

Luke and Brent Ganger

Witness Testimony to U.S. Congressional Forum

February 3, 2026

((LUKE))

Ranking Member Blumenthal, Ranking Member Garcia and distinguished members of Congress;

My name is Luke Ganger. I'm here with my brother, Brent. Renee Good is our sister. We are here on behalf of Renee's big family and those who loved her. We are here to ask for your help. I was talking to my four-year-old last week when she noticed I was not doing well. She knows her aunt died and that somebody caused it to happen. She told me that there are no "bad people," and that everyone makes mistakes. She has Renee's spirit.

The deep distress our family feels because of Renee's loss in such a violent and unnecessary way is complicated by feelings of disbelief, distress, and desperation for change. In the last few weeks, our family took some consolation thinking that perhaps Renee's death would bring change in our country. It has not.

The completely surreal scenes taking place on the streets of Minneapolis are beyond explanation. This is not just a bad day, or a rough week or isolated incidents. These encounters with federal agents are changing the community and changing many lives, including ours, forever. And I still don't know how to explain to my four-year-old what these agents are doing when we pass by.

Our family is deeply grateful for the outpouring of love and support from the community in Minneapolis, from people across the country and around the world. The prayers and words of support have truly brought us comfort. It is meaningful that these sentiments have come from people of all colors, faiths and ideals. That is a perfect reflection of Renee, who carried peace, patience and love for others wherever she went.

Our family is a very American blend. We vote differently, and we rarely completely agree on the finer details of what it means to be a citizen of this country. We attend various churches and some, not at all. Despite those differences, we have always treated each other with love and respect. We have gotten even closer during this very divided time in our country, and we hope that our family can be even

a small example to others to not let political ideals divide us. To be Good, like Renee.

But the most important thing we can do today is to help this panel and our country understand who Renee is, and what a beautiful American we have lost. A sister, daughter, mother, partner and friend.

I'd like to let Brent take it from here.

((BRENT))

Good afternoon. I'm Brent Ganger. I'd like to share some thoughts from the eulogy I recently gave for my sister.

When I think of Renée, I think of dandelions and sunlight.

Dandelions don't ask permission to grow. They push through cracks in the sidewalk, through hard soil, through places where you don't expect beauty—and suddenly there they are. Bright. Alive. Unapologetically hopeful. That was Renée. And sunlight—warm, steady, life-giving—because when she walked into a room, things felt lighter. Even on cloudy days.

Renée had a way of showing up in the world that made you believe things were going to be okay. Not because she ignored hardship, but because she chose optimism anyway. She chose to look for what was good, what was possible, what was worth loving.

Nae-Nae loved fiercely, openly, and without hesitation.

As a mother, Renée poured herself into love. The kind of love that shows up every day, that sacrifices quietly, that cheers loudly, that believes deeply. Her children were her heart walking around outside her body, and she made sure they felt safe, valued, and endlessly loved.

As a sister, she was a constant. Someone you could lean on, laugh with, or sit in silence beside. She had a way of making you feel understood—even when you didn’t have the words yet. She didn’t just listen; she saw you.

She believed in second chances. She believed tomorrow could be better than today. She believed that kindness mattered—and she lived that belief. Even when things were hard, Nae looked for the

light. And if she couldn't find it, she became the light for someone else.

It was the excessively ordinary things that made Nae so beautiful.

There are billions of people who now know her name, and it would be so easy to fall into the false belief that great heroic things are required to overcome difficult things in the world. But, as Tolkien wrote: "It is the small everyday deeds of ordinary folk that keep the darkness at bay. Small acts of kindness and love."

That's why the image of dandelions feels so right. People try to pull them up, overlook them, dismiss them—but they keep coming back. Stronger. Brighter. Spreading seeds of hope everywhere they land. Renée planted those seeds in all of us. In her children. In her family. In friends, coworkers, and people who maybe didn't even realize they needed her light at the time.

And sunlight—sunlight doesn't ask for recognition. It just gives. It warms, it nurtures, it helps things grow. Renée did that for us. She helped us grow. She helped us believe in ourselves. She helped us see the good, even when life felt heavy.

Renée is not gone from us—she's in the light that finds us on hard days. She's in the resilience we didn't know we had until we needed it. She's in the laughter, the memories, the love that continues to grow.

Like dandelions. Like sunlight.

And like Renée.

Thank you.