I am honored to introduce this special edition of Tholos magazine recognizing the incredible efforts of Architect of the Capitol (AOC) employees in the wake of the January 6 breach of the U.S. Capitol.

You went above and beyond to get the buildings and grounds back in order, ensuring that the work of Congress could continue and readying the U.S. Capitol for the 59th Presidential Inauguration.

I commend you all for the dedication and professionalism you demonstrated during such a stressful time. Once again, you showed that you are the AOC’s most important asset.

Your outstanding performance has not gone unnoticed. Since January 6, we have received thousands of letters and emails from grateful citizens all across the country, thanking you for your efforts on that day and every day. Even at a time when the pandemic has limited visitors at the U.S. Capitol, AOC employees are still able to inspire Americans near and far.

I hope you enjoy reading a selection of those notes here. I hope these words of appreciation show the impact you have on our nation, and remind you of the importance of the work you do every day to serve, preserve and inspire.

With warmest appreciation,

[Signature]

J. BRETT BLANTON
TO THE CAPITOL STAFF

I can’t thank you enough for your commitment, courage and patriotism following the January 6th attack on the Capitol. Thank you for upholding and supporting our constitutional process and setting an example that the rest of this country should follow. Thank you for allowing democracy to be undeterred. We could not have done it without you.

TAKE CARE AND STAY SAFE,
KATHERINE KINGSLAND
TO THOSE WHOSE WORK MAKES THE CAPITOL SHINE:

The Capitol looked beautiful today for the Inauguration of a new president. When we think back to two weeks ago and remember the broken glass and the overturned furniture, we appreciate you, the people who restored the halls and chambers to their pristine condition.

I can imagine that it is hard and exacting work to maintain the Capitol in the best of circumstances, but during a pandemic and then a massive civil disturbance, it must have been an enormous challenge.

You helped not only restore a building but our dignity as a country. Thank you. Thank you.

REGARDS,
JUDY MESSAL
NEW MEXICO

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thank you for your help to clean the capital building, I am very grateful, Lillyann aged 9

To: Workers who cleaned capital after last week’s events.
01/14/2021

Thank you! Truly, thank you doesn’t even begin to cover it. Your behind the scenes work to keep our Capitol clean is so important. “Genuinely appreciated. Our democracy is held together by the people, our institutions. The Capitol supports the work of our democracy, represents it. Many, many thanks for clearing it after destruction so our democracy continued undeterred!”

Sincerely,
Caitlin
DEAR STAFF OF THE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL:

I wanted to reach out and thank you for the hard and unsung work you do year-round, day in and day out, to keep the U.S. Capitol and the grounds beautiful. I am so sorry about the invasion of your workspace on January 6 and the destruction and trashing of the Capitol. I know many of you probably put in long hours to clean up after that day. Please know how much I and so many other Americans appreciate the work you’ve done in the last two weeks, and that you do always.

I used to work in the Capitol and I never got over feeling the history and reverence of the place. Thank you for keeping that place so special.

KATE
NORTH CAROLINA

THANK YOU FOR HELPING PROTECT OUR CAPITOL! BEING STRONG DURING THE CRAZY EVENTS AS WELL AS CLEANING UP AFTERWARDS. Y’ALLS BRAVERY IS VERY INSPIRING.

TATE GIBSON
Dear Capitol Custodial Staff,

Thank you so much for keeping our People's House a place of beauty and sanctity. You are wonderful.

Janet Anderson

Just a quick note of extreme gratitude for all you are doing to help clean up the Capitol! It is appreciated more than you will ever know.
THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Not only for your service every day, but specifically after the attack on the Capitol. Your hard work and dedication made it possible for democracy to continue. You are seen and appreciated by so many people across the nation.

Wishing you a safe, happy and healthy 2021.

VERONICA SHARKEY
GEORGIA

While virtually everyone has acknowledged the role of the Capitol police and other law enforcement during and after the attempted coup on January 6, I wanted to take a second to thank all the custodial staff and any others involved in restoring the buildings and grounds to pre-riot conditions. We appreciate your efforts even though you seldom hear from us.

A GRATEFUL AMERICAN
To the men and women who had to clean up after insurrectionists:

THANK YOU.

