



By AlaskaWatchman.com

An online organization called West Point Alumni for Trump, which claims to have more than 750 West Point alumni, has released an open letter (see below) in support of beleaguered fellow alumni, Alaska State Representative David Eastman (R-Wasilla).

Eastman is currently facing an attempt by the leadership in the Alaska State House, spearheaded by Speaker Louise Stutes, to [strip him of all legislative committee seats](#) because of his membership in a group called Oathkeepers.

West Point Alumni for Trump – a private Facebook group – issued its letter in response to a November 2021 [letter by much smaller group of 70 West Point graduates](#), which called on Eastman to resign from office due to his membership with Oathkeepers. Oathkeepers is a 30,000-plus member organization comprised mostly of former military, law enforcement officers and first responders who have

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February 4, 2022

pledged to uphold and defend the U.S. Constitution.

Oathkeepers has come under fire after its founder, Stewart Rhodes and 10 other members were charged with seditious conspiracy in the Jan. 6, 2021, incident at the U.S. Capitol. Rhodes, who has no criminal history, and never entered the Capitol, has stated that he was communicating with members of his group on Jan. 6 in an effort to “keep them out of trouble.” He said a handful of Oathkeepers who entered the Capitol “went totally off mission.” His trial is set for July.

The letter from 70-West Point alumni who oppose Eastman was spearheaded by a man named Ivan Hodes (a 2005 graduate). It claims that Eastman has “discredited ... and betrayed the values of West Point” by being a member of Oathkeepers.

The group supporting Eastman – West Point Alumni for Trump – begs to differ.

“The media up there has taken Mr. Hodes as the voice of all us West Pointers,” said David Cunningham, a founding member and moderator of the group’s Facebook page.

“I don’t want folks to be thinking we are in lockstep as far as agreeing with Mr. Hodes,” he said. “There are in excess of 54,000 living graduates of the academy. The idea that 70-odd people represent us is a concern and kind of laughable when you think about the vanishingly small portion of living graduates that they represent.”

Cunningham said all 750-plus members of his group were individually verified as West Point alumni and have agreed to publishing the letter in support of Eastman. The names of the members are not listed, however, due to concerns



David Eastman pictured in his West Point uniform.

<p>The Time To Stand is Now — West Point Graduates Jan 13</p> <p>2021 Open Letter from Retired Generals and Adm.pdf Aug 31, 2021</p> <p>AntiTrump-Inauguration (1).pdf Jun 14, 2021</p> <p>Rep 210408 Michael Waltz Ltr to Supe USMA.pdf Apr 18, 2021</p> <p>Judy Byington - Elite National Guardsmen Process 14 Nov 10, 2020</p> <p>Open_Letter_President_Donald_Trump.pdf Oct 30, 2020</p> <p>preventing-a-disrupted-presidential-election-and- Aug 5, 2020</p> <p>JeffersonCountySchool.docx Aug 5, 2020</p> <p>Response Letter Draft Final.docx Jun 30, 2020</p> <p>Signee List as of 10am 24JUN - USMA Grads who lacl Jun 30, 2020</p>	
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Screenshots from West Point Alumni for Trump Facebook page were provided to the Watchman to help verify the group’s membership and authenticity. The above images show past documents the organization has created as well as its logo and a screenshot of its Facebook membership as of Feb. 4.

‘We hold you responsible for damaging our children’



February 4, 2022

Online group claiming to have 750 West Point alumni back Rep. Eastman



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about backlash over the letter, Cunningham said.

Independently of Cunningham or his organization, the Watchman was able to obtain permission from 10 members of West Point Alumni for Trump to publish their names as signatories to the letter. Those names are posted at the bottom of the letter (see below).

The Watchman spoke with two of organization's leaders, who agreed to provide screenshots of their Facebook page showing membership numbers and past documents the group has published in support of a variety of conservative causes.

Cunningham said he helped to individually verify each member of West Point Alumni for Trump by cross referencing their names with an [online register of all West Point alumni](#).

