

Senate Judicial Committee Testimony  
Oversight of the Administration's Misdirected Immigration Enforcement  
Policies: Examining the Impact on Public Safety and Honoring the Victims  
7/21/2015

Delivered by Michael Ronnebeck for the Ronnebeck Family

Good morning Distinguished Committee members,

My name is Michael Ronnebeck.

I am here today on behalf of the Ronnebeck Family.

I'd like to tell you about my nephew, Grant Ronnebeck.

Grant was a 21 year old son, brother, nephew, and grandson. He was a bright young man, with an infectious smile and love of life. He had a positive outlook on life, and everyone he met knew it. Grant had no enemies; he was a friendly, outgoing lovable guy.

As a 21 year old American, he was just starting out in life; starting to realize his dreams, starting to follow his heart in matters of career choices, and just discovering his life's opportunities. His desire was to work his way up at the job he loved, working for the QuikTrip Corporation as he had for the previous 5 years, or possibly later to become a member of the law enforcement community.

He loved 4-wheeling in the desert around his home near Mesa, Arizona, spending time with friends and family, and watching the Broncos play during the football season. He was a pretty typical young American man, but to us he was a very special family and community member.

At 4:00 a.m. on January 22, 2015, just six months ago, while working the overnight shift at his Quiktrip store, Grant assisted a man buying cigarettes. The man dumped a jar of coins on the counter and demanded cigarettes. Grant tried explaining that he needed to count the coins before he could give the man the cigarettes. The man then pulled a gun, and stated "you're not gonna take my money", and "you're not gonna give me my cigarettes." Grant immediately offered up the cigarettes to the man, who shot him in the face point blank, killing him. Seemingly unaffected, the man coldly and callously stepped over Grant's dying body, grabbed a couple of packs of cigarettes, and then left the store.

After a 30 minute high speed pursuit through the streets of Mesa and Phoenix, Arizona, the man was taken into custody. Inside his car were the cigarettes, and two handguns, one believed to be the gun used to kill Grant.

Apolinar Altamirano, the alleged murderer, is an illegal alien. According to a news article detailing his 2012 arrest, he is a self-proclaimed member of the Mexican mafia, and says he has ties to the Sinaloa drug cartel.

The news article states that in August of 2012, he was arrested with two others after kidnapping, and sexually assaulting a woman and burglarizing her apartment. She was

allegedly held naked and against her will for a full week prior to escaping. He took a plea deal, and pled guilty to a charge of felony burglary for that incident. He was sentenced to two years of probation and turned over to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency due to his undocumented status in the United States. He never served any time in custody related to that offense!

ICE, "The Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency" released the now convicted felon Altamirano on a \$10,000 bond pending a deportation hearing.

In the two years since then, while awaiting his deportation hearing, Altamirano has had two orders of protection filed against him, including one from a woman who claimed he threatened to kill her, and pointed a gun at her boyfriend.

ICE was reportedly notified of the protection orders by a Mesa Superior Court judge.

Altamirano was still allowed to remain free in our Country.

In addition to Altamirano, ICE reported that they released 66,564 other criminal aliens back onto the streets of our country in 2013 and 2014, and another 10,246 as of March 2015. This group included aliens convicted of violent and serious crimes, including homicide, sexual assault, kidnapping, and aggravated assault.

At least 123 American citizens have been murdered by one of those released criminal aliens including my nephew Grant Ronnebeck.

There are a number of immigration bills that have been introduced in the last several months, among those;

Grants Law, for my nephew, Kates Law, for Kate Steinle, The Davis-Oliver Act for Law Enforcement Officers Danny Oliver and Michael Davis, and Jamiel's law, for Jamiel Shaw...all Americans killed by illegal aliens. Each of these potential laws have a specific component that would help protect American lives.

I ask that each of you give consideration and priority to passing these important bills into laws.

It is my family's greatest desire that Grant Ronnebeck's legacy will be more than a fading obituary, a cemetery plot, or a fond memory. Instead, we want Grant's death to be a force for change and reform in the immigration policies of this great nation.

In closing, I am asking you, our elected scholars, lawyers, and community leaders, to make these changes; to rise above your political differences, to set aside your personal interests, and to use your resources to make sensible immigration reform a reality in the coming months, with the safety and security of American citizens first and foremost in mind.