my own food  
15 anymore, all of these things used to be sources of comfort. Now  
16 they're sources of discomfort and agony because it's a reminder  
17 of you're not free anymore, and guess what, you don't know when  
18 you're going to be free again. Welcome to the world, Jake; you  
19 shouldn't have done that.

20 To say the least, while I was in solitary, I really got to  
21 understand the whole saying in Shawshank Redemption when Red  
22 said, "Hope is a dangerous thing. Hope can drive a man insane."  
23 And every time that I thought I might get a release and I hoped  
24 and I didn't, crash, crash, crash.

25 And, you know, I've been through a lot of trauma in my

1 life. I was raised by an alcoholic stepdad who was abusive. I  
2 got bullied in school all the time. I mean, I went through boot  
3 camp. 100 hours' worth of tattoos. I went on a vision quest in  
4 Arizona during the summer and dang near died in the heat. And I  
5 will tell you right now, Your Honor, nothing has been as  
6 traumatic and as painful, emotionally, mentally, spiritually, as  
7 my time in solitary confinement where I sat through this you  
8 screwed up, Jake, and it's your fault, and guess what, you might  
9 go to prison, you know what, you probably are going to go to  
10 prison, you're going to have to deal with that, and you ain't  
11 going to know how long that is.

12 For the longest time, I thought it was 20 years. I didn't  
13 understand how the court proceeding worked, and I honestly  
14 thought that it was going to be 20 years of self-confinement. I  
15 had never been to jail before. So I thought that's how jail  
16 was, that you are locked in a cell all day for 22 hours a day  
17 and that's the way it was going to be for the next 20 years,  
18 congratulations.

19 Oh, my God. I don't know if it's due to the personality  
20 disorder that I have or being on the autism spectrum or  
21 whatever, but this trauma has done something to me, physically,  
22 spiritually. I've got the white hairs to prove it. I never had  
23 white hairs before. I have white hairs in my beard, on my  
24 chest, on my arms. I have white hairs now. I see Your Honor  
25 has a lot of them, so no offense. But I'm 34 years old. I

1 should not have white hairs, Your Honor, but I do.

2 And it's because this cyclical trauma -- I'm not sure if  
3 Your Honor is aware, but to the functional system of neural  
4 activity that creates our world, the same portions of the brain  
5 that process physical pain also process mental and emotional  
6 pain as well. So to the functional system of our neural  
7 activity, there is no difference between physical and emotional  
8 pain; they're one and the same.

9 So having this mental and emotional pain going over and  
10 over and over again, it was nothing short of torture. And I'm  
11 not blaming anybody else but myself, but now I can honestly say  
12 that I understand. I never understood why it is that my dad  
13 committed suicide -- I never understood why my stepdad committed  
14 suicide. I didn't understand that level of psychological pain.  
15 I thought well, why did he do it, why did he do it.

16 After going through this, I can honestly say, without  
17 condoning or condemning, because I wouldn't take my own life,  
18 but without condoning or condemning, I understand. When you  
19 experience that level of mental and emotional pain, that level  
20 of trauma, you do one of two things. You either take yourself  
21 out, or you become unprecedentedly open to alternative ways to  
22 live, and you re-evaluate not only the mistake that put you  
23 there, but every single mistake you ever made, any time you ever  
24 treated somebody poorly even just for -- because you were tired  
25 or whatever. You re-evaluate everything. It was like a

1 near-death experience on a daily basis, because I had to fight  
2 off this will to want to not live anymore but still want to  
3 live, you know. I wanted to live, but I didn't want to be there  
4 anymore, but at the same time, I didn't want to live that way,  
5 you know.

6 So how anybody can re-offend after going through something  
7 like that, I don't understand. I really don't understand how  
8 people -- I met people throughout my incarceration where they  
9 spent five and a half years in solitary, and then when they got  
10 out, they did something within two months that brought them  
11 back. And I'm just thinking to myself, dude, you were out, you  
12 were out, why didn't you get a job at Burger King or something,  
13 you know. You were out, man. You could have gone to a homeless  
14 shelter. You were out, dude. I met a guy that was in solitary  
15 for 13 years, and he got put back.

