

## DEAR ABBY

Write to Dear Abby online at [dearabby.com](http://dearabby.com) or by mail at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069



**Dear Abby:** My ex-husband was the product of an extramarital, interracial relationship. Both of the parents who raised him are white, and he has always denied he was biracial despite the obvious physical characteristics that say otherwise.

Our two beautiful teenage children were raised to believe they are white. We recently took ancestry tests, and what I believed to be true has been confirmed. My children have 25% African DNA. For this reason, since our divorce, my children have been raised to be open-minded on the subject of race. Because of this, I don't believe they will struggle with the new information. However, I am concerned about the questions they will ask, how much information to give them about their grandmother's choices and how to deal with their father, who I know will be furious when he finds out. Please help.

— *The Truth in the Midwest*

**Dear Truth:** If your children have questions, answer them honestly. Do not jump the gun and render any opinions about their grandmother and her choices. I'm sure you had your reasons for testing your children's DNA. As to how to deal with your ex's reaction to the fact that you did, let it be HIS problem. Do not allow him to make it yours.

**Dear Abby:** My husband and I have been married for 20 years. I have used my maiden name since we were married. His daughter still insists on addressing mail to me using my husband's last

name, even though I have never used it and have signed documents for her using my correct name.

I have asked him to remind his daughter what my name is. He is very sensitive to anything construed as criticism of his daughter, so I need to know of a diplomatic way to ask again.

— *Not My Name in the West*

**Dear Not My Name:** Do not ask your husband to do what you need to do. Are you at all close to his daughter? The time has come to do something you should have done well over a decade ago. Talk with her and ask why she persists in doing something she knows annoys you. Is she intellectually challenged? Forgetful? From where I sit, it seems like a passive-aggressive attempt to get your goat.

**Dear Abby:** I am five years sober after 35-plus years of drinking. I have recently gotten married and plan a small celebration once COVID-19 slows some more. I'm not comfortable serving alcohol at my wedding since most of my friends are in the AA fellowship. But I am also around people who drink responsibly, including my new wife. Any help is appreciated.

— *Serving Alcohol*

**Dear Serving:** If the majority of your guests will be members of the AA fellowship, I see no reason why you can't have a sober celebration. If the number is about equal, however, it would be gracious to have alcohol for those who indulge, while providing a generous array of alternatives for yourself and your AA friends.

## Capitol

## Continued from A1

It shows that the intelligence missteps, tactical errors and bureaucratic delays were eclipsed by the government's failure to comprehend the scale and intensity of a violent uprising by its own citizens.

With Trump not engaged, it fell to Pentagon officials, a handful of senior White House aides, the leaders of Congress and the vice president holed up in a secure bunker to manage the chaos.

While the timeline helps to crystallize the frantic character of the crisis, the document, along with hours of sworn testimony, provides only an incomplete picture about how the insurrection could have advanced with such swift and lethal force, interrupting the congressional certification of Joe Biden as president and delaying the peaceful transfer of power, the hallmark of American democracy.

Lawmakers, protected to this day by National Guard troops, will hear from the inspector general of the Capitol Police this week.

"Any minute that we lost, I need to know why," Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., chair of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, which is investigating the siege, said last month.

The timeline fills in some of those gaps.

At 4:08 p.m. on Jan. 6, as the rioters roamed the Capitol and after they had menacingly called out for Pelosi, D-Calif., and yelled for Pence to be hanged, the vice president was in a secure location, phoning Christopher Miller, the acting defense secretary, and demanding answers.

## Pence's minute-long call

There had been a highly public rift between Trump and Pence, with Trump furious that his vice president refused to halt the Electoral College certification. Interfering with that process was an act that Pence considered unconstitutional. The Constitution makes clear that the vice president's role in this joint session of Congress is largely ceremonial.

