**Jacquie Atkinson (CA-52) Backgrounder**

|  |
| --- |
| **Significant Findings**   * *Served in the U.S. Marines as platoon commander for ten years and currently serves in the Army National Guard* * *Consulted with Carl DeMaio’s former manager about congressional run* * *Named by Carl DeMaio as CA GOP delegate* * *Highly active in the San Diego LGBT community groups* * *Inspired to participate in Iron Man competitions while recovering from war injuries* * *Well-connected to Mayor Faulconer and other Republicans in San Diego area* |

**Jaqueline “Jacquie” Atkinson is a 40-year-old potential Republican candidate for California’s 52nd Congressional District. She is a Marine Corps veteran. She currently works for military consultant A-T Solutions**

**Atkinson served in the Marines for ten years. During that time, she deployed into Iraq at least once. During her time in Iraq, she was injured and, while recovering from her injury, she was inspired to compete in Iron Man competitions. Atkinson continues to serve in the Army National Guard. She now works for a military contractor. She has cited her time in the Military as her reason to be involved in politics.**

**Atkinson is engaged to be married to Annette Renee Grandpre. She volunteers with multiple LGBT groups and was honored as part of the LGBT Veterans Wall of Honor. She sits on LGBT Boards for both the Mayor of San Diego and the San Diego County Sheriff. She also socializes with the mayor and is a delegate to the California Republican Party.**

# Background

* **BORN:** Jacquie Atkinson; 3/1975
* **FAMILY:** Annette Renee Grand Pre (Finance)
* **HOME:** 1281 9TH AVE UNIT 3705, San Diego CA 92101
* **EDUCATION:** M.S. International Relation, American Military University (2015); B.S. Criminal Justice; State University of New York College at Buffalo (1999)
* **PROFESSIONAL:** Joint C-IED Integration Training Program Manager, A-T Solutions (2011-Present); Engility Corporation CIED Integrator/Operations Officer, Engility Corporation (2009-2010); Professional Softball Player (1998)
* **MILITARY:** Engineer Military Officer, Army National Guard (2009-Present); Commander of Bridge Platoon, A Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, United States Marine Corps (1999-2009)
* **NON-PROFIT:** Victory Fund**;** Human Rights Campaign
* **AWARDS:** Benjamin F. Dillingham and Bridget Wilson LGBT Veterans Wall of Honor
* **ORGANIZATIONS:** Mayor Kevin Faulconer's GLBT Advisory Board; Co-Chair Sheriff Bill Gore LGBT Advisory Board; Lincoln Club; Delegate, CA GOP

## Mentioned By Republicans As Candidate For Assembly, Then Congress

**Mentioned As Candidate For 78th Assembly District By San Diego Republican Party Chair.** “Slowly the 2016 race for the 78th Assembly District occupied by Speaker Toni Atkins is shaping up. The latest to get in line is Republican Kevin Melton, a local consultant who unsuccessfully ran in the district last year but didn’t make it out of the primary. He’ll announce this week. Already in the race are Democrats Sarah Boot, who lost a San Diego City Council race last year, and Ed Harris, a former interim councilman whose appointment was conditioned on him not running for the office. Another potential Republican candidate could be former Marine Capt. Jacquie Atkinson, Krvaric recently told KPBS. [San Diego Union Tribune, [2/01/15](http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2015/feb/01/sen-anderson-vs-supervisor-jacob-the-next-big-gop/)]

**… But, Less Than Two Week Earlier, Touted By Party Chair As Possible Congressional Candidate.** “Tony Krvaric, chairman of the Republican Party of San Diego County, said former Marine Capt. Jacquie Atkinson, a Republican, also may run for the seat. Atkinson serves on Mayor Kevin Faulconer's GLBT Advisory Board. She could not be reached for comment.” [KPBS, [1/22/15](http://www.kpbs.org/news/2015/jan/22/sarah-boot-announces-run-california-assemblys-78th/)]