I worked on or around the Hill from 2015 to 2019. I would see you all working tirelessly each day. While the public, including myself, watched the horrific actions on January 6, I couldn’t help worrying about you, and all ADC staff, who work in completely apolitical roles. I’m glad you’re safe and thank you for your service.

- Amber D. Porter (GA)

We want to thank you all for the work you do, especially getting our beautiful Capitol back in shape for the Inauguration. It was almost magical, but we realize there were real people involved in doing the hard work. Thank you and may God bless you.

THE GERHARDT FAMILY
NORTH CAROLINA

I just wanted to thank you for cleaning after the insurrection on January 6. Your hard work and dedication does not go unnoticed. You are true heroes and true patriots. I thank you for what you do.

SINCERELY,
MARIANNE MEROLA
ILLINOIS

THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR SERVICE IN CLEANING UP THE MESS AT THE CAPITOL. YOU ARE A TREASURE.

CAROLE WATTERSON TROXLER
THANK YOU TO THE CLEANUP CREW

who restored order to the Capitol building after an event that never should have occurred. Thank you for returning reverence and respect to a building that stands for so much. We visited as a family two years ago and loved getting to know the building, its stories and history. We loved the feeling that democracy was being upheld that day as lawmakers and employees went about their business. It is certainly a special place. Thank you for your service.

JENNY BEYKIRCH AND FAMILY
UTAH

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR DILIGENCE AND DEDICATION.

Your work in always keeping the Capitol a treasure for us all is much appreciated. Your extra work in cleaning up after January 6 is above and beyond what should be expected of anyone.

Please extend our sincere thanks to all the members of the Capitol custodial crew for their hard work after the January 6th riots. They deserve special recognition for their sometimes nasty and dangerous work to keep our democracy safe and functioning.

SUE AND JIM LISKOVEC
CALIFORNIA

Thank you so much for serving all of America by cleaning up the Capitol, to allow the votes to continue! Your acts have not gone unnoticed. And many saw and are grateful for what you did. Hopefully by seeing these thank you notes, you can feel of our gratitude.

Thank You!
The Nicks Family

To the wonderful employees at the Capitol—
Thank you so much for your hard work and wonderful example. You give me so much hope. You are America I know and love and you are the people I am going to teach my 3 year old and 1 month turns about. Thank you!

- Casey Briggs

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- Casey Briggs
TO ALL WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE JAN. 6TH CLEANUP, MY FAMILY WANTS TO SEND OUR HEARTFELT THANK YOU FOR THAT UNIMAGINABLE TASK OF BRINGING THAT BELOVED LANDMARK BACK TO AS CLOSE TO NORMAL AS WAS POSSIBLE.

We see you – we appreciate you – we respect you. Thank you for all your hard work. Thank you for everything you do!

SINCERELY,
ADDIE ROCKWELL
PENNSYLVANIA

Hello!
Although we have never met, I saw you. Although we have never spoken, I heard you. Although we don’t know each other, I am here for you. Although you might think, “I was just doing my job,” I thank you.

I am humbled and grateful for you and your colleagues for cleaning the Capitol on January 6th, 2021.

Bless you! Thank you!

- Mary Beth
Charleston, SC

Thank you for cleaning the capitol building!
You rock!
❤️ Sloane (age 2)
To the heroes:

We often hear people quote Mr. Rogers after a disaster about making sure we “look for the helpers.” Thank you for being the helpers. When other nations look at America, my hope is they see you as the embodiment of who we are and what we believe rather than the rioters who destroyed things.

I hope you know how much America appreciates and admires you. Sincerely, Julia

Just a note to say thank you for your heroic actions in restoring our beautiful Capitol after the traumatic events of January 6th.

You really were the heroes of the day, and I hope you know that. I will never forget what you did for everyone.

MY DEEPEST GRATITUDE,
JILL SEVELOW
ILLINOIS

A GENUINE, HEARTFELT THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO TO TRULY KEEP OUR COUNTRY RUNNING.

SCOTTY CROWE
To whomever this may concern, I would like to thank you all for your conscientious duties during the Capitol riots. You may not know me, but I know each of you. I know that your help has not gone unnoticed and that you are all truly appreciated. I know that without any of you, a place of democracy would never shine as brightly or be a place of such beauty. I also know that the countless hours put into maintaining the building makes you all heroes with significant efforts. So thank you, for all you have done and all to which you continue to do!

SINCERELY,
CATHERINE QUINONES

Your work is not unnoticed.

