

Twitter Thread by Ryan J. Reilly



Ryan J. Reilly

[@ryanjreilly](#)



Confederate flag guy Kevin Seefried "had not considered the logic of those who see the flag as a symbol of American racism" before Jan. 6 and is "ashamed" that "many view him as a racist," his lawyer tells the court.



"Lacking an education beyond the ninth grade and lacking even average intellectual capacity..." ■■■ <https://t.co/3kJsRiK3kl>

The next day, Kevin Seefried learned that photos of him inside the Capitol with the Confederate flag went viral and that there had been a strong reaction to the photos. Mr. Seefried's southern relatives had always had the flag and he grew up around it. He was taught that the flag was a symbol of an idealized view of southern life and southern heritage. Lacking an education beyond the ninth grade and lacking even average intellectual capacity, Mr. Seefried did not appreciate the complex and,

¹⁶ The government admitted this portion of the President's speech as Gov. Exh. 707. Trial Trx. June 13, 2022, p. 241.

¹⁷ Trial Trx. June 14, 2022, p. 137.

for many, painful, history behind the Confederate battle flag. It was difficult for Mr. Seefried to recognize the extent to which the flag is a controversial symbol and while some view the flag as a symbol of southern heritage as he had been taught, opponents see it as a symbol of racism and slavery.¹⁸ As Mr. Seefried told the agents who interviewed him, he does not know much about history and did not understand the deeper historical significance behind the flag. The government and FBI's investigation into Mr. Seefried demonstrates that he does not subscribe to messages of hate, has never harbored animosity towards any particular group, and has never intended to send that message. He unequivocally regrets the emotions that he elicited by carrying the flag on January 6th. Now, fully appreciating the deeper context behind the flag, he is horrified that his image is out there on the internet in perpetuity for his grandchildren to potentially witness one day.

"The fallout for heeding Mr. Trump's call has been devastating: Mr. Seefried's wife has left him, he is headed to prison and he will be destitute when he is released."

and hopefully never replicated, even if the former President were to invite his supporters to a campaign rally in the future, Mr. Seefried would have no desire to attend. His brief foray into political engagement started with President Trump's campaign in 2015 and ended on January 6, 2021. The fallout for heeding Mr. Trump's call has been devastating: Mr. Seefried's wife has left him, he is headed to prison and he will be destitute when he is released. Worst of all, his beloved son is in prison. While he knows he brought this devastating cascade of consequences on to himself, he cannot help but be afraid to ever trust a politician again. As he told agents days after January 6, Kevin Seefried will never again attend another political rally. Because he is not a *general* threat to the public—to the contrary, he is a hardworking father and doting grandfather—prison is not necessary to protect the public from further crimes of Mr. Seefried. Instead, the community will be better off if Mr. Seefried returns quickly to earn his subsistent income and help raise the grandchildren he adores.

Kevin Seefried was wearing a colostomy bag when he jumped through a broken window carrying a confederate flag. His lawyer says a two-year prison sentence would be "far more punitive for him that it would be for a young, healthy defendant" like his son.

C. A sentence of 12 months and one day will avoid unwarranted disparities.

Of course, no two cases—even among those that arise from January 6—are identical. Counsel could parse through every case and find similarities and differences between Mr. Seefried's conduct and others on Jan 6. Undersigned counsel is aware that this Court imposed a 24-month sentence on Hunter Seefried, who of course, entered the Capitol with Kevin and engaged in similar conduct. That said, a slightly lower sentence is appropriate for Kevin for the following reasons: First, Hunter was the first inside; it was only after Hunter cleared the way by removing the

¹⁸ *Id.* at 15.

broken glass, Kevin followed his son inside the building. There had been no plan between Hunter and Kevin to enter the building and once Hunter entered, Kevin had little choice but to follow his son. Second, while their conduct once inside was similar, a 24-month sentence for Kevin Seefried—who is a cancer survivor and wears a colostomy bag—will be far more punitive for him than it would be for a young, healthy defendant. The following cases further show that the defense request is warranted when compared to the sentences upon similarly situated defendants:

Government seeking 5 years, 10 months for the rioter who jabbed at Officer Eugene Goodman with a confederate flag.

"You can shoot me man, but we're coming in."

(via @rparloff) <https://t.co/zNIQdWH1Gp>



Government Trial Exhibit 521

Seefried continued to berate the officers, Officer Goodman in particular, and ignored their commands to leave. Trial Tr. at 72-74, 130-131, 06/13/2022.