**Met With NRCC Staffers And Carl DeMaio’s Former Campaign Manager, Tommy Knepper.** “Jacquie Atkinson, an openly gay Marine Corps combat veteran and wounded warrior, is moving toward a run against Rep. Scott Peters (D-Calif.). Indio Mayor Lupe Ramos Watson (R), a Hispanic politician and businesswoman, plans to jump in against Rep. Raul Ruiz (D-Calif.). Both women were in Washington, D.C., last week and met with the NRCC as a pair. They're working with GOP consultant Tommy Knepper, who's no stranger to working for Republicans with unusual backgrounds — he was campaign manager for openly gay former San Diego City Councilman Carl DeMaio's (R) 2014 House race against Peters, which he narrowly lost.” [The Hill, [2/26/15](http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/house-races/233916-gop-lands-lesbian-marine-latina-for-pair-of-top-house-contests)]

**Knepper Said Atkinson Was Focused On Congressional Race And Not Assembly Race.** “Although Atkinson originally talked about running in the 78th District, Knepper said, ‘that's off the table now.’ He said she is focused now on deciding whether to run for Congress. ‘Everything that she does is giving back to our country, our district, our community. And I think that’s what we need in Congress right now, is enough of the politics and the games on both sides of the aisle,’ Knepper said.” [KPBS, [3/02/15](http://www.kpbs.org/news/2015/mar/02/its-apparently-not-too-soon-2016-election-season-s/)]

**Atkinson Was Waiting To Hear “Opinions Of Leaders” Before Making Decision On Campaign.** “First up, Republican Jacquie Atkinson is deciding ‘in the next few weeks’ whether she plans to run for Congressman Scott Peters’ seat in 2016. She says she is waiting to hear the ‘opinions of leaders in my community.’” [San Diego LGBT Weekly, [2/26/15](http://lgbtweekly.com/2015/02/26/a-bag-of-skittles/)]

**Cited Her Military Experience As Reason To Run.** “‘As a Marine Corps combat veteran, I am very concerned about the direction of our country. That is why I’m taking the time to seriously listen and consider the opinions of leaders in my community,’ Atkinson said in a statement to The Hill.” [The Hill, [2/26/14](http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/house-races/233916-gop-lands-lesbian-marine-latina-for-pair-of-top-house-contests)]

## Served In The Marines As Explosive Device Expert And Platoon Leader In Iraq

**2002: Served As Commander Of Bridget Platoon.** “‘I can't believe we got it done so fast. I am so proud of my Marines,’ said 2nd Lt. Jacqueline Atkinson, commander of Bridge Platoon, A Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, referring to the bridge-building phase of Desert Scimitar, the 1st Marine Division's capstone exercise.” [Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton News, [5/02/02](http://www.pendleton.marines.mil/PendletonNews/NewsArticleDisplay/tabid/5440/Article/536204/marines-make-faster-desert-river-crossing-in-desert-scimitar-02.aspx)]

**2003: Deployed To Iraq.** “In the end of 2003 I was deployed to Iraq and the beginning of the deployment there was down time in Kuwait, I began smoking more and actually began purchasing packs at our px or bummed smokes off other officers. This was a very rare sight to see however because until this deployment, it was never very acceptable for officers to smoke. Once we entered into Iraq I found that I began smoking almost a half pack a day of cigarettes. When we couldn't get American brands we bought the local smokes off of the Iraqi's. After my tour in the end of 2003 when I returned back to the States I continued to smoke socially.” [Triathlon Club San Diego, [5/14/08](http://www.triclubsandiego.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=76:jackie-atkinson&catid=44&Itemid=237)]

**Was An Explosive Device Expert Who Served As Platoon Leader In Iraq.** “Atkinson is an expert in improvised explosive devices and served as a platoon commander in Iraq. After being wounded, she came back to Camp Pendleton, outside of San Diego, and has lived in the city ever since, continuing to work as an adviser on asymmetric warfare since.”[The Hill, [2/26/14](http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/house-races/233916-gop-lands-lesbian-marine-latina-for-pair-of-top-house-contests)]

**2000: Attended Officer Candidate School.** “After graduating college I joined the United States Marine Corps and I attended Officer Candidate school in 2000. At the end of my training I became stationed at Camp Pendleton as a young 2ndLt Combat Engineer Officer.” [Triathlon Club San Diego, [5/14/08](http://www.triclubsandiego.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=76:jackie-atkinson&catid=44&Itemid=237)]

