

**SECURING OUR BORDERS:
AN ACHIEVABLE GOAL IF THE ADMINISTRATION WANTED IT**

TWO 9/11 FSA MEMBERS VISIT THE ARIZONA-MEXICO BORDER

A 9/11 FSA MEMBER ASKS CONGRESS FOR MORE BORDER PATROL AGENTS

This past December, the President signed into law the Intelligence Reform Act which, in addition to reorganizing the intelligence gathering bureaucracy, also authorized an increase in each of the coming five fiscal years of 2,000 additional Border Patrol agents, 800 I.C.E (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) agents and 8,000 additional detention beds for illegal aliens subject to deportation. The total increases to be 10,000 Border Patrol, 4,000 I.C.E., and 40,000 beds.

It was recognized by nearly all that there is a horrendous lack of resources dedicated preventing illegal entry by "undocumented" aliens any of whom may be a terrorist or criminal. It was clearly understood that open borders played a role in allowing the 9/11 terrorists to enter our country and remain here unimpeded while they planned, rehearsed, financed and then carried out the murders of our 3,000 loved ones, and the destruction of the health of many thousands of others.

So it was shocking when this year Pres. Bush only requested funding for 210 instead of the authorized 2,000 B.P agents, 143 instead of 800 I.C.E. agents and 1,920 beds instead of 8,000. If any further proof was needed beyond his long abysmal record that the President does not want to secure our borders then his budget provided it.

On March 3, I was given the opportunity to testify before the House Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims about the President's failure to ask for full funding.

There were several Republican Sub-Committee members present and three Democrats: Sheila Jackson Lee, Zoe Lofgren and Loretta Sanchez. All three Democrats have long records of opposing any controls on illegal immigration. First to testify was Rep. Solomon Ortiz (D-Tex), also with a long record of opposing border controls.

The surprise was that Mr. Ortiz testified strongly IN FAVOR of full funding of the increase in Border Patrol, attacking the President for not caring about the welfare of Mr. Ortiz's constituents. He showed a video tape of illegals being dropped off at a bus station in his district by immigration agents, leaving them free to go wherever they wished. His demands for full funding of immigration agents were then echoed by Ms. Lofgren and Ms. Jackson Lee. Loretta Sanchez was silent.

It was quite a surprise to see the about face (at least in public) that these three Democrats did. (However, a few days later Ms. Lofgren reaffirmed her opposition to any restrictions that would prevent illegal aliens from getting drivers' licenses. So much for conviction.)

In February, Tom Ridge, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security left office. On his way out the door, he made a statement to the effect that it was useless to try to control the border as it was not possible to do it. Surely it was not a coincidence that within a few days of leaving public "service" Ridge joined the Board of Directors of Home Depot, one of the nation's worst supporters of open borders.

The question must be asked: how long was Tom Ridge representing the interests of the corporation that would be paying him rather than the interests of the people of the U.S.?

Ridge may say it is not possible to secure our borders, but Bruce DeCell and I can give personal testimony that in fact our borders CAN be controlled. We saw it done last November.

Bruce and I spent five days in Arizona along the Mexican border and what we saw shows that Mr. Ridge either has no clue about homeland security or, his future employment possibilities overwhelmed his integrity.

In those five days on the border, *five days in the period immediately before Election Day*, the Border Patrol was allowed to do its job and in places usually overrun by illegal aliens there were almost no illegals.

IN ARIZONA

With the President now betraying his promise of last year, when he signed the bill increasing the Border Patrol, ICE and number of detention beds, it seems that this is the time to describe what Bruce and I saw on that trip.

Bruce and I started in Phoenix where local activists showed us the local Mexican Consulate with dozens of illegal aliens in line to get Matricula Cards. (These cards will enable them to get drivers' licenses in about a dozen states, and are accepted as "I.D." by numerous cities and counties that want to help them evade immigration law). We saw dozens and dozens of stores that have booths where money can be sent across the borders by illegal aliens. (Matricula cards happily accepted as "proof" of identity.) On one intersection there were six places to send money, including one in a liquor store and one in a Laundromat. Thus, does thirty billion dollars get drained out of the US economy every single year.

We continued to Sierra Vista where we met with Glenn Spencer of American Patrol. He pointed out the nearby Fort Huachuca Army base where the Army trains intelligence officers. The Fort is also a main "highway" for illegals on the way north. It would seem that our government deems the Army competent to fight AlQaeda in Afghanistan and Iraq, but not able to stop illegal immigration at an Army base in Arizona. Perhaps Mr. Ridge considers this also "impossible." Perhaps if Home Depot could open a store on the base Mr. Ridge might see financial gain in that.

In Sierra Vista we visited the location where a van carrying 17 illegals northward was trying to outrun the police. The van hit and killed two elderly US citizens. US taxpayers then paid for eleven helicopters to bring the illegals to Level 1 Trauma Centers as far away as Phoenix, 200 air miles away. Unfortunately, there no longer is a trauma center in Sierra Vista. It had to shut down because illegal aliens had used it as a walk-in clinic and the hospital could no longer afford to keep it open. Too bad for the US citizens who live there.

We then visited Naco. This town is AT the border and immediately across the border, as if a continuation of the US town is a Mexican town which illustrates how clearly the Mexican government has failed its own people, and why so many go north.

On the US side we saw a trailer that had been the terminus of a drug tunnel from the Mexican side. The President likes to proclaim that family values "don't end at the border" but near there the drug tunnels do.

The Army Corp of Engineers was upgrading fence between the two towns to make it more difficult for illegals to cross the border using the towns as concealment. For years a local drainage ditch has been a virtual magnet for illegal crossers. Better late than never.

Then on to Douglas, Arizona. At the border there is a tall fence. At the top is an overhanging extension built at an angle to make it more difficult to climb over the fence at its top. However, instead of that overhang facing the MEXICAN side, it faces the US side, because, according to Sen. John McCain's spokesman in the Tucson office, having it face the proper way was going to "offend" the Mexican government. Instead it "offends" all those Americans who are trying to escape the US and flee to Mexico.

Sen. McCain, by the way proudly displays on his desk a two foot tall award presented to him by La Raza. Perhaps getting the fence turned around the wrong way helped him win the award.

We then went to a large ranch in southeast Arizona which is used as a highway, latrine, garbage dump, drug smuggling route, etc by thousands of illegals every year.

Oddly enough, in these days preceding the Presidential and Arizona US Senate election, the ranchers found no illegals!

Instead what was to be seen was the Border Patrol in greater numbers than usual with mobile checkpoints on Arizona Route 80 which runs east to New Mexico, and in other locations not usually blessed with such resources by our government.

Along the way we saw the homes of Americans who, because their President and other public officials have abandoned them, must sleep with loaded pistols at their bedsides because so many of them have been attacked by illegal aliens "just going to America for a job."

It seems probable that if Sen. McCain's home and Pres. Bush's ranch were being invaded by criminals on a regular basis that we might actually see year around what was being seen on the Arizona-Mexico border just before they ran for re-election: a real presence by the Border Patrol.