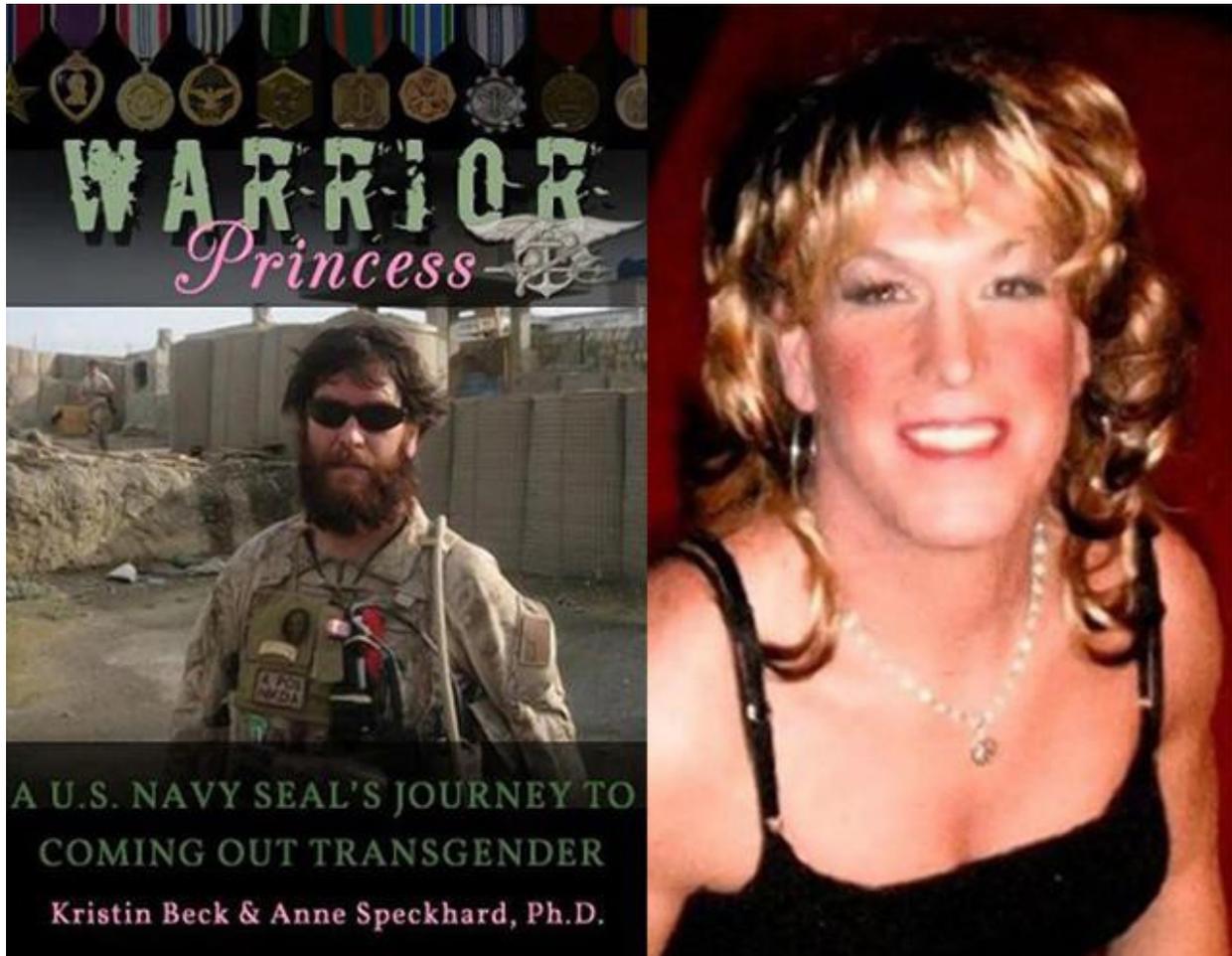


SEAL Team 6 Vet Comes Out As Transgender In New Memoir

CATHERINE THOMPSON 8:05 AM EDT, TUESDAY JUNE 4, 2013



Retired Navy SEAL Kristin Beck published a memoir titled **Warrior Princess** on Tuesday describing her 20-year military career and her experience coming out as transgender.

Beck was a member of SEAL Team 6, famous for carrying out the mission that killed Osama bin Laden, although she retired from the military shortly before the team was sent to Abbottabad, Pakistan in 2011. Previously, Beck went by the name Chris and decided to undergo hormonal therapy after leaving the service.

Although the 2011 **repeal** of Don't Ask, Don't Tell brought an end to discrimination against gays and lesbians in the military, transgender men and women are still banned from service.

Beck's fellow SEALs **were supportive** of her gender transition, according to the Atlantic Wire.



Kristin Beck @healinggrounds

3h

"Prejudice is a LEARNED behavior; I would like to be a professor to help the WORLD "unlearn" prejudice..." -Kristin Beck

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Kristin Beck, formerly known as Chris Beck, came out as a transgender woman after retiring from a 20-year career in the military's most elite unit. Her new biography talks about her lifelong struggle to find herself.

