

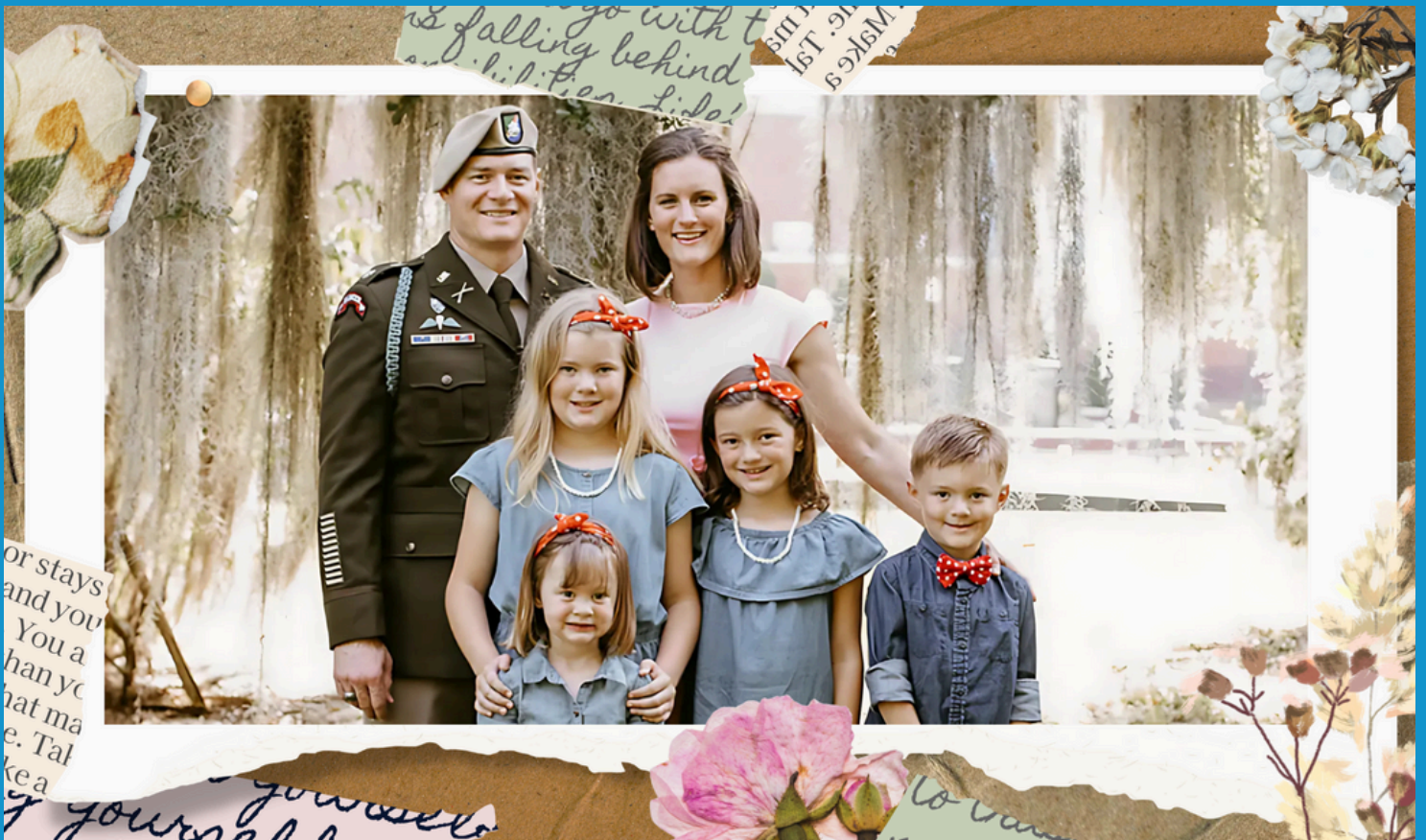
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NEWSLETTER

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CANCEL THE COLONEL: A WIFE'S FIGHT FOR HER RANGER AND THE SOUL OF THE ARMY





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Cancel the Colonel: A Wife's Fight for Her Ranger and the Soul of the Army

I grew up in an Army family. We cheered for the Army Black Knights football team, my parents left for training and temporary duty, and I was so proud of their service. I admired their service so much I followed in their footsteps. After a deployment flying in Afghanistan, helping run the rear detachment of an Infantry Brigade, and 8 years as a pilot I pivoted to supporting my husband in his career, and being the primary parent raising our four kids.