You are the heroes of our democracy! Thank you for your sacrifices. You are incredible.

May God bless you for all you have done & continue to do for our country.

The Biggs family,
Virginia

TO THE MOST AMAZING PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON, DC!

Thank you so much for all your hard work, dedicated minds and desire to help Congress get back to work!

I can’t imagine how much work you had to do, but you did it without complaining!

You all are angels and I so appreciate all that you did to help America!

THANK YOU SOOO MUCH!

BETSY
IOWA
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO. YOU ALL ARE UNSUNG HEROES THAT DESERVE TO BE RECOGNIZED.

Evy
Girl Scout Troop 7538
We are Fiona Vicary, Simran Ohri and Eliza Davis and we are members of Montgomery Blair High School's Key Club. We wanted to thank your custodial staff for keeping the Capitol clean after the destruction of January 6th. In a time of uncertainty and loss, we truly appreciate the hard work you all do. We understand how difficult and frightening that must have been. You all are maintaining the biggest symbol of democracy and we appreciate the importance of your work and the work you continue to do each and every day.

THANK YOU FOR WORKING AROUND THE CLOCK TO KEEP OUR BELOVED CAPITOL CLEAN.

FIONA, SIMRAN AND ELIZA

My name is Daniela and I am a junior attending Downey High School in California. I’d like to bring to your attention that I’m beyond grateful for your service to our country. I understand that things haven’t been exactly the best, but you are an integral part of our nation and have done your best to make things better. I wanted to inform you that I, as well as many others here at my school, are immensely thankful for your efforts at the Capitol; and it should be mentioned that your work never goes unnoticed. May you have an amazing rest of your day! :)

BEST,
DANIELA VARELA
TO THOSE WORKING AT THE CAPITOL,

Thank you so much for your work. I understand that recent events have caused disruption and chaos, and I appreciate your admirable work to rebuild and restore the peace in the Capitol building. Once again, thank you.

BEST,
JORDAN CHAFE

Thank you for showing our young people what it means to be an American and show there is good in this world! Your hard work and dedication to our future and democracy is so appreciated and valued!

Mrs. Metzger
Joliet West High School
Hello, My name is Carly Boots from Montgomery Blair High School in Maryland. I wanted to thank the staff who helped to clean up after the horrible insurrection at the Capitol. I know that many people may not show their appreciation for all of your hard work but know that we are thankful for all that you do. Thank you and keep being heroes!

After the Capitol riots, I can’t imagine how much work there must have been to clean the building in the wake of the chaos. I am grateful for all of your hard work, not only in cleaning the building but in upholding the very democracy and order that is fundamental to our country.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE,
ROSHAN NANDKUMAR
My husband and I just want to express our deep gratitude for the dedication of the many custodial staff members who cleaned up the mess created by the insurrectionists during the coup attempt at the U.S. Capitol. Cleaning and disinfecting after this shameful event must have been bad enough, but we understand that some custodians were actually present during the riot, and we offer our sympathy for that traumatic experience. Please know that your work is very much appreciated.

THANK YOU SO MUCH, HEIDI RABINOWITZ AND MATTHEW RANSOM
FLORIDA
THANK YOU FOR CLEARING OUR WAY AND KEEPING OUR CITY CLEAN AFTER SUCH A SCARY EXPERIENCE. YOU SHOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN PUT IN THAT POSITION BUT ALL OF US ARE SO GRATEFUL YOU HELPED US.

GRACE BISNAW

JUST A QUICK NOTE OF GRATITUDE FROM SOUTHERN ILLINOIS!

Many thanks to the hardworking people who maintain the U.S. Capitol every day, but especially for cleaning up and repairing the damages after the January 6 riots. It was a sad day, but knowing that there are people like you who quickly restored the Capitol to its glory and beauty makes my heart a little happier. Your hard work and sacrifice has not gone unnoticed by the American people.

THANK YOU AGAIN AND TAKE CARE!

ALEX GRAFF
ILLINOIS
TO THE BRAVE WOMEN & MEN WHO COMPLETED THE WORK NO ONE SHOULD HAVE TO DO:

Thank you for clearing the way. Thank you for allowing no one to block our constitutional process. Thank you for allowing democracy to be undeterred.