16 And I'm just -- if that is what institutionalization is, I  
17 ain't ever going to be institutionalized, Your Honor. I tell  
18 you right now. I never want to go through anything like this  
19 ever again, and I don't recommend that anybody do anything like  
20 what I did, that's for sure. This is the first time I've ever  
21 been incarcerated. It's the first time I've ever been arrested.  
22 And it will be the last. I can guarantee that beyond a shadow  
23 of a doubt.

24 They say every saint has a past and every sinner has a  
25 future. That is certainly true. And to be honest with you, I

1 want to evolve. I want to grow beyond what it is that I was,  
2 because that's what life's all about, is growing past what held  
3 you back, learning about yourself and using that knowledge to  
4 grow and to influence the world in a positive way.

5 I once heard about this gentleman that had a near-death  
6 experience, and he said that it's not so much that his entire  
7 life flashed in front of his eyes, but that he felt everything  
8 he ever felt throughout his entire life, and he felt everything  
9 he made everybody else feel throughout his entire life.

10 So when I heard that, that's when I started working with  
11 kids and trying to have a positive impact in the world, which is  
12 part of the reason why I'm so appalled at the way my image has  
13 been used and it's been used to create fear and the way it's  
14 invoked fear. That bothers me a lot, because that's a lot of  
15 bad juju that I never meant to create, you know. My shamanic  
16 attire was designed to ward off evil spirits, not to scare  
17 people.

18 Now that I know that I have a personality disorder -- and  
19 whether the personality disorder was a result of trauma that I  
20 experienced as a child or the trauma I experienced as a child as  
21 a result of the personality disorder does not matter. What  
22 matters is that I had the diagnosis in 2006, and I didn't even  
23 know about it, and I have the diagnosis now, and now that I  
24 know, it's like okay, well, now I can better navigate the world.  
25 Now I can better navigate and go okay, now I can realize okay,

1 maybe that was a social queue right there. Maybe I need to  
2 change me so that I can be better in the world, so I can be a  
3 better man, a better American citizen, so that I can, God  
4 willing, one day be a good husband and a good father, because I  
5 do want to have a family.

6 More than anything, I just -- I want the trauma to stop. I  
7 just want the trauma to stop. I want the pain to stop, and I  
8 want to heal. I want to heal. I want to grow. I want to  
9 evolve. And I want to grow beyond the symptoms of my disorder.  
10 Now that I know that I have this diagnosis, it's like okay, how  
11 am I going to deal with it. I want to be more than I was.

12 There's a saying that goes something like intelligence and  
13 education allows people to ascertain facts, but it takes true  
14 wisdom to see and discover the truth.

15 Well, Your Honor, you were in the military. You were an  
16 attorney for some time. And you have been a federal judge as  
17 long as I've been alive. So I'm of the belief that I could not  
18 have asked God for a better judge to judge my character, to look  
19 at me and say you know what, this is a wise man, an honorable  
20 man that is going to be impartial, is going to be fair.

21 Regardless of whether or not you do what it is that I would  
22 like, which of course I hope you do, but that aside, I'm being  
23 impartial, and I'm looking at the situation from a third-party  
24 perspective. And I hope that you see that my remorse is  
25 genuine. I hope that you see that my acceptance of

1 responsibility is real, that my official statement here is  
2 heartfelt and that it's truthful, that I'm being honest with  
3 you, with the Court, with the nation, with the world, because I  
4 believe that, as I said before, spiritual evolution is most  
5 reliably attained by service to others. And Your Honor has  
6 spent quite a long time being in service to others.

7 So if Your Honor believes that I deserve more punishment  
8 beyond the trauma in the solitary confinement I have received  
9 thus far, then I will accept and respect Your Honor's decision,  
10 and I will endure the sentence you give me.

