

Hi, my name is Jim Brown. I am a decorated retired Navy HMC SW AW FMF combat veteran.

I am a simple country man who grew up dirt poor living in a single parent household reliant on welfare.

I continued my medical knowledge from the Navy after retirement by working in healthcare as a CT technologist.

I have been living the American dream. That was until July 29th when ICE unlawfully detained my wife Donna Hughes-Brown.

Donna is an Irish citizen born in England to Irish parents in 1966. Her family moved to America in 1977 when Donna was 11 years old. She has lived here ever since and calls America her home. She has always been a Legal Permanent Resident Alien (green card holder) living here lawfully for 48 years.

Donna has always been gainfully employed and currently works as an in home health care worker. She has many clients who are currently missing her and depending on her to return to work ASAP. She even cared for a Korean War POW veteran who had no family and therefore she became his family (she even still cares for his dog which she promised him on his deathbed she would).

In 2012 and 2015 Donna fell on hard times financially. She was struggling and she wrote two bad checks (one in each year) to the local grocery store for less than \$60 total combined. She was charged with a misdemeanor and paid restitution and completed one year of probation.

She never in a million years expected that to come back and haunt her 10 years later. She visited England in 2016 to bring her granddaughter to meet her mum and was cleared to re enter America with no issues (remember this was AFTER her misdemeanor). So when Donna and I went to Ireland this July for her aunt's funeral we were completely blindsided when she was stopped and detained at O'Hare airport in Chicago AFTER clearing US Customs in Dublin, (which makes that flight a domestic flight, not an international flight). ICE refused me to accompany my wife and I was told she had to "sign some paperwork and would be on the next flight home" to St. Louis.

I patiently waited for Donna to call me to come pick her up after her flight but ICE decided to detain her and put her in a prisoner transport van for a 6 hour drive from IL to KY with no seatbelts and no food or water for 12 hours (by the time she and the others were checked in to the Campbell County Detention Center.) Since being detained there she has been degraded and subjected to absolutely awful conditions. I will spare you those details unless you request them.

The reason I am standing before you today is to plead for your support in the release of my loving wife. The Department of Homeland Security illegally changed her status from Legal Permanent Resident Alien to an "Arriving Alien" upon entering Chicago and cannot tell us why. According to USCIS (which is who issues the green cards) Donna is still a Legal Permanent Resident Alien lawfully able to live in America freely. DHS is also claiming that Donna is a "flight risk" for fleeing the country when she has literally left the country twice in the last 20 years. Her family means everything to her and this is where her kids and grandkids and myself are. The stress this situation has caused our family thinking about her possibly being deported is unimaginable.

Donna may not be perfect but she is an amazing Godly woman who cares for the elderly and disabled, has volunteered thousands of hours working with Equine Assisted Therapy programs and dog rescues. She is always keeping our local blessings boxes full of food for those that need it. She has provided help for hard hit areas of St. Louis when we were hit with a tornado. We made 2 round trips bringing supplies from MO to NC after hurricane Helene's destruction last year. She has worked at the USO and is a proud military Blue Star mom (her son is currently serving in the US Marines stationed in Okinawa). She organized supplies for her brother (a now retired Army Col) and his platoon when they were deployed to Bosnia.

So I ask you this question honestly. Does she sound like a hardened criminal that this administration and DHS and ICE claim they are removing from our streets? All while allowing this administration to pardon people in million dollar fraud cases.

I have a direct quote from ICE stating "Under the leadership of President Trump and Secretary Noem, ICE is prioritizing the removal of criminal alien offenders who POSE a THREAT to the public safety and the rule of law. Individuals who are in the United

States lawfully who have not violated immigration laws or committed crimes have no reason to fear enforcement actions.”

If your answer is no, then please please I beg you to help Donna achieve her freedom and put this nightmare behind her.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you about the devastating impact my wife’s detention has had on our whole family, retired veteran’s, current service members, and all American citizens.

Respectfully.

Jim Brown