NATALIE GUMBO

I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I APPRECIATE YOUR HARD WORK THAT YOU GIVE TO US. I KNOW WE ARE IN TOUGH SITUATIONS RIGHT NOW BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT YOUR WORK DOES MEAN A LOT TO MY CLASSMATES AND ME. RECEIVE THIS AS A THANK YOU CARD FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO, AND PLEASE BE SAFE.

KATHY BERNAL-CRUZ
TO ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL:

Thank you very much for your dedication and hard work in restoring the symbol of our democracy to the beauty and dignity that it had before the insurrection. Your contribution to this country is greatly appreciated. THANK YOU!

HOWARD AND KATHRYN SCHWARTZ
COLORADO

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK KEEPING DEMOCRACY IN ORDER RIGHT NOW. THANK YOU!

ELI GORELIK

THANK YOU FOR CLEANING UP AND BEING HELPERS. THERE ARE NOT MANY PEOPLE WHO ARE GOOD IN THIS WORLD AND PEOPLE WHO WILL HELP OTHERS. THANK YOU FOR BEING GOOD PEOPLE AND DOING WHAT YOU DO.

BRANDON SHOEMAKER
To those who helped clean and secure the Capitol, thank you for all you have done and are continuing to do to clear the way. Thank you for allowing no one to block our constitutional process. Thank you for allowing democracy to be undeterred. You are so brave, and it is truly the work no one should have to do. Seeing Congress getting back into their space the same day of the attack was a comforting relief to so many who were horrified to watch the day’s events unfold. Please know that your work does not go unnoticed, and many are lifting you up in prayer for strength and healing.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO,

ANDREA WHITE

ILLINOIS

I just wanted to join the loud chorus of those thanking all of you for your service. In the wake of horror, you pulled together and cleaned the grounds that runs our nation and preserves our traditions - while making strides towards our future. You are all unsung heroes and please know we all “saw” your service and we thank you.

DIA GROSS

To those who helped clean and secure the Capitol after the riots. I am deeply saddened that riot cleanup was needed and sorry for the extra work it created. But, I am deeply grateful for all the professionals who cleaned the building and prepared it for democracy to continue.

I imagine it has been a challenging year for all of you, as the pandemic increased the amount of cleaning needed and probably complicated many routines. Thank you for your faithful service to our country.

THANK YOU TO THE STAFF

RACHEL MAXWELL WELLS

COLORADO
The work that you did to prepare the Capitol building for the Inauguration is nothing short of miraculous. A true testament to the strength of our democracy, proving that working together anything can be accomplished.

THANK YOU,
DAN WARD

TO those who cleaned the Capitol on January 6th. (and everyday) Thank you for doing your part in upholding our democracy! We appreciate all your hard work and are so very thankful for you!

Thank you so much
The Mosley’s

OUR BEAUTIFUL CAPITOL BUILDING LOOKED AMAZING

as we watched our new President and Vice President get sworn into office on Wednesday. This is a credit to everyone who takes care of the building and had the enormous job of returning it to the magnificent building it is in the aftermath of the insurrection two weeks ago. Thank you, thank you for showing the world that we won’t let thugs keep us from showcasing the grandeur that is part of our traditions surrounding the transfer of power. My family and I so appreciate the work and care everyone put in behind the scenes.

WITH THANKS,
A GRATEFUL FAMILY IN OHIO

To the Capitol workers:
Thank you doesn’t seem adequate! You are truly the backbone of keeping our country functioning and your work does not go unnoticed! -Megan from Missouri
Dear Members of the Architect of the Capitol’s Office,

Hello! My name is Jenni, and I am a social studies teacher at Landmark Elementary Middle School in Massachusetts. After hearing and viewing what happened in the Capitol a few weeks ago, many of the students and staff were looking for a way to make sense of what happened.

As a result, a few of the teachers shared that the Architect of the Capitol’s office was accepting messages of thanks for the Capitol heroes who cleaned up in the aftermath of the riots a few weeks ago. Upon hearing this, the students very adamantly declared that they would like to participate. The following is a letter composed by a class of grade 6 social studies students. It is with grateful hearts, and thoughtful minds that this letter was created to share with some of history’s heroes. Please see the message below for the note of gratitude.

JANUARY
26TH, 2021

DEAR CAPITOL WORKERS AND HELPERS,

Thank you for your help cleaning the Capitol. We know it was harder than people would imagine.