A former Navy SEAL who once served in the elite Team 6 responsible for the capture of Osama bin Laden has stepped out as a transgender woman.

Kristin Beck, formerly known as Chris Beck, served 20 years in the military's most elite unit where she underwent 13 deployments and seven combat deployments.

It wasn't until Beck retired from the Navy in 2011 that her battle over her true identity could finally be fought — and, to her surprise, she was warmly received not only by friends and family but her fellow SEALs as well.

In Beck's new biography, "Warrior Princess: A U.S. Navy SEAL's Journey to Coming out Transgender," she reveals her lifelong struggle in a man's body while going on to serve in SEAL Team 6, the group that found bin Laden in the months after her retirement.

"[Chris] had considered living as the woman he felt himself to be for a very long time, but while he was serving as a SEAL he couldn't do it," reads an excerpt from his book published this past weekend.

Chris describes herself as "living basically asexual" her entire life while stifling any urges to genuinely express herself.

After her military retirement, taking with her a Purple Heart and Bronze Star, Beck began undergoing hormonal therapy.

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She cut off her burly beard and began wearing women's clothing before - in a daring final step - she revealed her new look and name to friends on LinkedIn while publishing a photo of herself as a woman standing before an American flag.

"I am now taking off all my disguises and letting the world know my true identity as a woman," Beck wrote with the photo published earlier this year.

To her immediate surprise, she received outpouring of support from other SEALs.

"Brother, I am with you ... being a SEAL is hard, this looks harder. Peace," one

wrote her, as the [Atlantic Wire](#) reports.

"I can't say I understand the decision but I respect the courage. Peace and happiness be upon you," wrote another.

"I just wanted to drop you a note and tell you that Kris has all the support and respect from me that Chris had ... and quite possibly more," another wrote her.

"While I'm definitely surprised, I'm also in amazement at the strength you possess and the courage necessary to combat the strangers and 'friends' that I'm guessing have reared their ugly heads prior to and since your announcement."

Beck writes that she wrote the book, "to reach out to all of the younger generation and encourage you to live your life fully and to treat each other with compassion, be good to each other, especially in your own backyard (whether it be high school or your community)."

Her memoir comes roughly three years after the Department of Defense lifted its ban on gays and lesbians serving openly in uniform.

Transgendered men and women are still banned from serving.

That's an issue far from lost on the National Center for Transgender Equality that warns that such men and women like Beck, who would have been disqualified from serving because of her gender, hurts our national defense.

"Not only is this unjust to individual transgender people who wish to serve their country through military service, it weakens our national defense by barring qualified people from duty," the [NCTE states](#).

Today Beck is the founder of Healing Grounds, a Florida nonprofit that provides psychosocial support to returning combat veterans through landscape assistance and gardening experience.

She writes that it's this outdoor landscaping work that brought her calm after retiring from the service as a wounded, disabled veteran.

"When I sit in my backyard or at my fishpond, it is very hard to feel anger, resentment or depression; I feel peace. I want to give this opportunity to my veteran brothers and sisters," Beck writes of her St.Petersburg program on her LinkedIn page. ngolgowski@nydailynews.com

TUESDAY, APR 10, 2012 10:40 PM CEDT

A Transgender win for Miss Universe

The competition changes the rules -- and makes history

BY MARY ELIZABETH WILLIAMS



If you, like the rest of us, assumed you'd go the rest of your life without ever once thinking, "Good job, there, Donald Trump," today is the day you may have to think again. Believe it or not, the uniquely coiffed **conspiracy theorist** and **fragrance magnate** has done something cool — by letting transgender beauties vie for the crown of Miss Universe.

Late last month, Miss Universe Canada contestant Jenna Talackova was disqualified on the grounds that she was, in its terms, "**not a naturally born female.**" But last week Trump's organization said the 23-year-old, who underwent gender reassignment four years ago, would be permitted to return and compete. She is now back on **the roster of this year's Canadian finalists.** And after weeks of working Miss Universe officials, GLAAD declared Tuesday that starting with next year's pageant, competition will be open to transgender women. In **an official statement**, GLAAD spokesperson Herndon Graddic said, "At a time when transgender people are still routinely denied equal opportunities in housing, employment and medical care, today's

decision is in line with the growing levels of public support for transgender people across the country.” Miss Universe Organization president Paula Shugart added, “The decision to include transgender women in our beauty competitions is a result of our ongoing discussions with GLAAD and not Jenna’s legal representation, which if anything, delayed the process. We have a long history of supporting equality for all women, and this was something we took very seriously.”

It’s a smart move, and not just because it’s a progressive one. The pageant is, in many ways, **as dated and irrelevant** as Donald Trump’s hair. Tossing in an element of controversy, Trump no doubt knows, is a good way to get attention. And sure enough, **Twitter was ablaze Tuesday** with outraged fans of “natural born” females complaining that “if these freaks want a pageant let them start there own with animals who are woman and woman who are men and men who are woman [sic]” and “this MAN IS NOT A WOMAN! and its almost guarenteed the ratings will drop because of this guarenteed! [sic, sic, sic]” You hear that, Trump? Your viewers guarentee it. I’m sure you’re losing sleep over alienating the coveted Ranting Poor Speller demographic.