In 2020 the organization [launched a petition in support of former President Trump](#) when a letter writing campaign by a similar left-leaning group of West Point graduates attempted to undermine the president and those who served in his administration.

LETTER IN SUPPORT OF EASTMAN

The Time to Stand is Now: West Point Alumni for Trump, an Online Community of 756 West Point Graduates, Encourages Rep. Eastman to Hold the Line

As graduates of West Point, we want to encourage Representative David Eastman (R-Wasilla) to continue to hold the line in the Alaska Legislature. Some argue that the way to bring America together is to silence any who stand against the woke mob. The unspoken promise is that by silencing those who do not cower to the mob, the mob will quiet down and finally be at peace. If only that were true. Those who work overtime to shout down and silence the voices of their political opponents only grow emboldened when the rest of us politely take a step back. The time to stand is now!

We stand against the silencing of dissent, against the politics of personal destruction, against guilt by accusation, guilt by association, and every effort to curtail the right of Americans to speak freely concerning the political issues of our day. We believe [the solution for bad political speech](#) isn't less speech, but more speech. In the rush to silence their political opponents, woke activists now openly attack not only those who question woke orthodoxy, but also those who have the courage to stand and support the right of others to question it. This is a national phenomenon, and those who cherish this country must stand against it, from Alaska to Florida, and every community in between.

We have watched as the woke mob, supported by members of the media, turned its ire on individuals like Nick Sandmann, Kyle Rittenhouse, Donald Trump and our fellow graduates engaged in active public service or political competition. To stand against these attacks, even anonymously, was to be guilty by association. Following media publication of hacked donor data from Kyle Rittenhouse's legal defense fund, police lieutenant William Kelly was [publicly attacked and fired](#). He had made an anonymous \$25 donation. Paramedic Craig Shepherd was [publicly attacked](#) and lost his job as well. He had made a \$10 anonymous donation to permit Kyle Rittenhouse to defend himself in court. [Danielle Reiss](#) is one of countless Americans who lost their jobs for the crime of attending a speech given by President Trump.

More recently, woke activists are now attacking Republican legislators, including fellow West Point graduate David Eastman in Alaska. Following media publication of hacked donor and membership data from the Oathkeepers website, public servants who joined Oathkeepers are now being publicly attacked. We are now told that the 38,000 veterans, service members, first responders, and other public servants who pledged to honor their oaths to the United States Constitution as Oathkeepers should be cancelled and resign from public service for doing so. Some graduates of our alma mater have even added their names to a letter written by a [former Democrat staffer](#) who now demands that

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elected Representative David Eastman (R-Wasilla) forfeit the right to represent his Republican district and be expelled from the Legislature for becoming a member of Oathkeepers 12 years ago.

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It is truly terrifying to think of inviting those in government to override the will of the people in an election in order to cancel their political opponents and exclude them from public life.

President Truman warned that "Once a government is committed to the principle of [silencing the voice of opposition](#), it has only one way to go, and that is down the path of increasingly repressive measures, until it becomes a source of terror to all its citizens and creates a country where everyone lives in fear."

Neither Representative Eastman nor any other public servant should be removed from office, or forced to lose their job, for joining an organization whose only requirement for membership is a commitment to honor one's oath to the United States Constitution. Unlike many other nations, new American citizens service members and public servants are [required to take an oath](#), not to the government or a political leader or group, but to the Constitution of the United States. The oath of allegiance for American Citizenship ends "[so help me God](#)."

This oath, supported by individual conscience, is a reminder to every American citizen that the Constitution is a higher standard than what is politically expedient. Yes, it is an even higher standard than the moral dictates of a woke mob, and when those dictates come against an individual's constitutional rights, it is the responsibility of each of us who have taken that oath to stand up.

Whether or not they choose to join organizations for that purpose, we call on all public servants to honor the oath they have taken to the one document which brings all Americans together, no matter how disparate their political views: the Constitution of the United States.