11 However, before you do, before you hand down your sentence  
12 and your judgment, allow me to assure Your Honor, the  
13 government, and the nation that I am a peaceful man who believes  
14 in nonviolence, noncooperation with evil and tyranny, that the  
15 bible says that love is patient, love is kind, and does not  
16 insist on its own way. So I'm doing all I can to be as loving,  
17 as patient, and as kind as I can be and to not insist on my own  
18 way.

19 With that said, I want to say that I intend to continue to  
20 focus on my spiritual evolution, far beyond this court  
21 proceeding and ever afterward.

22 Now, like I said, we live two lives, the life that we learn  
23 from and the one we live after that. And this healing includes,  
24 you know, and this focus of spiritual evolution includes my  
25 mental and my emotional wellness and well-being.

1           So please believe me when I say, Your Honor, with almighty  
2           God as my witness, I make this holy vow and this sacred oath, I  
3           will never re-offend ever again, and I will always from here on  
4           forward think about the ramifications of everything that I do  
5           and what it is that I say and how it may be perceived.

6           Regardless of whether or not I'm saying it in jest or not,  
7           regardless of what it is I'm posting on social media, everything  
8           is going to be re-evaluated and examined through a new lens from  
9           this point on, you know, from this point forward.

10           So with all of that said, I thank Your Honor for your time.  
11           God bless you, and may God bless the United States of America.

12           THE COURT: Okay. I have a few things to say before I  
13           announce the sentence.

14           First of all, I thank you for your comments. I think --  
15           yesterday, I celebrated my 34th year here as a judge, and I  
16           think your remarks are the most remarkable I've heard in 34  
17           years. I think you are genuine in your remorse and heartfelt.  
18           Parts of those remarks are akin to the kinds of things Martin  
19           Luther King would have said.

20           I guess the basic problem I have in considering a departure  
21           downward is that although you have evolved in your thinking  
22           clearly and reversed your thinking in many ways, what you did  
23           here was horrific, as you now concede, and obstructing the  
24           functioning of the government as you did is the type of conduct  
25           that is so serious that I cannot justify a downward departure.

1 I do think that the minimum under the guidelines is something  
2 you've earned because you've done everything right from the time  
3 that you started in the other direction. You've certainly done  
4 everything you could today to convince the Court that you're a  
5 new person, and I think you're on the right track.

6 I think if I recommend mental health treatment during your  
7 period of incarceration, you will be out of -- as soon as I sign  
8 the J&C, you will be designated to some other federal facility,  
9 and you will end this incarceration and go to some other  
10 facility. I will see what your attorney recommends in terms of  
11 designation, but the designation will be up to the attorney  
12 general. But hopefully, you will get to some minimum security  
13 facility promptly and will have a better life and better ability  
14 to do this period of incarceration.

15 But the serious nature of the crime itself does not lead to  
16 my ability really to think that I could depart downward, even  
17 though I do think you're genuine. What you did was terrible.  
18 You made yourself the epitome of the riot.

19 I had a sentencing last week. It was the most any  
20 defendant has gotten, and it was a young man -- I don't take any  
21 pleasure in these sentencings. It's a young man who is from a  
22 law enforcement background, from New Jersey. He has a brother  
23 in the Secret Service. His father is a state trooper. But he  
24 came down and slugged one of the policemen in the face. And I  
25 can't not -- I can't depart downward to give him a break when

1 it's assault on a police officer at the Capitol. It's one of  
2 those kinds of cases, it's too serious an offense.

3 Now, you didn't go that far. You didn't slug anybody. But  
4 what you did here was actually obstruct the functioning of the  
5 whole government. It's such a serious crime that I just can't  
6 go all the way, even though you now recognize. But you said  
7 today what you did was wrong. You know what you did was wrong.  
8 I admire you for being able to come to terms. You made some  
9 very good remarks here today, and I appreciate that, and I think  
10 you've gone a long way to where you're going to be. I think  
11 you've learned a lot yourself in this period. You've  
12 demonstrated that today, and I want to wish you the best.