Thank you for your service to our country. We recognize the hard work you do. You should be noticed for the hard work you do. You have made a change for our country. As community helpers, you make a difference when something unexpected happened a few weeks ago. Your work as helpers in the community has helped us to learn many new things. We have learned about how everyone is important, and everyone can make a difference.

Thank you for showing us what a positive difference people can make in our community, and in our country.

YOUR FRIENDS,
GRADE 6 STUDENTS
LANDMARK ELEMENTARY MIDDLE SCHOOL
MASSACHUSETTS

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE CUSTODIAL STAFF WHO FIRST, HAD TO BE IN THE CAPITOL DURING THE INSURRECTION, AND THEN HAD TO CLEAN UP AFTER IT WAS OVER. BECAUSE OF YOU, DEMOCRACY AND OUR COUNTRY COULD CONTINUE. I APPRECIATE ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE.

SINCERELY,
JULIE A. WIPPERFURTH
WISCONSIN
I just wanted to express my sincere appreciation to the men and women who worked to clean up the Capitol building after the attempted coup on January 6th. They are essential in the functioning of our government and deserve every bit of praise that comes their way.

THANK YOU,
KATIE H. VERNON

It is very unfortunate our Capitol was recently vandalized and attacked by rioters. Your work often goes unnoticed but I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your hard work and service, especially during a pandemic. Please know that you are very much appreciated and my thoughts and prayers are with you and your families, especially during these difficult and uncertain times. Continue to make a positive impact.

SINCERELY AND THANKFULLY,
OLIVIA LAUREN GARCIA

LOTS OF US ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR WHAT YOU ALL WERE ABLE TO DO. EVEN IF IT IS YOUR JOB, I STILL BELIEVE THAT IT WAS HARD TO SEE THE MESS IN OUR NATION’S CAPITOL. THANK YOU FOR FIXING WHAT OUR NATION STANDS FOR AND FOR DOING YOUR JOB WHEN WE NEEDED YOU THE MOST.
Thank you for your everyday, tireless efforts to keep the Capitol well-maintained, organized and safe for those who actively practice democracy in those halls ... and for those who come to observe it.

On January 6, I’m sorry that violence and fear marred our country’s building, but I’m grateful you were on the job to wipe away the stains of insurrection. You are appreciated, and without you, an already bleak day would have been even bleaker.

THANK YOU,
JULIE LUTON
TEXAS
Thank you for your tireless work in cleaning the Capitol after the attempted coup on January 6, 2021. Your efforts helped to ensure that democracy continued to function at a time when this country needed it desperately. During a global pandemic, the work you do is truly so helpful. Thank you for your service - the Capitol could not function without your work.

REBECCA RADISIC

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE WORK YOU DID CLEANING UP AFTER THE 1-6-21 RIOT. IT IS MUCH APPRECIATED AS A PARTIAL RETURN TO NORMALCY. YOU HAVE NOT GONE UNSEEN. AMERICA IS GRATEFUL.

SUSAN WILLIAMS
MINNESOTA

I wanted to email a huge thank you and everyone who helped with cleaning up the Capitol after the coup attempt. I know it was a huge feat to clean up the mess that was left behind. Thank you for your dedication to our democracy and for all that you all have done.

SHELLEY NORTHRUP
Thank you to the unsung heroes who, on a daily basis maintain the impeccable beauty of our nation’s Capitol and who went above and beyond the call of duty to restore this historic symbol of our republic so quietly, quickly and efficiently to help restore confidence that our nation will recover from one of the worst domestic attacks in history.

You all deserve recognition for all the hard work you do! Sometimes people forget that those who work behind the scenes are as much an integral part of keeping the government running smoothly because of your role in attaining and maintaining the beauty and structural integrity of this building that is the seat of our government; everything is in order and at the hands of our lawmakers because of what you do!

God bless you for your diligence, integrity and pride you take in your job without wanting to be in the spotlight. You are a great example of America's best and we are all better for it.

THANK YOU AGAIN!

LAURIE MURPHY
January 16, 2021

Architect of the Capitol
US Capitol
Room SB-16
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Sir:

My wife and I were privileged to live in Washington for six years, moving away in 2019. As a volunteer at the Folger Shakespeare Library, I walked through Capitol Hill several days a week, admiring the parks, gardens, and buildings of the complex. Always to be seen were the workers and vehicles of the Architect of the Capitol, and the outstanding results of their efforts. As a student of history and the Capitol building, I took pleasure in finding locations identifiable from photos of nearly two centuries. My first visit to the Capitol was in 1963; my wife and I chose Washington for our honeymoon; and we have followed the progress of the complex for many years.