Pence's call to Miller lasted only a minute. Pence said the Capitol was not secure and he asked military leaders for a deadline for securing the building, according to the document. By this point it had already been two hours since the mob overwhelmed Capitol Police unprepared for an insurrection. Rioters broke into the building, seized the Senate and paraded to the House. In their path, they left destruction and debris. Dozens of officers were wounded, some gravely.

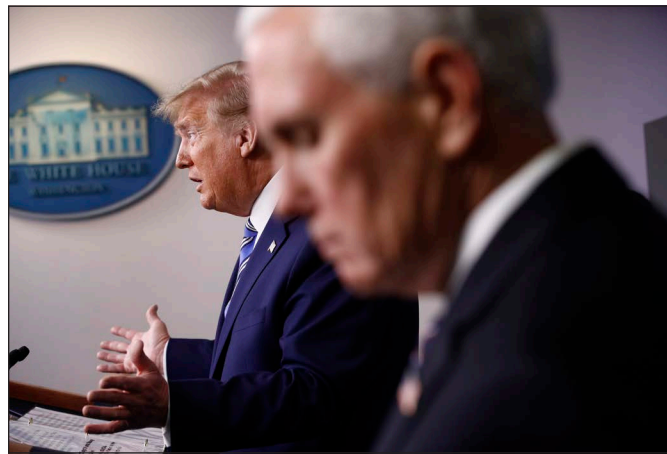
Just three days earlier, government leaders had talked about the use of the National Guard. On the afternoon of Jan. 3, as lawmakers were sworn in for the new session of Congress, Miller and Milley gathered with Cabinet members to discuss Jan. 6. They also met with Trump.

In that meeting at the White House, Trump approved the activation of the D.C. National Guard and also told the acting defense secretary to take whatever action needed as events unfolded, according to the information obtained by the AP. The next day, Jan. 4, the defense officials spoke by phone with Cabinet members, including the acting attorney general, and finalized details of the Guard deployment.

The Guard's role was limited to traffic intersections and checkpoints around the city, based in part on strict restrictions mandated by district officials. Miller also authorized Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy to deploy, if needed, the D.C. Guard's emergency reaction force stationed at Joint Base Andrews.

The Trump administration and the Pentagon were wary of a heavy military presence, in part because of criticism of officials faced for the seemingly heavy-handed National Guard and law enforcement efforts to counter civil unrest in the aftermath of the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

In particular, the D.C. Guard's use of helicopters to hover over crowds in downtown Washington during those demonstrations drew widespread criticism. That unauthorized move prompted the Pentagon to more closely con-



Patrick Semansky/AP

**Mike Pence, then the vice president, listens during a coronavirus task force briefing at the White House with then-President Donald Trump last April. The two reportedly did not speak for days after the Jan. 6 riot.**

trol the D.C. Guard.

"There was a lot of things that happened in the spring that the department was criticized for," Robert Salesses, who is serving as the assistant defense secretary for homeland defense and global security, said at a congressional hearing last month.

On the eve of Trump's rally Jan. 6 near the White House, the first 255 National Guard troops arrived in the district, and Mayor Muriel Bowser confirmed in a letter to the administration that no other military support was needed.

By the morning of Jan. 6, crowds started gathering at the Ellipse before Trump's speech. According to the Pentagon's plans, the acting defense secretary would only be notified if the crowd swelled beyond 20,000.

Before long it was clear that the crowd was far more in control of events than the troops and law enforcement there to maintain order.

Trump, just before noon, was giving his speech and he told supporters to march to the Capitol. The crowd at the rally was at least 10,000. By 1:15 p.m., the procession was well on its way there.

As protesters reached the Capitol grounds, some immediately became violent, busting through weak police barriers in front of the building and beating up officers who stood in their way.

At 1:49 p.m., as the violence escalated, then-Capitol Police Chief Steven Sund called Maj. Gen. William Walker, commanding general of the D.C. National Guard, to request assistance.