13 Pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 and in  
14 consideration of the provisions of 18 U.S.C. Section 3553, as  
15 well as the advisory sentencing guidelines, it's the judgment of  
16 the Court that you, Jacob Anthony Chansley, are hereby committed  
17 to the custody of the Bureau of Prisons for a term of 41 months  
18 on Count 2. You are further sentenced to serve a period of 36  
19 months of supervised release. In addition, you are ordered to  
20 pay a special assessment of \$100 required to be imposed in  
21 accordance with 18 U.S.C. 3013.

22 While on supervision, you shall abide by the following  
23 mandatory conditions, as well as the standard conditions of  
24 supervision, which are imposed to establish the basic  
25 expectations of your conduct while on supervision. Mandatory

1 conditions include, one, you must not commit another federal,  
2 state, or local crime. Two, you must not unlawfully possess a  
3 controlled substance. Three, you must refrain from any unlawful  
4 use of a controlled substance. You must submit to one drug test  
5 within 15 days of placement on supervision and at least two  
6 periodic drug tests thereafter as determined by the Court.  
7 Four, you must cooperate in the collection of DNA as directed by  
8 the probation officer. And five, you must make restitution in  
9 accordance with 18 U.S.C. Sections 3663 and 3663(a) or any other  
10 statute authorizing a sentence of restitution.

11 You are ordered to make restitution in the amount of  
12 \$2,000. The Court determines you do not have the ability to pay  
13 interest and penalty and, therefore, waives any interest or  
14 penalties on the -- that may accrue on the balance of  
15 restitution.

16 The Court finds you do not have the ability to pay a fine  
17 and, therefore, waives imposition of a fine in this case.

18 You shall also comply with the following special conditions  
19 of supervision: One, you must submit to substance abuse testing  
20 to determine if you've used a prohibited substance. You must  
21 not attempt to obstruct or tamper with testing methods. And  
22 two, you must participate in a mental health treatment program  
23 and follow the rules and regulations of the program. The  
24 probation officer, in consultation with the treatment provider,  
25 shall supervise your participation in the program.

1           Restitution payments shall be made to the Clerk of the U.S.  
2 District Court for the District of Columbia for distribution to  
3 the following victim: Architect of the Capitol, Office of the  
4 Chief Financial Officer, Ford House Office Building, H2-205B,  
5 Washington, D.C., attention Kathy Cheryl, CPA. Financial  
6 obligations are immediately payable to the Clerk of Court, U.S.  
7 District Court, 333 Constitution Avenue Northwest, Washington,  
8 D.C. Within 30 days of any change of address, you shall notify  
9 the Clerk of Court of the change until such time as the  
10 financial obligation is paid in full. You must pay the balance  
11 of any restitution owed at a rate of no less than \$50 each  
12 month.

13           You must provide the probation officer access to any  
14 financial requested information, authorize the release of any  
15 financial information. The probation officer may share  
16 financial information with the U.S. Attorney's Office. You must  
17 not incur new credit charges or open additional lines of credit  
18 without approval of the Probation Office until the restitution  
19 is paid.

20           Within 45 days of release from incarceration, you will  
21 appear before the Court for a re-entry progress hearing. The  
22 Probation Office in the district in which you are supervised  
23 will submit a progress report to the Court within 30 days of the  
24 commencement of your supervision. Upon receipt of the progress  
25 report, the Court will determine if your appearance is required.

1           The Probation Office shall release the presentence  
2 investigation report to all appropriate agencies, which includes  
3 the Probation Office in the approved district of residence. In  
4 order to execute the sentence of the Court, the treatment  
5 agencies shall return the presentence report to the Probation  
6 Office upon the defendant's completion or termination from  
7 treatment.