The views expressed here are those of West Point Alumni for Trump. Among the group's members, the following signatories have agreed to have their names published: John Farris (class of '73), Melvin L. De Vilbiss (class of '75), Ken Westlund (class of '81), Bill Fletcher (class of '74), Dave Drotar (class of '88), Chuck Faris (class of '84), Allen Saum (class of '74), Michelle Hannon (class of '88), Ruben A. Nogueira (class of '83).

Editor's note: This article was updated on Feb. 4 and 5 to include more background information about the private Facebook group West Point Alumni for Trump.

[Click here to support the Alaska Watchman.](#)



Joel Davidson

Joel is Editor-in-Chief of the Alaska Watchman. Joel is an award winning journalist and has been reporting for over 20 years. He is a proud father of 8 children, and lives in Palmer, Alaska.

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39 Comments

Neil DeWitt

February 2, 2022 at 6:31 pm

I support Representative Eastman! This is an outstandingly well written letter in support of Representative Eastman. Representative Eastman should not be removed because the woke culture thinks he should. He did nothing wrong. He supports his oath of office and has demistrated his worth to the people he represents very well. He is one of tge only Representative that actually listens to his constituents. To bad the rest of the Representatives in Juneau don't take a look at how they should be operating. Representative Eastman is an outstanding man and does and outstanding job. Don't end his career because he ruffles some feathers in Juneau.

[Reply](#)

Proud Alaskan

February 3, 2022 at 12:34 pm

Agree

Free speech whatever happened to agree to disagree

Juneau is a cesspool.

[Reply](#)

Jackie Bland

February 3, 2022 at 3:04 pm

you are very, very sick.

[Reply](#)

Elizabeth Henry

February 3, 2022 at 6:31 pm

How is that? Please elaborate.

bill m

February 3, 2022 at 5:26 am

Someone should forward this article to Louise Stutes and all the other politicians who are trying to buy votes by cancelling their opposition.

[Reply](#)

Michael C Coons

February 4, 2022 at 8:52 am

I did and called on all Republicans in the House, save Rasumessen, Merrick and Stutes since they aren't Republicans, to each read a portion of the letter in Special Orders. Lot's of good feedback by each staff person I talked to.

[Reply](#)

Bonnie Schweppe

February 3, 2022 at 7:34 am

So a neo nazi gets the support of a few hundred west pointers for trump? As if. Show the signatures. And BTW how many times can you use the word 'woke' in one article?

[Reply](#)

j.campbell

February 3, 2022 at 2:39 pm

Bonnie, did your law and logic courses at West Point teach you to use "argument ad hominem" as a counterargument in a legitimate debate? By calling people you don't like "neo nazis" or assailing the credentials of an author or authors, you're merely pretending to have a predilection for emotional outbursts, and lack of cogent thought. Perhaps you are really trying to detract from the credibility of the Hodes group by pretending to be an outraged patriotic American citizen with your name calling... but it's not working. We know you are a die hard Eastman supporter and Trump loving republican. You cant fool us! Take your fake anger elsewhere.

[Reply](#)

Ruben A Nogueira

February 4, 2022 at 4:50 pm

j.campbell, Bonnie is no Republican or Trump lover, I can assure you.

AwakebutnotWoke

February 3, 2022 at 3:56 pm

Yes because swearing an oath to defend the constitution is neo nazi behavior. Don't all elected officials swear the same oath? If only half of them even took that oath seriously then we wouldn't even have to argue about this. Folks like you are destroying the ideas and foundation this great country was built on. If this country is full of racists and nazis then may I suggest moving to China or North Korea where you'll be welcomed with open arms?

[Reply](#)

Ruben A. Nogueira

February 4, 2022 at 7:57 am

When everyone is a neo Nazi, no one is. How many times can you leftists call conservatives neo Nazis?