Sund's voice was "cracking with emotion," Walker later told a Senate committee. Walker immediately called Army leaders to inform them of the request.

Twenty minutes later, around 2:10 p.m., the first rioters were beginning to break through the doors and windows of the Senate. They then started a march through the marbled halls in search of the lawmakers who were counting the electoral votes. Alarms inside the building announced a lockdown.

Sund frantically called Walker again and asked for at least 200 guard members "and to send more if they are available."

But even with the advance Cabinet-level preparation, no help was immediately on the way.

Over the next 20 minutes, as senators ran to safety and the rioters broke into the chamber and rifled through their desks, Army Secretary McCarthy spoke with the mayor and

Pentagon leaders about Sund's request.

On the Pentagon's third floor E Ring, senior Army leaders were huddled around the phone for what they described as a "panicked" call from the D.C. Guard. As the gravity of the situation became clear, McCarthy bolted from the meeting, sprinting down the hall to Miller's office and breaking into a meeting.

## Breaching the Capitol

As minutes ticked by, rioters breached additional entrances in the Capitol and made their way to the House. They broke glass in doors that led to the chamber and tried to gain entry as a group of lawmakers was still trapped inside.

At 2:25 p.m., McCarthy told his staff to prepare to move the emergency reaction force to the Capitol. The force could be ready to move in 20 minutes.

At 2:44 p.m., Trump supporter Ashli Babbitt was fatally shot by a Capitol officer as she tried to climb through a window that led to the House floor.

Shortly after 3 p.m., McCarthy provided "verbal approval" of the activation of 1,100 National Guard troops to support the D.C. police and the development of a plan for the troops' deployment duties, locations and unit sizes.

Minutes later, the Guard's emergency reaction force left Joint Base Andrews for the D.C. Armory. There, they would prepare to head to the Capitol once Miller, the acting defense secretary, gave final approval.

Meanwhile, the Joint Staff set up a video teleconference call that stayed open until about 10 p.m. that night, allowing staff to communicate any updates quickly to military leaders.

At 3:19 p.m., Pelosi and Schumer were calling the Pentagon for help and were told the National Guard had been approved.

But military and law enforcement leaders struggled over the next 90 minutes to execute the plan as the Army and Guard called all troops in from their checkpoints, issued them new gear, laid out a new plan for their mission and briefed them on their duties.

The Guard troops had been prepared only for traffic duties. Army leaders argued that sending them into a volatile combat situation required additional instruction to keep both them and the public safe.

By 3:37 p.m., the Pentagon sent its own security forces to guard the homes of defense leaders. No troops had yet reached the Capitol.

By 3:44 p.m., the congressio-

## GOP rift widens at Trump donor meeting

It was supposed to be a unifying weekend for a Republican Party at war with itself over former President Donald Trump's divisive leadership. But Trump himself shattered two days of relative peace in his closing remarks to the GOP's top donors when he insulted the party's Senate leader.

Ahead of the invitation-only speech at Trump's new home inside his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, Trump's advisers said he would emphasize his commitment to his party and Republican unity. But Trump veered sharply from prepared remarks Saturday night and instead slammed Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell as a "stone-cold loser" and mocked McConnell's wife, Elaine Chao, who was Trump's transportation secretary.

Trump also said he was "disappointed" in his vice president, Mike Pence.

Trump's words left some attendees feeling uncomfortable.

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich did not defend Trump as he left Palm Beach on Sunday. "We are much better off if we keep focusing on the Democrats. Period," Gingrich said.

— *Associated Press*

nal leaders escalated their pleas.

"Tell POTUS to tweet everyone should leave," Schumer implored the officials, using the acronym for the president of the United States. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., asked about calling up active duty military.

At 3:48 p.m., frustrated that the D.C. Guard hadn't fully developed a plan to link up with police, the Army secretary dashed from the Pentagon to D.C. police headquarters to help coordinate with law enforcement.

