

Albert Hernandez is a proud graduate from the University of Texas at El Paso with a degree in Education. He has become a voice for the victims of the Walmart shooting. He continues to reside in his beloved home of El Paso, Texas with his extended family. He continues to educate the public on the devastating consequences of hate through extreme violence. Author of the book, "El Paso's Darkest Day".

Albert Hernandez

October 14, 2021

Written Testimony Outline
To The Natural Resources Committee
Walmart Shooting El Paso

- Introduction of Testifier and relation to the victims that perished on August 3, 2019
- Brief information of the community of El Paso before the Walmart incident. Its friendliness and a community that cherishes racial diversity. A community caught off guard because of its openness to all with open arms. A place where races get along and a unique city.
- Brief remembrance of 911 and why people were attacked on that beautiful sunny day. People were attacked and killed because of who they are. This incident brought back feelings and memories of that day on August 3 of 2019. An attack on innocent people using extreme violence.
- Brief account of that beautiful sunny Saturday day that people were shopping in one of the busiest Walmart's in the country. People were happy, it was a back-to-school

weekend sale. Little did they know that terror would strike unexpectedly. One of the most hideous crime on Latinos would take place that day in the history of the United States.

- Explanation of a community that was held hostage and in total shock as the events unfolded. People were running panicking and thoughts circulated we were under a foreign terrorist attack. A total chaos just like 911.
- The aftermath once a capture was accomplished. Hospitals were on high alert and all available staff were called in with disbelief. The biggest police presence in the history of El Paso was all over the Cielo Vista Mall area. Confusion and distraught as to what was going on made it very difficult to find names of the victims.
- Brief details how our family found out. The gruesome aftermath of the carnage and death in an otherwise peaceful and safe community. An evil man full of hate towards a community which he specifically targeted in his confession. What was to come was straight out of the worse nightmare or horror movie you can ever imagine. The difference this was not fiction. He wanted to kill as much people as he could that day.
- He targeted complete and total strangers he knew absolutely nothing about. If he had only read the history of El Paso that has a rich culture, maybe he would have not targeted us. We didn't cross the border, the border crossed us.
- I'm not here to discuss gun control or domestic terrorism today. I'm here to let you know what hate can do to others. I'm here to inform you that this type of terrorism on a community is the vilest crime anyone can commit. I'm here to ask that our loved ones be remembered and honored in a country that they held dear to their hearts.

- My father once told me, “Son when you feel that the bad people are winning and taking over, remember one thing. There are a lot more good people than bad. And it takes good people to make a difference in this world, evil will never win”.
- So, I’m here telling my story so that maybe others around the country can see that evil didn’t win that day. It made a community stronger and more resilient than ever. Never did it once cause division.
- And I am here to tell good people that we need to remember that these evil cowardly acts towards innocent people can’t continue. We need to bring justice to all of the fallen from this type of terrorism. And I do believe that a national memorial at The Healing Garden in El Paso will be a step in the right direction. We need to show the world what happened that awful day here in El Paso on August 3rd. We need to show a conscience of what hate can do to a community. We supposedly spend trillions of dollars to fight terrorism around the world. When will we lead by example and treat each other with respect and as fellow Americans?

Thank you