## Involved In Iron Man And Marathons After War Injury

**Inspired To Begin Iron Man Competitions While In Hospital Recovering From War Injurers.** “I left Iraq via a hospital in Madrid Spain, there I had many magazines to read and came across one that had an article about the World Championships in Kona. I began to read about the sport and something about it really attracted me and I thought how great it would be to accomplish an Ironman. The only problem was I was not a very good swimmer, I did not own a bike nor had I ever been on a road bike and a marathon seemed unattainable, let alone an entire Ironman. In April 2005 I jumped into the pool at MCAS Miramar for my first time to experience ‘lap swimming’. It was such an odd concept to me at the time and could barely make it 25 meters my first try. I went everyday and finally after a swim buoy was introduced to me by laughing lifeguards, it was my first step in order to complete a sprint triathlon that spring.’” [Triathlon Club San Diego, [5/14/08](http://www.triclubsandiego.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=76:jackie-atkinson&catid=44&Itemid=237)]

**Alumna Of Wounded Warrior Organization.** “Atkinson served as a Marine platoon commander and company commander in Iraq and is a Wounded Warrior alumna, according to a biography provided by Knepper. She was honorably discharged and then took a job as a portfolio manager for the Joint Improvised Explosives Device Defeat Organization, where she works on reducing the impacts of improvised explosive devices.” [KPBS, [3/02/15](http://www.kpbs.org/news/2015/mar/02/its-apparently-not-too-soon-2016-election-season-s/)]

**Wounded Warrior Project Is A Charity Focused On Helping Wounded Veterans.** “Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) serves veterans and service members who incurred a physical or mental injury, illness, or wound, co-incident to their military service on or after September 11, 2001 and their families. On that date, America watched in horror as approximately 3,000 people died including hundreds of firefighters and rescue workers. Many warriors note a sense of duty to volunteer for the military following these tragic events.” [Wounded Warriors, accessed [3/19/15](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/mission/who-we-serve.aspx)]

## Actively Involved In San Diego LGBT Groups, Including Human Rights Campaign

**Performed Military Outreach With The Human Rights Campaign.** “Is Atkinson the right candidate? Yes. I have known her for years, and consider her a friend. She is honorable and a patriot. When I started working with the Human Rights Campaign in San Diego, she helped me with outreach to members of the military, and has always been there to help LGBT causes.” [Joel Trambley op-ed, San Diego LGBT Weekly, [3/12/15](http://lgbtweekly.com/2015/03/12/jacque-atkinson-so-what-to-do/)]

**Attended Victory Fund GLBT Candidate Conference.** “While Chris Ward starts out 2015 as an even stronger clear frontrunner for City Council seat No. 3 in 2016, Anthony Bernal says he is still staying in the race and Laurie Coskey tells me she is still a ‘possible’ candidate. Former Marine Captain Jacque Atkinson, who recently returned from a Victory Fund GLBT candidates’ conference, looks like she would be the only candidate from our community for Toni Atkins’ assembly seat as the other two strong possible candidates while pro-gay, are heterosexual.” [Nicole Murray Ramirez op-ed, San Diego LGBT Weekly, [1/22/15](http://lgbtweekly.com/2015/01/22/mayor-faulconers-state-of-the-city/)]

**Sat On The Boards Focused On LGBT Issues For The Mayor Of San Diego And The Sheriff.** “Atkinson is co-chair of the Sheriff’s LGBT Advisory Board and also sits on the Mayor’s Advisory Board.” [San Diego LGBT Weekly, [2/19/15](http://lgbtweekly.com/2015/02/19/atkinson-for-congress-gloria-for-assembly/)]

## Had San Diego Republican Mayor Kevin Faulconer Attend Her Christmas Party Event

**San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer Attended Atkinson’s Christmas Party.** “Mayoral candidate Kevin Faulconer stopped by Marine Captain Jacque Atkinson’s and her girlfriend’s holiday party recently and will be taking a walk through Hillcrest this Friday that will end at Harvey Milk’s American Diner. Faulconer also contributed some grocery cards for the GLBT families and children in need for Christmas through Family Matters at The Center.” [San Diego LGBT Weekly, [12/19/13](http://lgbtweekly.com/2013/12/19/president-beiser-a-historical-first/)]