Trump broke his silence at 4:17 p.m., tweeting to his followers to "go home and go in peace."

By about 4:30 p.m., the military plan was finalized and Walker had approval to send the Guard to the Capitol. The reports of state capitals breached in other places turned out to be bogus.

At about 4:40 p.m. Pelosi and Schumer were again on the phone with Milley and the Pentagon leadership, asking Miller to secure the perimeter.

But the acrimony was becoming obvious.

The congressional leadership on the call "accuses the National Security apparatus of knowing that protestors planned to conduct an assault on the Capitol," the timeline said.

The call lasts 30 minutes. Pelosi's spokesman acknowledges there was a brief discussion of the obvious intelligence failures that led to the insurrection.

It would be another hour before the first contingent of 155 Guard members were at the Capitol. Dressed in riot gear, they began arriving at 5:20 p.m.

They started moving out the rioters, but there were few, if any, arrests by police.

At 8 p.m. the Capitol was declared secure.

YOUR HOROSCOPE *By Madalyn Aslan*

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

★★★★★ DYNAMIC | ★★★★★ POSITIVE | ★★★ AVERAGE | ★★ SO-SO | ★ DIFFICULT

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021:** Lively, effusive and vibrant, your wide-open heart wins you an assortment of friends. This year, you are inspired by being part of a group devoted to helping others. Your earnings will be stable, and if you avoid frivolous purchases, you can splurge on a well-deserved vacation. If single, give a shy and quiet type a chance. If attached, your partner will encourage you to shine. LIBRA wants to please you.

## ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Extra energy makes you even more friendly than usual. Make an overture to someone you haven't spoken to in some time. Fill a relative in on your latest news. Your contagious joy makes people smile. Tonight: Create a jaw-dropping meal.

## TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You've got your life together more than you think. Identify your doubts, then cast them away. Spending time alone will calm your nerves. Take a long walk, go for a run, or take a bike ride. Tonight: Epsom salts soak.

## GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Gather with an online group. A team project at work or a community cleanup could use your inspired energy. Introduce yourself to fresh faces. A new acquaintance could become important to you in the near future. Tonight: Practice a meditation technique.

## CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Expect recognition from someone you want to impress. Show someone how proud you are of what you've done. Ask a boss or another authority figure to nurture your talents by giving you more to do. Tonight: Whip up a dessert.

## LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Start making plans for your next vacation. You have a strong urge to expand your horizons, and plenty of ideas about how to do it. Someone in a class you take will encourage you. Tonight: Text or email an overseas pal.

## VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Listen to your inner voice. You mysteriously know what someone is thinking, and that insight will guide how you approach them. Stepping back instead of freely offering opinions will strengthen a loving relationship. Tonight: Get in the mood for love.

## LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Go out of your way to give others positive feedback. Don't be afraid to ask them in return how you are doing. Show how gracious you can be, and drink in the compliments. Your confidence will soar. Tonight: Work out with weights.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Healthy eating can keep up the energy levels you need. Treat yourself to fresh fruits and veggies rather than heavy meats and starch. Commune with nature. Walk in the park or work in a garden. Tonight: Breathe and stretch.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Revive a creative hobby or start a new one. Pour your heart into crafts or a do-it-yourself home project. Marvel at the fruits of your labor. Hang around with children who crack up at your jokes. Tonight: Romantic comedy time.

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ If you leave the house for work or errands, you might keep thinking about chores you left half-done. They will wait. Some items are better left to experts. Make calls and get the help you need. Tonight: Get a back rub.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Get in touch with a sibling, cousin or old roommate. Reminiscing about the past puts a smile on your face and makes you laugh out loud. With patience and persistence, a confounding computer glitch will be solved. Tonight: Plan a dinner party.

## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ A surprising source of income will leave you feeling flush. Treat yourself to something that is still within your budget and set aside any left-over funds. It never hurts to hold on to a financial cushion. Tonight: Start a dream journal.

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