8           Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 3742, you have a right to appeal the  
9 sentence imposed by the Court if the period of imprisonment is  
10 longer than the statutory maximum or the sentence departs upward  
11 from the applicable sentencing guideline range. If you choose  
12 to appeal, you must file any appeal within 14 days after the  
13 Court enters judgment.

14           As defined in 28 U.S.C. 2255, you also have the right to  
15 challenge the conviction entered or sentence imposed if new or  
16 currently unavailable information becomes available to you or on  
17 a claim that you received ineffective assistance of counsel in  
18 entering a plea of guilty to the offense of conviction or in  
19 connection with sentencing.

20           If you're unable to afford the cost of an appeal, you may  
21 request permission from the Court to file an appeal without cost  
22 to you.

23           Pursuant to the D.C. Circuit opinion in *U.S. v. Hunter*,  
24 does counsel for either side have any objections to the sentence  
25 imposed that have not already been noted on the record?

1 MS. PASCHALL: No, Your Honor. Thank you.

2 MR. WATKINS: No, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: Okay. Any recommendations --

4 MR. WATKINS: Your Honor, could I be so kind as to  
5 request the Bureau of Prisons to house Mr. Chansley at such  
6 location as is, one, most convenient to his family in Arizona,  
7 in Phoenix, but prioritizing getting him in a location where the  
8 healthcare that's appropriate is possibly best available?

9 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Could you repeat?

10 MR. WATKINS: I beg your pardon. Knowing the Bureau  
11 of Prisons, obviously, is independent of this Court, but if I  
12 could suggest to the Court that Mr. Chansley be sent somewhere  
13 close in proximity to Phoenix to permit his family access to and  
14 time with Mr. Chansley, balancing that with --

15 THE COURT: I think I will ask the probation officer  
16 to talk to the Bureau of Prisons a little more about that and  
17 see if there's a specific recommendation I can make. I will  
18 talk to you about that before I finalize that, then. I want to  
19 do it within a day or two, because it will affect how soon I can  
20 get him out of there.

21 MR. WATKINS: I appreciate that.

22 THE COURT: I think maybe I can find out what would be  
23 better to recommend there.

24 MR. WATKINS: Thank you, Your Honor.

25 THE COURT: And the probation officer can talk to

1 Bureau of Prisons placement people about that. I think it would  
2 be a good idea.

3 MR. WATKINS: Yes, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Anything else you want to recommend?

5 MR. WATKINS: No, Your Honor, except I hope you're now  
6 assured that I did not read anything that the defendant said  
7 before he presented to the Court.

8 THE COURT: It came totally unfiltered.

9 I do want to say one other thing. The time that he has  
10 already served would be credited toward the 41 months as well,  
11 obviously.

12 MR. WATKINS: Very good.

13 THE COURT: And the government wants to dismiss all  
14 other charges?

15 MS. PASCHALL: Yes, Your Honor. At this point the  
16 government would dismiss the remaining charges in the  
17 indictment, which would be Counts 1 --

18 THE COURT: You know, you were facing 20 years,  
19 Mr. Chansley, you're right. The one advantage you get here is  
20 you're only facing now 41 months, minus the time you've already  
21 served. Had you gone to trial -- and I've got other cases with  
22 these same charges, and if they want to go to trial, they can.  
23 But you were smart. It may not feel it today, but let me  
24 guarantee you, you were smart. You did the right thing. And  
25 you owned up to it today in a fashion that is unusual for me to

1 see, the candor with which you approached me today. I  
2 appreciate it.

3 THE DEFENDANT: Thank you, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Good luck, Mr. Chansley.

5 Mr. Watkins, nice job.

6 MR. WATKINS: Your Honor, thank you for your time here  
7 today and throughout the entirety of this case.

8 THE COURT: The Court will be in recess.

9 Ms. Paschall, you did a nice job, too. Thank you.

10 (Proceedings adjourned at 11:56 a.m.)  
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CERTIFICATE OF OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

I, Sara A. Wick, certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

/s/ Sara A. Wick

December 2, 2021

SIGNATURE OF COURT REPORTER

DATE