

All the 9/11 family members know that their loved ones died b/c the gov't failed to live up to its most basic obligation to its citizens... to protect them from foreign attack.

They know that the government failed in the areas of foreign and domestic intelligence.

They know it failed by not responding with enough force to the string of terrorist attacks perpetrated against American citizens throughout the 1990's

And they know it failed to maintain control of our borders.

THAT failure, to enforce the law and limit the # of immigrants or even attempt to screen them for the purpose of keeping out criminals or terrorists led directly to the 9/11 attacks and the deaths of our loved ones.

When a problem in the fed government is of recent origin or hidden from view we can't hold our elected officials responsible immediately.

But when a problem is massive, obvious, open and notorious and of 30 yrs' duration then we can fairly say to the various Pres and the Members of Congress who permitted and even encouraged this situation:

YOU KNEW! Yet you failed to act. Thus, the deaths of 3000 innocent people are directly attributable to your neglect of duty. You are guilty!

Congress, eager to evade public recognition of its guilt, has blamed the INS.

But the INS was merely a creature of Congress and the Executive Branch.

Its existence..its policies..its regulations, its funding and its staffing all were subject to the absolute control of the Pres and the Cong. Thus, the attempt by our elected officials to shift the blame to anonymous bureaucrats is both dishonest and shameful.

Consistent with their policy of evasion Members of Congress have continued to claim that the obvious and essential reforms that would reduce the threat "cannot" be enacted into law.

Opponents of real immigration reform claim that putting troops on our borders would endanger our freedom. Yet, to say this is to say that having an open border where ANYONE, terrorists included, can freely enter our country somehow protects our freedom.

They say that deputizing hundreds of thousands of State and local police to enforce our immigration law would undermine law enforcement. Yet, to say this is to claim that having one thousand 8 HUNDRED federal officers assigned to finding the over10 MILLION illegal aliens who are now in our country somehow helps maintain respect for the law and is not a threat to the citizens who have a right to demand that the law be enforced.

Opponents of immigration reform claim that we must grant amnesty to 8 million people who broke the law by entering this country illegally because....well because having the FBI do millions of background checks will not detract from its ability to fight terrorism.

In truth, those Members of Congress, of both parties, who oppose immigration reform have made individual political calculations and decided that what is necessary for the security of our country might, in the short run, cost them the support of organized special interests.

But independent polls show that 70% to 90% of American want drastic and immediate immigration reform.

Sooner or later this overwhelming majority of citizens WILL learn that the biggest obstacle to greater security is located on Capitol Hill. Sooner or later, that mass of Americans WILL, having been pushed too far, turn on those who have blocked the changes that are needed to protect us all from more 9/11s

I say, on behalf of my son and the other 3000 dead and their families that not only is Congress guilty of contributing to these deaths, but, unwilling to enact reforms, you will have on your hands the blood of the victims of the next 9/11.

I ask the Members: what will your political futures look like if, by that time, Americans have attached to blame where it belongs...with you.

Shortly after the 9/11 attacks, Pres Bush stood on the ruins of the World Trade Center, **the only tomb my son will ever know**, and said: "I hear you."

Well, Mr. Bush with your refusal to support immigration reform you've shown you haven't heard us. And Misters. Daschle, Kerry, Lieberman, Graham, Dean, you haven't heard us.

We are serving notice on you here today that we will be heard. We will do our best to make sure that the Americans know that on this issue you oppose the vast majority of your countrymen.

We can never regain what was taken from us on 9-11. Our loved ones can never be brought back to us. You **will not** continue to ignore us.