I will leave the deep historical and emotional meanings of your sacred charge to poets and pundits and focus instead on some of the smaller things we remember. The Supreme Court garden, at all times of year, is one of the most beautiful in D.C. Likewise, the gardens and landscaping around the Library of Congress are not only outstanding, but very educational in their regular presentations. We know our opinion was shared by the numerous couples having engagement or wedding pictures taken in this area.

The Capitol and congressional office buildings are always spotless and gleaming. I have had the opportunity to tour the Houses of Parliament in London, and our buildings are more beautiful and well-kept than those. As you well know, these things matter! They make the structures inspirational and a tremendous source of pride to all true patriotic Americans. I recall seeing workers replacing a cobblestone courtyard stone by stone as if it were the most important work in the world, and I think perhaps it is.

Of all the positions in Washington (despite my retirement age!) the workers I most envied were those working for your department, and of all the jobs yours is, in my mind, one of the most important. I am glad that the tragic and horrible events of last week served to motivate me to write a note of appreciation that is long overdue. Please extend my thanks and those of a grateful nation to your incredible team.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Jac Whatley
I just want to say thank you so much for your hard work and dedication you have given, even though it was a chaotic day and I really admire all of you honestly. Your work service is very important to me.

ADILENE GONALEZ-CRISANTOS

I am a student in California and I just wanted to let you know that I am grateful for the work that you did after the events that happened on January 6, 2021. With your help, you helped play a part in making our democracy work, which is something we are all very much thankful for. It must not have been easy doing all of that work, so I just wanted to let you know I appreciate you very much. Thank you for allowing no one to block our constitutional process. I am very grateful and appreciative for all that you have done.

THANK YOU,
DANIELA MARTINEZ

THANK YOU FOR CLEARING THE WAY.
THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING NO ONE TO BLOCK OUR CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS.
THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING DEMOCRACY TO BE UNDETERRED.

SKYE FREEMAN
Thank you for showing up to your place of work and doing your job in spite of the violence and disruptions last month. I read an article that highlighted that before Congress could return to work, you had to return and clean up the mess that was left behind. Thank you for your dedication and efforts to keep democracy working and moving forward.

GEOFF HARDIN

THANK YOU SO SO SO SO much for your heroic work in cleaning up the U.S. Capitol and restoring it to a proper level of cleanliness and dignity. I used to visit the U.S. Capitol a lot when I lived in Arlington, VA and the building means a lot to me and others and the democracy it stands for.

I just wanted to add my sincere gratitude to the many others who have written to say thank you!!!! You are part of our everyday heroes too.

SINCERELY,
MARLENE H. SHOWALTER

Thank you so much for all the work that you do in keeping the Capitol clean and for all the work that you have done after the riots to get the building back together so our government can continue to function. I appreciate the work you guys do very much.

MICHAEL DINKLE

Dear Capitol Cleaning Crew,

We’re so grateful for the way your amazing labor in a really tough situation made democracy possible on 16. Thanks!!!!!
As I watched the Inauguration today, I am reminded that two weeks ago, our nation's Capitol was left torn and violated. Someone had to get it all cleaned up and ready for the next day, not to mention the events of today. Thank all of you for your back-breaking labor that was well out of your “job description.” You are heroes in this recent struggle for our democracy.

JACKIE SWANSON
I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for all of your hard work you’ve done cleaning up the Capitol building. This is an extremely difficult job, as the Capitol is a very large building. Thank you for your services.

GOD BLESS YOU,
ETHAN W.

Thank you for clearing the way. Thank you for allowing no one to block our constitutional process. Thank you for allowing democracy to be undeterred.

We will probably never meet but I will always be inspired and grateful for your selfless service during a time of mass chaos and unkindness!

Thank You!

Lyndsay Perry
K.C., MO
I am sure you received several notes and outpour from the community. I want to add my thanks to all of the custodial staff who came up and literally picked up the pieces for us. I imagine cleaning up the aftermath required a lot of tireless hours. They deserve recognition for restoring the Capitol to its glory and for the daily work they do. Please convey my appreciation for them. Their work is often behind the scene to keep the place running, yet essential. They provide a clean and healthy environment for our lawmakers, which is a service for us all.

