

June 10, 2020

Representatives and Senators

Re: Shooting death of Charles “Gage” Lorentz by National Park Ranger

To Whom It May Concern:

Our family is one of far too many that has been devastated by the criminal actions of a law enforcement officer. We want to take this opportunity to share our family’s loss and why we urge you to vote for the passage of the Justice for Policing Act (JPA) 2020. H.B. 7120.

On March 21, 2020, a 52-year-old National Park Ranger, at 5’ 07” and 235 pounds, shot and killed my 25-year-old son, Charles “Gage” Lorentz, in Carlsbad Caverns National Park, NM. Gage had his entire life ahead of him, and this Ranger stole it in a matter of seconds. He also stole one of the best parts of us that day.



Gage was a genuine, country raised young man that had a heart of gold. He was hardworking and dedicated. His world was his family and the Colorado landscape where we raised him on the Western Slope. Gage was mechanical. He could fix anything. He dreamed of running an organization one day like the Boys and Girls Club of America where he and other mentors would teach young people to hunt and fish. Gage was a good, loyal friend. His best friend, Tyler, is expecting his first child, a boy. He had always planned for Gage to be his son’s godfather. Now, Tyler is naming his son Gage. Gage will never know or hold the child named in his honor.

Gage’s father, Travis Lorentz, has lost his only child - his pride and joy and the fabric of his eternal being. I have lost my only son, my one and only. Gage’s sisters have lost their only brother. And Gage’s youngest sister has lost her best friend for life. Gage was her mentor and she trusted him with every ounce of her heart and soul, something she will never be able to replace.

We have all lost our laughter, our comforter and our peacekeeper - who always had the encouraging words to settle disagreements and bring us all back to center. We will never be able to witness him walking down the aisle nor embrace any grandchildren.



On the day this Ranger shockingly and unnecessarily killed Gage, Gage was returning home from working on the oil rigs in Texas. We had all spoken to Gage the morning of his death while he was on his way home. We were so excited to see him. And he could not wait to be back home and spend some quality time with his little sister, which he did every chance he had. Gage was her best friend, her mentor, her everything - since the day she was born.

Our son should still be alive. There is NO evidence Gage posed a deadly threat to the Ranger. Gage's toxicology report shows NO drugs and NO alcohol. The Ranger's body worn camera shows Gage had NO weapons. This Ranger brought the fight to my son when he deployed his Taser X2 into Gage's chest and then approached him to use his Taser X2 as a cattle prod on Gage's body.

Gage, at 5' 09" and 165 pounds, could have easily taken the Ranger. Instead, Gage tried to defend himself when he was brutally shot - not once (first in the leg in a non-fatal shot) but twice (then to his heart) which resulted in his death. While there are two video clips of body worn camera footage produced to our family by the Eddy County Sheriff's Office, 26 seconds of the body worn camera footage is still missing, and the dash camera on the Ranger's SUV was allegedly inoperable. This Ranger had absolutely no reason to use deadly force on Gage - he cold-heartedly murdered our son.

We will seek justice for Gage. We will demand change. Law enforcement officers are here to serve and protect – not murder our loved ones or take innocent lives unjustly. We believe in the Constitution and all that America is built upon ... our son deserves justice.

The JPA, which is before Congress and the Senate, now, is one step in achieving justice for our son. We implore you to support it, as no other family should ever have to endure the pain of losing a loved one. Our story is living testimony that law enforcement needs to be transformed and taken back to the roots of "to serve and protect." Please do not avert your eyes. We need to identify every reason law enforcement is unnecessarily taking lives, fix it, and hold ALL agencies and officers accountable for misconduct and coverups.