## Appointed California GOP Delegate By Carl DeMaio

**Carl DeMaio Named Atkinson As A California Republican Party Delegate.** “I'm pleased to announce my seven Delegate appointments to the California Republican Party are Claudia Chan-Shaffer, Sheryl Rosander, Jacqui Atkinson, Zack Brown, Tommy Knepper, and Todd Gladis. All of these delegates are committed to making the Republican Party more inclusive, respectful of our freedoms, and committed to a bold agenda of economic and fiscal reform. They will hold two-year terms as Delegate and will vote on state party matters during the annual conventions.” [Carl DeMaio Facebook, [1/11/15](https://www.facebook.com/carl.demaio/timeline)]

## Property Records

As of March 2015, the following is a list of potential properties where Jacquie Atkinson may have lived:

|  |
| --- |
| 1281 9TH AVE UNIT 3705  SAN DIEGO, CA 92101 |
| 14485 SENECA RD APT 137  VICTORVILLE, CA 92392 |
| 37 EUCALYPTUS KNOLL ST  MILL VALLEY, CA 94941 |
| 1076 GOLDENEYE VW  CARLSBAD, CA 92011 |
| 6975 TRADEWINDS DR  CARLSBAD, CA |
| 201 LOS ARBOLITOS BLVD  OCEANSIDE, CA 92058 |

[Nexis Comprehensive Person Report, accessed 3/18/15]

*NOTE: Further research necessary into Jacquie Atkinson’s property ownership history.*

## Criminal and Traffic Violation Record

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Location | Case # | Charge | Status |
| 8/17/09 | San Bernardino County | 61633JWJA | Exceed 55mph in 2 lane highway | Convicted |

[San Bernardino Court Database, accessed [3/18/14](http://openaccess.sb-court.org/OpenAccess/)]

*NOTE: Further research necessary into whether Jacquie Atkinson has a criminal record.*

## No Evidence of Bankruptcy, Judgments & Liens

As of March 2015, Jacquie Atkinson is not associated with any bankruptcy, judgments, or liens. [Nexis Bankruptcy, Judgments, & Liens search, accessed 3/18/15]

*NOTE: Further research necessary into whether Jacquie Atkinson or her associated entities had bankruptcies, judgments or liens.*

## Political Donations

According to the National Institute on Money in State Politics, Jacquie Atkinson has given $390 to the California Republican Party.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Candidate/Committee** | **Party** | **Amount** |
| 3/02/14 | California Republican Party | R | $390 |
|  |  | **Total** | **$390** |

[National Institute on Money in State Politics, accessed 3/18/15]

According to the FEC, Jacquie Atkinson has given $0 to federal political candidates. [FEC, accessed 3/18/15]

## Searches Performed in this Document

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **DATABASE** | **NOTES (e.g., search term(s), URL, etc.)** |
| Nexis – News | All English Language News:“Jacqueline w/2 Atkinson” and “Jacquie w/2 Atkinson” |
| Nexis – Comprehensive Person Report |  |
| Nexis – Bankruptcy, Judgments, & Liens |  |
| Nexis – Criminal Records |  |
| Nexis – Comprehensive Business Report |  |
| Google Search | Jaqueline Atkinson; Jacquie Atkinson; Atkinson LGBT; Annette Renee Grand Pre; Atkinson California GOP; Atkinson and DaMeio |
| CQ Political Moneyline (Verify via FEC) |  |
| National Institute on Money in State Politics (Follow the Money) |  |
| Facebook | None |
| LinkedIn | <https://www.linkedin.com/pub/jacquelyn-jacquie-atkinson-pmp/40/225/355> |
| Twitter | @CA52Jacquite listed in her name. No tweets. Following 40  <https://twitter.com/CA52Jacquie> |

## Further Research Necessary

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| --- |
| Full public records search |
| Full military history search |

## Important Note on This Document

Please keep in mind at all times that this is preliminary research, and further research will be necessary on Jacquie Atkinson. It is strongly recommended that you contact the DCCC’s Research Department for more information and in the event that you intend to use material from this report for public communications purposes. Thank you.