

# Denver Post

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## Border fears wrongly tied to 9/11 pain

By Jim Spencer  
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**Thursday, September 11, 2003** - WASHINGTON - Four of them gathered Wednesday in Longworth Park amid red flowers, sparkling white fountain and blue skies. It was a bright venue to recall a dark day. Each of the four lost a family member in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Each found an object of scorn for their misery:

America's immigration policy.

Introduced by Rep. Tom Tancredo, a Colorado Republican and an outspoken critic of illegal immigration, the grieving survivors laid into the folks at the Capitol down the street and at the White House around the corner. The House, the Senate and the president had failed to control the borders, the survivors told reporters at a news conference organized by Tancredo and the rest of the congressional immigration reform caucus.

There are as many as 13 million illegal immigrants in America, Tancredo said as staffers stretched out a scroll with the names of those who died at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"As we pursue wars in far-off lands and ignore our borders," there are consequences, Tancredo said. "And 9/11 is an example of one of those consequences."

Speaker after speaker said the blood of the 3,016 victims of the terrorist attacks stains the politicians who didn't restrain illegal border crossings before. The blood of future terrorist victims, they added, will fall on leaders who in the past two years have done nothing to stem the tide of illegals.

Yes, they hate the monsters who hijacked planes and crashed them into buildings. But they reserved as much anger for a culture of diversity that didn't protect their families.

"My wife ... was murdered by foreign nationals who should never have had the opportunity," said Lynn Faulkner.

"Some of the animals who planned Sept. 11 are still out there, possibly sitting next to you at a traffic light."

In his anguish, Faulkner, a soft-spoken man from Cincinnati, replaced the politics of multiculturalism with the politics of fear.

To a degree, so did Grace Godshalk, Tom Meehan and Peter Gadiel, the other

speakers. All are good people. All deserve sympathy. Finally, though, their problem is America's problem. All of us have endured inconsolable tragedy. But what happened two years ago is as complex as we are inconsolable.

The terrorists attacked America for its freedom, for its ability not only to tolerate so many lifestyles, religions and beliefs simultaneously, but to thrive while doing so. You saw it walking away from Wednesday's news conference. Here was a guy scraping paint off a townhouse listening to a Spanish-language radio station. The waiter at the restaurant around the corner is from Southeast Asia. The hotel doorman two blocks away came from Africa. Maybe they all have green cards. Maybe they don't. Hundreds of folks passing by on the street didn't care enough to confront them. Nor were they afraid enough to avoid them.

A lot of conspiracy theories make sense in the 9/11 attacks. Illegal immigration isn't among them. The reasoning tortures those who push the argument.

Godshalk seems open-minded. She chairs the Board of Supervisors of Lower Makefield Township, Pa. But Wednesday, Godshalk included the Rockefeller and Ford foundations as accessories to 9/11 because both fund "ethnic-based pressure groups" that want open borders in order to "bring more of their ethnic brothers" to this country.

"Many of the hijackers used student visas to get into this country," added Godshalk, whose son Bill called minutes before a plane crashed into the World Trade Center tower where he worked. "Do universities know the role they played in my son's death? We need to slow the visa-issuing process."

Let's say we do. Now what?

"Nearly all of the hijackers had driver's licenses," Gadiel said. There should be no driver's licenses for illegal immigrants, as California Gov. Gray Davis just allowed, Gadiel argued.

Forget for the moment that most of the hijackers entered on legal visas that they overstayed. Let's grant Gadiel's wish. No driver's licenses for illegal immigrants.

Are we safe yet?

OK, then, let's do what Godshalk called for and Tancredo suggested. Give up the war in Iraq, and station troops along the border.

Secure now?

Tancredo may have answered that question. Recently, he said, he went to Idaho to watch a Marine drill. A hundred Marines, backed by radar and three unmanned drone aircraft, controlled 100 miles of border splendidly, the congressman reported.

Great. That's one man per mile. The U.S. has about 18,000 miles of border and coastline. So there it is - a permanent military force of 18,000 perched on the country's edges, fighting to keep people out of a society that grows racially limited

and culturally inbred as its parts become indistinguishable.

Now, that might just be a country terrorists wouldn't attack.

Not because they couldn't, but because they wouldn't want to.

*Jim Spencer's column appears Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays in The Denver Post. Contact him at 303-820-1771.*