I never imagined after 14 combat deployments, two Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star with Valor, and 20 years of unwavering service to this country, my husband's fiercest battle would take place not on a battlefield overseas, but here, at home, on friendly soil. LTC Michael Kelvington's name, legacy, and life have been dragged through the mud by a broken military justice system warped by politicized agendas and institutional cowardice. And I've had to watch it all unfold. Not as a bystander, but as his wife, the mother of his children, and a Veteran who recognizes honor and servant leadership when I see it.

What began as a baseless complaint while my husband served as Professor of Military Science at [The Ohio State University](#) spiraled into a coordinated effort to cancel him. One anonymous accusation evolved into a campaign of character assassination fueled by bureaucracy and radicalized Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) ideology. Facts didn't matter. Truth didn't matter. Only protecting the institution's image did, along with others' careers. Meanwhile, they tossed my husband on the GWOT scrap heap, along with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Watching a Hero Become a Target

A female cadet initially confirmed, in her own sworn statement, my husband had done nothing wrong. No disrespect, no inappropriate behavior. But pressure from peers, officials, and Army investigators made her drastically change her story. To protect her own future, she changed her story. That single decision triggered a cascade of unjust actions, torpedoed the end of my husband's career, devastated our family, and threatened our future.

The Army investigation ignored due process in favor of political narratives. Investigators coerced cadets, buried exculpatory evidence, and treated rumors as fact. In the world of everything being recorded, there are no inappropriate texts, direct messages, photos, or any other substantial evidence. There are dates mentioned, including that he was more than an hour away with our son at a wrestling tournament. Or a night is mentioned in which he was with me at the [National Veterans Memorial and Museum](#). Yet, they took her sworn statement as fact rather than actually investigating. The [Army's Criminal Investigation Division](#) didn't even conduct a full, independent investigation. They simply adopted the biased and flawed campus report as gospel.

As my husband's world unraveled, so did our lives. He was stripped of his duties, publicly humiliated, and left to twist in the wind for the past 17 months. Cut off from the mission, isolated at home, denied the dignity he earned through two decades of sacrifice, to include now being denied the opportunity to be medically retired until the legal process eventually concludes.

The Death of Due Process and Human Dignity

The Article 32 preliminary hearing was a sham. The presiding officer, unqualified and improperly trained, overlooked crucial evidence and produced a report filled with errors. When the Army realized their mistake, they waited two months then did it all over again, with the same officer, only this time "retrained," still rubber-stamping the same conclusion. Fear of speaking the truth and calling out alleged victims for lying or falsifying testimony and including hearsay gave Cadet Command "leaders" the opportunity to wash their hands of the situation. It was easier and more politically expedient to relieve my husband than to show any shred of courage to admit their own



mistakes in jumping to conclusions or allow the initial investigation to run its course before making premature and lasting decisions. Ever heard of [“The Duke lacrosse case”](#)? History doesn’t necessarily repeat itself, but it certainly can rhyme.

Meanwhile, I watched my husband’s health deteriorate. He endured a spinal fusion and shoulder replacement. And yet, the Army forced him to drive hours while recovering to submit fingerprints and DNA, as if he were a criminal. Charges were preferred days before major surgery. Requests for delay during his recovery were ignored or even mocked, including by medical officers at Fort Knox. I sat beside him as he struggled physically and mentally, and I watched the institution we served with honor treat him like expendable hardware. The Fort Knox surgeon even threatened to deny approval for his surgery unless he was suicidal or at risk of killing someone else. When asked to put that in writing, he backtracked and approved the surgery. After huge delays, re-trials because of their own incompetence, the Brigade Commander insisted on calling him to re-read charges on the Friday afternoon of Memorial Day weekend.

A war Veteran with no less than 10 Gold Star families we maintain close contact with, and they decide Memorial Day weekend, when we could hear in the background his commander calling from home, was the right time.

Then the paperwork had the incorrect signature authority, and there was still no acknowledgement of wrongdoing. Additionally, they completely busted the Rule of Court Martial 707, the equivalent of his 6th amendment right to speedy trial, by more than 100 DAYS but they couldn’t wait until after Memorial Day to try to shame him again. There hasn’t been a shred of dignity or humanity shown to him in the past 17 months.

A Broken System Weaponized

The military justice system has become a political tool, where truth no longer matters and “equity” means predetermined guilt. The very things meant to protect real victims, like SHARP, were weaponized in this case to destroy an honorable man. In August 2024, while my husband was still on convalescent leave recovering from surgery, I watched in disbelief as the CG and JAG officers at Cadet Command tried to alter findings from a completed 15-6 investigation back in April to match the language a General and his lawyers wanted to include in an evaluation report. Read that AGAIN...



They **ALTERED** a **COMPLETED** investigation to match their preferred language!

