

**Written Statement of Officer Caroline Edwards
U.S. Capitol Police**

**Hearing Before the Select Committee
to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol
U.S. House of Representatives**

June 9, 2022

I was called a lot of things on January 6, 2021 and the days thereafter. I was called Nancy Pelosi's dog, called incompetent, called a hero and a villain. I was called a traitor to my country, my oath, and my constitution. In actuality, I was none of those things.

I was an American standing face-to-face with other Americans asking myself many times how we had gotten here. I had been called names before, but never had my patriotism or duty been called into question. I, who got up every day, no matter how early the hour or how late I got in the night before, to put on my uniform and protect America's symbol of democracy. I, who spent countless hours in the baking sun and freezing snow to make sure America's elected officials were able to do their job. I, whose literal blood, sweat, and tears were shed that day defending the building that I spent countless holidays and weekends working in.

I am the proud granddaughter of a Marine that battled in the Chosin reservoir in the Korean War. I think of my Papa often in these days, how he was so young and thrown into a battle he never saw coming, and answered the call at great personal cost. How he lived the rest of his days with bullets and shrapnel in his legs, but never once complained about his sacrifice. I would like to think that he would be proud of me, proud that his granddaughter stood her ground that day and continued fighting even though she was wounded, like he did many years ago. I am my grandfather's granddaughter, proud to put on a uniform and serve my country.

They dared to question my honor. They dared to question my loyalty. They dared to question my duty. I am a proud American, and I will gladly sacrifice everything to make sure that the America my grandfather defended is here for many years to come.

Thank you.