

Statement of Sara Del Real

My name is Sara Del Real, and I am Ben's sister.

I am incredibly proud of my brother for serving in the United States Army. He loves his job, and he loves his country. So do I.

That is why it was so heartbreaking on May 23 to watch him nearly die after being struck by a gunshot at the hands of those entrusted to protect the public from harm. We had been excited to visit our nation's capital, see its historic landmarks, and enjoy our time together. We never imagined that an ordinary evening with our family would end with Ben fighting for his life and saving our father from the same fate.

I am grateful beyond words that Ben survived what could have been the last moments of his life. But our family deserves answers. We are here today asking for accountability. We need to know exactly what happened, and we believe those responsible for shooting my brother should be held accountable.

The men and women entrusted with protecting the public carry an enormous responsibility. We hope this tragedy leads to greater accountability and helps prevent something like this from ever happening to another innocent family.