

Good afternoon.

Earlier this week, the White House released the President's list of this year's Christmas pardons.

There are 29 pardons and 1 commutation on this list.

There are pardons for mail fraud and moon shining and yes eight pardons for drug dealers.

The President showed compassion for those thirty criminals. Yet there are two prisoners currently languishing in solitary confinement that the President deemed unworthy of this compassion. Two career law enforcement officers who want nothing else than to get back to work and defend the American people

from the likes of the eight drug dealers on the President's pardon list. I am speaking, of course, about Border Patrol agents Ignacio Ramos and Jose Compean.

The President's heartless ignoring of the fundamental miscarriage of justice in the case of agents Ramos and Compean is a personal snub to their families and a slap in the face to the millions of Americans who have asked the President to show some mercy to Ramos and Compean.

The President showed mercy to criminals and drug dealers, but couldn't find it in his heart to give any

benefit of the doubt to two Border Patrol Agents who risked their lives to protect our country. Again, he's sided with the drug dealers and criminals over law enforcement.

We had hoped that the bi-partisan resolution offered by my colleague, Mr. Delahunt, H. Con. Res. 267, and the statement of the 5<sup>th</sup> circuit court of appeals Judge Jolly that the "government overreacted" would have encouraged the President to allow agents Ramos and Compean to spend Christmas with their families.

The White House continues to hide behind the supposed policy of the that pardons must go through

a somewhat protracted procedure at the Justice Department. Yet, the handling of the Scooter Libby case exposes that falsehood. The President's stubborn and heartless side is all too evident in the case of Ramos and Compean, and this has been reconfirmed with the President's unwillingness to pardon Ramos and Compean, even as he frees drug dealers and criminals.

Let me be clear, there is still time to get these agents home for Christmas, and I urge the President to overcome his stubbornness and open his heart once more in this holiday season to the two people who most deserve is consideration. He can still pardon

agents Ramos and Compean and have them home by  
Christmas.