SINCERELY,
ARLENE

I wanted to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for the work you did cleaning up the Capitol after the January 6 riot. I’m sure it wasn’t an easy task—either physically or emotionally, after seeing the damage from those who were trying to overthrow our government.

So much of your work is done behind the scenes and taken for granted. But I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know how important it is—and how much it is appreciated.

THANK YOU!
PAM ROBINSON
I wanted to say thank you to everyone who worked to restore the Capitol building and prepare for the Inauguration after the attacks on January 6. I - and so many others - appreciate the hard work you do every day, and I particularly appreciate what you all did in the hours and days after the attacks. You did more than just clean, you restored the center of our nation's democracy - and while thank you is really not enough, I hope it's meaningful.

I HOPE YOU ARE ALL DOING WELL!

ERIN CRAIG
TEXAS

There are no words that can express my personal gratitude to all of you for what you did to restore our Capitol back to its original glory. After being so horribly defiled by domestic terrorists, it was your job to “clean up their mess,” and you did that!

I am certain it was not a pleasant task, but you did it... and I know that I am one of millions of people who deeply appreciate you for all you do!!

THANK YOU!! AND CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE!!

ALMA W. HUGHES

To all those that worked to clean up and repair the destruction and damage done to the U.S Capitol building on 1-6-21, thank you, thank you, thank you! I wish all of you good health and much happiness.

JEFFREY ADLER
Please accept this thank you for the incredibly hard job of cleaning up the shameful destruction and mess at the U.S. Capitol in time for the Presidential Inauguration. Your efforts did not go unnoticed or unappreciated.

GINNY COOPER
SOUTH CAROLINA
When situations filled with shock and rebuttal are shown like they were at the Capitol, the aftermath of the event is often overlooked. Even for myself, I never thought about the physical cleaning of the building. But now I have recognized the true hard work and sacrifice you have made to make sure our Capitol building is clean. You’re seen, and you’re thanked. Thank you for all the hard work and dedication you have put into cleaning up for us.

SINCERELY,
ZAYNAB ZLITNI
Hi, my name is Jessica Arellano. I am a 16-year-old high school junior from California. I wanted to thank the Capitol custodians for what they did after the storming of the Capitol. Thank you for showing up the next day to clean the mess after a horrible day. I’m sorry you had to experience that, but am thankful for your work and appreciate your efforts to make the Capitol look better the next day.

VANESSA SMITH

THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU HARD WORKING STAFF WHO CLEANED UP THE CAPITOL AFTER THE WHOLE EVENT ON WEDNESDAY AND WE ALL APPRECIATE YOUR HARD WORK. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.

Dear HEROES,

Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication caring for our nation’s capital. I hope you know how many people appreciate you and all that you do. You are true patriots and the hard work that you put in on a daily basis does not go unnoticed. I am praying for your health and safety. From the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU.

Sincerely, D.C. Resident
Thank you for cleaning up the capitol building.

Love,
Haven
Age 5

Thank you for your courage and bravery in protecting lawmakers and our Nation’s Capitol!

Steve

Thank you for doing what no person should have to do. Thank you for your service and sacrifice for cleaning up the Capitol building & quietly upholding the Constitution of these great United States.

Thank you again.
You are the true, brave heroes who pieced back together the people’s house and saved the great symbol of our democracy so that our actual democracy could live on. Without your work, not just on that day but EVERY DAY, our government, our country could not function. The words, “thank you” seem too small, too little, to fully encompass the gratitude our nation owes each and every one of you.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BRAVERY, YOUR HARD WORK, AND YOUR DEDICATION!

SHARON KOZIK
I want to join what I hope are thousands of Americans saying, “Thank you” to all the staff who cleaned up after the Capitol was attacked on January 6, 2021.

I noticed a worker cleaning up in the background while watching the news on television and it struck me how brave and dedicated these people are who enter a building that was just under siege, ignoring partisan politics, and simply doing their jobs to ensure that democracy could continue.

You are the silent heroes who work each and every day to make life safer, cleaner and welcoming for all Americans who work and/or visit the Capitol. Your efforts are not unnoticed yet I suspect you don’t always receive the respect you deserve.

