



The families of the victims of September 11, 2001
www.911fsa.org Phone: (860) 927 3822
PO Box 156 Hawley, PA. 18428

9/11 families for a secure America

2005 YEAR END REPORT TO OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Throughout 2005 9/11 FSA was very active in the effort to secure our borders and prevent terrorists from entering to our country. Our members lobbied extensively in Congress and state capitols; we have testified before a Congressional committee, we have appeared on numerous television news programs and radio talk shows; have given many newspaper interviews and been quoted extensively in wire service reports.

OUR CONTRIBUTION TO PASSAGE OF THE REAL ID ACT

The most important secure borders achievement of 2005 was passage of the REAL ID Act, for which 9/11 FSA members lobbied from August 2004 until its passage in May 2005. Our members spent hundreds of hours going door to door in the Senate and House office buildings speaking to Members and staffers. In addition, 9/11 FSA sent to Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist a letter signed by over six hundred relatives of 9/11 victims supporting passage of REAL ID.

It is fair to say that without the work of 9/11 FSA in support of REAL ID the bill would not have passed.

Rep. James Sensenbrenner, main sponsor of the bill said this of our group: **"I am honored to have had the opportunity to work with 9-11 Families for a Secure America. It has become the preeminent organization representing family members of the victims of 9-11. Its members have selflessly devoted themselves to improving our Nation's security so that no other American families ever have to suffer the torment they have experienced. The tireless efforts of the members of 9-11 Families for a Secure America have made a decisive impact on the debate in the halls of Congress over homeland security and immigration reform and played an integral role in our recent success in making our borders more secure. Much remains to be done and I look forward to continuing to work with this fine organization. "**

REAL ID denies federal recognition to the licenses of those states that do not verify that applicants are whom they claim to be and that they are legally in the USA. (The 9/11 terrorists held dozens of authentic US licenses, and these were the ID that helped them murder our loved ones. Because every illegal alien is a person whose true identity is unknown, any illegal alien may be a terrorist.) By preventing illegals and the unknown terrorists among them from obtaining this all important identity document, REAL ID will greatly contribute to the war on terror.

Over six hundred powerful and wealthy open borders groups opposed passage of REAL ID because, in making it infinitely more difficult for terrorists to get licenses, illegals would also be denied. Among the groups and individuals opposing REAL ID were: ACLU, US Chamber of Commerce, American Immigration Lawyers Assn, National Immigration Forum, National Assn of Manufacturers, George Soros, AFL-CIO, LaRaza, United Methodist Church, Catholic Charities, Inc.

In their attempt to defeat REAL ID, the ACLU and many other groups lied to the American people. These groups claimed that the bill would create a "national ID card" that would invade our privacy, and that it would permit police officers to randomly approach people on the street and 'demand to see your papers.' Despite these scare tactics, the Open Borders Lobby was defeated in a 261 to 161 bi-partisan vote in the House. The Senate reluctantly passed REAL ID as part of an appropriations bill. Pres. Bush signed it into law on May 11, 2005.

REAL ID is important not just for what it enacts into law but because it sends a powerful message to the Open Borders Lobby and their mouthpieces in Washington that Americans have had enough of special interests which expose this country to foreign terrorism so that the Open Borders interests can profit.

The greatest threat to passage of REAL ID was in the Senate, which today continues to represent the interests of the open borders profiteers. The senators who led the fight to defeat REAL ID were seven Democrats: Joe Lieberman (Conn), Patrick Leahy (Vt), Hillary Clinton (NY), Edward Kennedy (Mass), Ken Salazar (Colo), Richard Durbin (Ill), Diane Feinstein (Calif). And six Republicans: John McCain (Ariz), John Sununu (N.H.), Richard Lugar (Ind), Chuck Hagel (Neb), Larmar Alexander (Tenn.), Sam Brownback (Kans.)

Additional 9/11 FSA work in Congress

In 2005, Senators Lieberman, Collins, McCain and others had done their best to eliminate all secure border provisions of the so-called 9/11 Commission Implementation Bill. Despite their efforts, the bill authorized increases of 2000 Border Patrol agents, 800 ICE agents and 8,000 detention beds for illegals in each of the next five fiscal years. Continuing his efforts to keep our border open Pres. Bush only asked for 210 BP agents, 143 ICE agents and 1920 beds.

9/11 FSA president Peter Gadiel and Board of Advisors member Mike Cutler both testified before the House Immigration Subcommittee asking for funding for the full numbers permitted. Funding for the full numbers authorized was restored.

9/11 FSA sent letters to a dozen members of the House and Senate in support of secure borders measures they introduced, and copies of those letters were distributed to their colleagues. Our letters were distributed by Sen. Jeff Sessions, and Representatives Nathan Deal, Elton Gallegly, John Gingrey, Duncan Hunter, Charles Norwood, and Patrick McHenry.

In addition to Mr. Sensenbrenner, Representatives Tom Tancredo, John Culberson, and Elton Gallegly have written statements describing the effectiveness of our work in affecting the work of Congress.

OTHER 9/11 FSA WORK

In March we held a forum for 9/11 family members and friends at the Marriott Financial Center near Ground Zero. Speaking were: NY State Motor Vehicle Commissioner Ray Martinez; retired INS Agent Mike Cutler and Rosemary Jenks of Numbers USA.

Our members also appeared with Comm'r Martinez to support his heroic efforts which have made the NY driver's license one of the nation's most secure. He has been attacked by open borders lobbyists and sued by groups supported by the ACLU.

In April many 9/11 FSA members participated in the Keep Their Feet to the Fire Event sponsored by the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) and Roger Hedgecock. This event allowed our members to speak to people all over the country on the many radio stations participating.

In May 9/11 FSA members spoke at a forum for immigration reform volunteers in Nashville sponsored by the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR)

In June, Joan Molinaro, Mike Cutler and Peter Gadiel all spoke at a Las Vegas meeting of immigration reform leaders and volunteers.

We endorsed the successful efforts of a coalition of 9/11 family groups led by Debra Burlingame to force removal of the "International Freedom Center" from the World Trade Center site. The IFC, a museum promoted by the likes of George Soros, the ACLU and other anti-American activists would have demeaned the memories of those murdered on 9/11. The IFC promoters are all people deeply involved in efforts to "prove" that the US provokes such attacks. These same people and groups are also promoters of open borders policies and would have propagandized in favor of illegal immigration.

IN THE STATES

We have been active in Maryland, Connecticut, New York, Illinois, Arizona, Maine, New Hampshire and California and elsewhere in supporting legislation to secure our borders. We have also endorsed the work of the Minutemen Project.

In the new year you can be sure that we will be more active than ever. We will never forget those who were murdered on September 11, 2001. In addition we will increase our efforts to enlist in the cause of securing our borders those who have lost loved ones because of street crimes and vehicular accidents committed by those who are illegally in our country.