The opportunity to strut around in a bathing suit and tiara may not seem like great gender progress for anybody, but in this case, it truly is. It may prove a head trip for anyone who still watches beauty pageants to ogle the pretty girls and know that some of those pretty girls were born boys, but that’s their problem. What matters more is sending a message of tolerance and acceptance to transgender males and females all around the world, of moving in the direction of changing people’s perceptions of what equality for “all women” really looks like. Come pageant time, Jenna Talackova may not ultimately snag the big sash and tiara. But with her honesty and persistence, she’s helped win something even bigger. She’s won a place for the transgender community at yet another table. It’s a harder-won prize, and a lasting legacy.





From Tim to Kim: German pop star, 16, becomes world's youngest transsexual after sex change op

By [MAIL FOREIGN SERVICE](#)

UPDATED: 07:34 GMT, 5 February 2009

German teenager Kim Petras who became the world's youngest transsexual after undergoing an operation at the age of just 16 says she can't wait for the summer so she can try out a whole new wardrobe of tight fitting clothes.

The pop singer - born Tim - is well known in Germany for having started hormone replacement therapy as part of her gender transition by the age of 12.

Now 16, she completed Gender Reassignment Surgery in November, according to a posting on her blog.



Girl in a boy's body: Pop singer Kim Petras, 16, may have become the world's youngest transsexual after completing gender reassignment surgery last November
Dr Bernd Meyenburg who heads the Psychiatric Special Outpatient Clinic for Children and Adolescents with Identity Disorders at the University of Frankfurt Hospital said: 'Very few youth

psychiatrists have any experience with transsexual developments. The families wander from one psychiatrist to the next.

'I was always against such operations on children so young but after seeing how happy one of my patients was and how well adjusted after returning from having the operation abroad while still a teenager – I realised that in some cases it is the right decision.

'Kim is such a case – she always knew what she wanted.'

Kim herself said: 'Everything has changed because of this operation. I just can't wait to put on my favourite bathing suit and go swimming like I've never done before.

'I had to wait until my 16th birthday but once that was past I was able legally to have the operation.



Kim Petras pictured as a young boy

'I know that because of my past people will always bring up the subject, I can't get away from it. But I hope that one day I might be better known for something else like my music.'

In Germany, such operations are not usually allowed until the patient is 18.

However Kim managed to convince doctors when she was just 12 that she should have the surgery.

By 14 she was officially registered as a girl - and was already famous for her choice.

The costs of her procedure were covered by health insurance as her condition was officially diagnosed as an illness.

Dr Achim Wuesthof, an endocrinologist specialising in children and adolescents, who was treating Kim at a clinic in Hamburg, said that he and his colleagues felt that in this case it had been best to start earlier.

He said: 'To the best of my knowledge, Kim is the youngest sex change patient in the world. 'According to German law, two independent psychiatrists must confirm that the child is indeed transsexual and approve the sex change. Once that has been done, it is best to start as early as possible.

'Transsexuals experience the onset of puberty, and the physical changes it brings, as a serious trauma.

'But there is a general lack of empathy with cases like Kim's, mostly because people know little about the condition. Imagine a man that suddenly starts growing breasts or a woman that starts growing a beard against their will – that is how Kim and people like her experience puberty.

'They are not freaks, nor do they suffer mental illness. They are simply trapped in the wrong bodies. That is why it is best to help them as early as possible and reduce the trauma for them and their families.'

Last year Kim was signed to Joyce Records and released online her first single 'Last Forever'. It became a YouTube and MySpace hit.

In September - just weeks before the cosmetic surgery finalising her transition from a male to a female -she released her first commercially available single 'Fade Away' into the German market.

Kim said: 'I was asked if I feel like a woman now – but the truth is I have always felt like a woman – I just ended up in the wrong body.

'I had a problem because I couldn't wear skinny stuff, but now I can wear whatever I want to. I really am looking forward to going swimming like everyone else and to wearing tight jeans that show off my figure. They are so tight, I always felt quite uncomfortable in them until now.

'Now I can go as tight as I want to. I used to wear mini skirts too, but yes, now even the tight ones can be part of my wardrobe.

'I can enjoy swimming, and bikinis, go in the changing rooms without a problem, everything has changed because of this operation. I just can't wait to put on my favourite bathing suit and go swimming like I've never done before.'

Kim, who is now studying fashion design, began calling herself a girl when she was just two years old.

Her father Lutz said: 'I suppose it took me longer than my wife to accept it, but Kim is a very persuasive girl, she knows what she wants and how to get it.

'I am very proud of what she has achieved, how she has managed to get there and how she sticks to her dreams no matter how hard and painful they are to follow.'





