

## Prepared Statement of Frank Krentz

Almost six years ago one morning my cousin, my uncle, my father and myself sat down for breakfast and talked about what we were going to do for the day. When we finished my cousin and I went to move cows while my father went to check a motor and my uncle went to check other waters on the ranch. That was the last time I saw my father. Rob Krentz was on his way to check the motor when he called his brother on the cell phone and said there was someone walking across the pasture and was going to see what was going on.

Friend and neighbors came to help us look for my father when we couldn't get a hold of him for hours. A neighbor called the sheriff's search and rescue team and they started looking. The news came in late that night that they had found my father.

Rob was a great and caring man. Helpful to others and dedicated to the way of life that he loved. He worked to help others volunteering his time to help the local school, his community and friends and family.

To understand where I am coming from you need to know the people that live in this area. Most of the people in this part of the world has had at least one incident that involved problems with people trespassing across the southern border illegally. When I was younger we would see people crossing the border and knew that they were running from problems worse than getting caught on the northern side. Knowing that the Arizona desert can be dangerous to cross we would make sure there would be border patrol on the way to help them. I can remember a time in 1999 I saw two different groups of people crossing the ranch that numbered larger than 100. We used to approach these people as Christians to make sure there were no injuries and tell them that Border Patrol would be here shortly to help them. We would always do this even after we have had our houses broken into, vehicles stolen, trash left in the country and waters broken. There have been many times when we would go and check storage tanks that we would spent a week's worth of time to make full be drained because illegals would break waterlines or floats to get a drink of water and draining thousands of gallons of water out on the ground. And we would still try our best to get these people help.

After losing my father all of that changed. Now we don't go near these people. Not knowing what the situation holds we don't put ourselves in a position that would get us into trouble. The people that we see now are not the large groups

of people fleeing but small groups packing drugs. There have been pictures taken of some of these small groups armed as well.

I was told once by a US Congressman that the people along the border has become “NUMB” to the whole border issue. They have gotten use to the idea that this is the new normal if they want to live here. I wouldn't say that we have become “NUMB” but we have become resilient; that we want to live in this part of the world, that many of the families here have been here for many years and generations and hope to have many more on this part of the world they have carved out for themselves.

People who aren't from here get shocked when I tell them the problems we face on a daily basis. They ask why don't you move away from there? It is hard for some people to know what 100 years of working in one place can look like. I am fifth generation on the ranch and feel a sense of pride of what I am doing raising livestock for our nation. Being out in the country and working in a business sector that is less than 1% of the country are able to do.

As our guest leave here today I would like you to take with you the gratitude from me and my friends and family for hearing what we are going through. To go back and say that there is a problem that needs more attention than what is given to it. Finally, that we work hard to stay in this country that we live in and we want to be able to continue to live and work free of fear of what would happen if we were to leave our house to go to work.