You gave me hope after I spent most of the day crying. You inspired me, because you showed up (or in some cases, stayed on the job). You knew what had to be done and you did it. And you did it so well and so thoroughly, that democracy was back up and running in mere HOURS after so many tried to tear it down and destroy it. Demolishing is fast and easy; building back up is hard and time consuming. Yet you all somehow defied the odds and what likely could have been projected to take WEEKS to restore, you accomplished in hours.

Thank you for all that you do every day. I appreciate you all so very much.

SINCERELY,
DAWN C. HANEY

I am serving at a U.S. Embassy in Amman, Jordan, but I wanted to reach out and send a heartfelt thank you to the staff who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to repair, clear and clean the Capitol building after the terrible events on January 6th. I know it takes many people to keep the wheels going and to conduct our nation’s business, but your work went above and beyond your normal job. You are true patriots and deserve to be recognized for your dedication to our country and our ideals. Even if we have been bruised as a country, it is because of everyday people like you, that I have faith that we will rise above the division sown and come together stronger and better. Thank you for the work you did.

LEXY BOUDREAU
I’m retired military and not only did I dedicate 19 years of my life in service to the country, the U.S. Constitution and democracy itself, but I spent nearly that entire time having to clean up messes that I didn’t make.

We all have to clean up other people’s messes from time to time, but what you had to endure that day and subsequently cleanup is beyond anything I can comprehend. The mob’s actions were atrocious, barbaric and seditious and you were stuck with the cleanup.

From one American to another, I am so sorry that happened to you and I extend to you my deepest gratitude and thankfulness to you for your hard work and effort at cleaning up the aftermath. Just like you have been making all things new at the Capitol again, my prayer is that all things will be new in your hearts, souls and lives as well and may your days be filled with peace and joy and love.

RESPECTFULLY,
MATTHEW GREINER

I want to thank all the workers who cleaned the U.S. Capitol after the raid, and have kept things safe and clean throughout the pandemic. Because your job isn’t very easy, so thank you for keeping us safe and thank you for keeping things clean.

SINCERELY,
J.P.
SCOUTS OF AMERICA, PAC 55
NEW YORK

Thank you for cleaning and protecting the capitol! It takes a lot of courage to take that responsibility! Thank you! – Lydia

Thanks to all of you for protecting our democratic process. Thank you for your bravery and your dedication. I am grateful for all you do. Sincerely, Jo in Two Harbors, MN

To those who cleaned the Capitol building on January 6th (and for the work you do everyday)

Thank you for your service, work, and sacrifice in unimaginable times. You are important and the American people are grateful. Sarah
Thank You

Dear Capitol Workers,

I wanted to say thank you for your work at the Capitol after the protest. I heard about the mess that was left behind and was shocked. The smashed windows and the debris left behind must have been a pain to clean and I applaud you for cleaning it. To clean such a mess is a big feat and is incredible. I hope that the mess is cleaned and that you are recognized for your service.

Thanks again,
Harry Le

Thank you for cleaning our Capitol building and for all you do all year long. We truly appreciate you.

Love
the Deignans
Fords, NJ

To those who cleaned the Capitol January 6th (and every day)

Thank you
for your service to our country

From Colorado
Adrienne
& Family
THE SAFETY AND PERSONAL HEALTH OF AOC EMPLOYEES IS OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITY.

If you are experiencing stress, anxiety or depression in the wake of this event, the AOC’s Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is here to help.

EAP is a free, voluntary and confidential program that can assist you and other AOC employees as you work through stress and personal or professional challenges.

TalkNow offers AOC employees immediate, 24/7 telephonic access to confidential, in-the-moment counseling support delivered by qualified behavioral health professionals, no appointment necessary.

Employees may receive up to three sessions with a network counselor for assessment, short-term counseling and referral. AOC EAP Program Manager Dr. Dorothy Blum remains available to assist employees as well.

The Espyr® behavioral health website provides a number of helpful resources like monthly topical webinars, articles, tools, videos, trainings and screenings.

Check the Employee Toolkit, located on Compass, for more information on the EAP and mental health resources available to you.
Tholos Special Edition 2021

The Architect of the Capitol strives to meet its mission 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to serve Congress and the Supreme Court, preserve America’s Capitol, and inspire memorable experiences for all who visit the buildings and grounds.

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