Not the truth, just prejudicial fiction. This process was never about finding the truth, it was carried out to justify predetermined outcomes and actions made by commanders at echelon who doled out judgment before the final report and my husband's rebuttal was even complete.

Fighting for Justice, Not Just Survival

All we want is justice: for the charges to be dismissed with prejudice and to retire medically, with the honor he earned through a lifetime of service. His medical retirement has been put on hold until this legal process runs its course. But I also want accountability. What happened to him cannot become the norm. If a decorated combat veteran can be cast aside this easily, what hope is there for anyone in uniform who doesn't fit the mold of today's ideological orthodoxy? This doesn't address readiness as the current administration desires, instead it drives resources and focus away from the battlefield and sows distrust in the ranks and against the Army bureaucracy.

I didn't know the Army was an idol of mine until it betrayed me.

This is bigger than us. It's about preserving the integrity of the institution to which our families dedicate their lives. The Army taught my husband to fight for what's right, and he still believes in those values. So do I. But we cannot fight this battle alone. Senior leaders must act. They must stop this madness, hold people accountable, and protect those still serving from similar abuses. The Army must return to its core principles: truth, judicial fairness, mission, and merit. Not fear, politics, and activism.

A Final Plea

I'm proud of my husband. I'm proud of the sacrifices our family has made for this nation. But I am disgusted by what I've seen from Army "leaders." Yes, I use quotes after what I have lived through the last 17 months.

A brigade commander on the Friday of Memorial Day said, *"I know this must be hard. I know how you must be feeling."*



REALLY? You've had your family name slandered, career stripped, future plans removed, kids wondering why Daddy is home, been lied to by commanders and CSMs, surgeons ignore your spouse's pleas for help?

This case should never have gone this far. The longer it drags on, the more it destroys the credibility of an institution that still has the power to do the right thing. The current SECDEF claims these DEI initiatives aren't allowed to be "weaponized" anymore, recently signing his ["No Walking On Eggshells" Order](#) – yet my husband remains in the crosshairs without reprieve. Until these wrongs have been righted, as a third generation military officer, I would personally caution anyone from allowing their children to join a military that says one thing, like "people first," and then treats men like my husband like yesterday's trash. Yet, even if we fail in this final push for justice, we know we won't be broken by this unjust process – we have been forged to be resilient from almost 5 years of combined combat experience – and will approach this as our final deployment as a unified family.

Dismiss the charges. Restore his name. Let us finally begin to heal and begin a new chapter.

CALL TO ACTION: If you are moved by this story and believe in restoring honor, truth, and due process for our service members, we ask you to take action.

1. **Sign the Petition:** Join thousands of Americans in demanding justice for LTC Michael Kelvington by adding your name to the petition: [click here to sign!](#)
2. ***Contact Your Member of Congress:*** Ask them to stand with the [Justice for Warriors Caucus](#) in calling for a formal inquiry, accountability, and the immediate dismissal of charges against LTC Kelvington. **Want to speak up? We've made it easy.**
 - a. **If you are a veteran,** download this pre-drafted letter to send to your member of Congress: [Download Veteran Letter PDF](#)
 - b. **If you are a concerned citizen or voter,** use this version to make your voice heard: [Download Citizen Letter PDF](#)



About the author: Meg flew helicopters, planes and deployed to Afghanistan. Now she uses her experience to train others to be more fit to serve through life coaching; while being an Army Wife and mother to 4 children. After graduating from West Point and flight school, qualified in both the Blackhawk helicopter and RC-12 Guardrail airplane, she served in the Army and did one deployment to Afghanistan. Now she runs a coaching business, Riveting Mission LLC where she trains women to be resourceful and resilient through all of life's challenges; mind, body, and soul. Meg works as a lifecoach specializing in communication, parent coach, and marriage coach for Directions Counseling & Coaching in Powell, Ohio. In addition to holistic coaching, she is a Graduate Performance Specialist for the Veterans Future Foundation where she supports and empowers other military Veterans through continuing education, personal/professional growth, and employment. Meg has a Master's degree in Human Services Counseling through Liberty University, is an Army Master Resilience Trainer, former certified personal trainer, and enjoys being creative in her free time. While living coast to coast Meg has always found a home, volunteering in their church as a small group instructor. She and her husband, Mike, have four children, McKinley (13), Madison (12), "Mac" Arthur (9), and Moriah (7).



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Send this newsletter to your elected officials if you believe they need to correct the issues discussed.

- ▶ Find your Representative here: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>
- ▶ Find your Senator here: <https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm>

Feel free to reach out privately at francescagraham@walkthetalkfoundation.org or in the comments.

PETITIONS: [SIGN THIS PETITION](#) demanding that our leaders in Congress change the DoD's unjust administrative investigatory system.



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