Ruben A. Nogueira

USMA Class 1983

Proud member of West Point Alumni for Trump

[Reply](#)

Michael C Coons

February 4, 2022 at 8:58 am

As many times as WOKE is WOKE. Bonnie, I could easily say, based on your comment that you are a Socialist supporter which includes supporting the deaths of 10's of millions world wide from socialism/communism, So are you a supporter of Hitler and his death camps, Remember Nazi party is Socialist. Lenin, Stalin with their purges of millions? How about North Korea, Pol Pot in Cambodia the fields of death? No, in fact, looking again at you comments, I will make the natural assumption that you are a Socialist and do support Hitler, Lenin, Stalin, Pol Pot, NK. How you like them apples?

[Reply](#)

Vanessa Mueller

February 3, 2022 at 9:23 am

Wow! I hope he gets to keep his job! Such sad times we live in!

[Reply](#)

Bonnie Schweppe

February 3, 2022 at 11:21 am

It is a sad time we live in when people like you support white supremacists and neo nazis.

[Reply](#)

j. Campbell

February 3, 2022 at 2:41 pm

Great reply Bonnie. You must be the Captain of your high school debate team.

Elizabeth Henry

February 3, 2022 at 6:40 pm

Who is a white suprematism and neo-nazi? Do you even know what Nazi's where? Have you even ever read a history book? Good grief. Typical mindless left, zero thinking, just name calling.

Jerry Heneghan

February 3, 2022 at 9:24 am

Figures – fabricated snowflake toadies for Trump unwilling to publish their names with their letter... come out, come out wherever you are! No names = no validity. Is Eastman a member of an extremist, anti government organization or not?

[Reply](#)

Lisa Morton

February 3, 2022 at 9:43 am

Yes let's see the names of these so-called West Pointers who support a white supremacist! If they are too cowardly to make their names public then they do not count. He is a disgrace to everything WPStands for.

[Reply](#)

Bonnie Schweppe

February 3, 2022 at 11:21 am

Exactly.

[Reply](#)

M
February 3, 2022 at 2:09 pm

As a WP grad myself , I agree. Duty, Honor, Country support of the insurrection and those who support it are not patriots

[Reply](#)

Michael C Coons
February 4, 2022 at 9:00 am

What insurrection? Oh, you mean the 2020 riots, killing citizens, injuring hundreds of cops, killing retired police, millions if not into Billions of burned down and looted business? That insurrection?

Dave Prugh
February 4, 2022 at 8:47 am

Lisa – I am a West Point graduate (Class of '85). I didn't sign the document merely because I'm not from Alaska, but I fully support REP Eastman. Unlike Bonnie Schweppe – also a USMA graduate, but one who has decided to go the route of slander – Mr. Eastman is an honorable man.

You have asserted that Mr. Eastman is a "white supremacist". What is your evidence?

[Reply](#)

Lobo
February 3, 2022 at 9:53 am

Perhaps you can provide evidence in support of your claims.. Preferably not from "The Midnight Sun", or ADN.

[Reply](#)

D.Eastman
February 3, 2022 at 12:34 pm

<https://ctc.usma.edu/the-oath-keepers-and-their-role-in-the-january-6-insurrection/>

[Reply](#)

Bill m
February 4, 2022 at 4:54 pm

Your name is Ivan Hodes, so why are you pretending to be D. Eastman? No honor in the "Restoring Honor" cabal.

DoneWithIt
February 3, 2022 at 10:37 am

The fundamental tyrannical nature of the Left – is plain to in this comment section. Their desire to censor and cancel any and all dissent is chilling – and Stutes is the personification of a tyrant.

Ak Pure Blood

[Reply](#)

Lobo
February 3, 2022 at 12:12 pm

The tyrants are getting worked up.. They see defeat in the mid-terms.

[Reply](#)

Sammy
February 3, 2022 at 1:12 pm

https://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2022/01/who_are_the_oath_keepers.html

[Reply](#)

Elizabeth Henry
February 3, 2022 at 6:43 pm

Great article.

[Reply](#)

Mw
February 3, 2022 at 2:33 pm

The Oath Keeper leader is an Airborne School drop out. Sorry to hear he got hurt on his night drop, but most of us did not. He is not a hero simply because he got hurt in Airborne School. He is not a patriot simply by proclaiming he went to Airborne School

[Reply](#)

Elizabeth Henry
February 3, 2022 at 6:32 pm

Thar has absolutely nothing to do with the issue at hand.

[Reply](#)

Mwoo
February 3, 2022 at 4:48 pm

I have seen the list of WP grads the author references. I recognize many of them but that does not mean they signed off on this letter just because they were a member of another Trump supporting group. Publish the names who signed (as did signers of Declaration of Independence, so us other honorable grads know who supports this drive)

[Reply](#)

Elizabeth Henry
February 3, 2022 at 6:38 pm

Stutes is a lazy faux conservative not doing her job. Email her directly and tell her to get back to the important work at hand and put senseless immature bullying aside. She needs to be voted out but until then she is where she is. Email her at

Representative.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov

[Reply](#)

John J.Otness
February 4, 2022 at 5:48 am

Oathbreakers hate Oathkeepers...

[Reply](#)

John J.Otness
February 4, 2022 at 5:41 am

REMOVE THE TYRANT STUTES.... KODIAKS SHAME....

[Reply](#)

Dave Prugh
February 4, 2022 at 10:43 am

USMA Class of '85 here. I didn't originally sign the letter, but I have now. Thanks to Alaska Watchman for publicizing it, and thanks to the dishonest scum like Bonnie Brouse Schweppe for committing the unfounded and unwarranted attacks on Mr. Eastman. I wasn't going to get involved, but trash like Schweppe spur one to action.

[Reply](#)

charlie Bussell
February 4, 2022 at 11:17 am

it is certainly no surprise that many of those currently in charge of the activities in the Alaska House are acting as they are again demonstrating their distain for things lawful and right...I did not have to take much of a look at any of them to decide I would never buys a used car from any of them..!!

[Reply](#)

Theresa
February 4, 2022 at 12:57 pm

Clearly, Rep. Eastman's fellow reps have 0 arguments to put forward against any of his actions or words, so they're trying to cancel him through his association with Oath Keepers.

I'd much rather see some intellectual honesty and transparency from any of them

than a simple stroke of the “neo-Nazi/racist” card that’s supposed to cancel any conservative but does not apply to liberals and their “allies,” such as Whoopi Goldberg and Don Lemon...

[Reply](#)

David Cunningham

February 4, 2022 at 12:44 pm

For the record, I’m the person quoted in the basic article above. I’m a USMA grad, class of 1974. I’ve been privileged to serve as one of the moderators of the West Point Alumni for Trump (WPAFT) forum since the forum was created. The statements attributed to me in the article above are accurate in all particulars.

As I’ve watched this comment thread evolve, there have been no surprises among the critical posters & their comments. I’m familiar with many of those posters from other online interactions in which their contributions have been entirely consistent with those above. I note that the thrust of their comments seems to be to effect cancelation of the article rather than making any effort to respond relevantly to its content. Again, there is no surprise in that in context of their historical behavior. I’d very much encourage those folks to continue their participation by responding to the actual content of the article. For what it may be worth, I do find an amusing irony in those comments criticizing our team approach to the subject, that were left by folks who chose to do so under their own pseudonyms. I’d encourage those folks to continue more relevant participation in their own names.

At West Point Alumni for Trump, we continue to stand against the silencing of dissent, against the politics of personal destruction, against guilt by accusation, guilt by association, and every effort to curtail the right of Americans to speak freely concerning the political issues of our day. We believe the solution for bad political speech isn’t less speech, but more speech! I again invite those who disagree with us to join us in responsible debate on real issues rather than trying to avoid them by attacking the folks with whom they disagree.

[Reply](#)

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