

greatly credited to the labor of the Chinese immigrants. Today, there are over 14 million Asian Pacific Americans living in the United States and this represents 5 percent of the population.

The rich history associated with the Asian Pacific American population has been a great contribution to the culture of the United States.

Over the years, the Asian Pacific American communities have made significant contributions to Texas's diverse culture.

The United States is a land of immigrants, and the history reflects a Nation that has greatly benefited from the many contributions of its immigrants.

The Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce (GDAACC) is the largest Asian American Chamber in the United States with 1,200 members currently enrolled.

Located in the Asian Trade District in Northwest Dallas, GDAACC, is the focal point of Asian American economic development and cultural exchange.

In recent years, due to great efforts to expand the number of programs that provide assistance to members, sponsors and partners, the GDAACC initiated the Asian Festival and approximately 15,000 people were in attendance.

GDAACC is also responsible for initiating the Leadership Tomorrow Program; the Multi-Ethnic Education and Economic Development Center; and the Texas Asian American Business Symposium in Dallas, Texas.

The Asian Pacific American community is well deserving of the many accolades they receive because their contributions have greatly enriched the culture and history of our Nation.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for half the time remaining before midnight.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, as always, I very much appreciate the privilege to address you, Mr. Speaker, and in so doing addressing this great United States of America House of Representatives.

I am a bit breathless because I hustled over here to arrive at the appointed time; and I thank my colleagues, hopefully, they filibustered a few minutes on my behalf as good friends likely would.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak to you about a few issues about border control especially on the southern border and primarily on the southern border. I have long spoken about the policy that I think we need to have with regard to the immigration policy across the Nation, about domestic enforcement and shutting off the jobs magnet, and also about the need to stop the bleeding at our southern border.

And so I had gone down to the border about a year ago and spent a long weekend down there, at least 3 days on the ground and in the air, as a guest of the Border Patrol and some of the other agencies that operate the security along the border. And I was given a very good tour and a few rides in hel-

icopters at night and also in the daytime, shining the night sun down along our border to identify where there might be illegals that have come across or future illegals preparing to come across. And I stopped and visited some of the stations and their equipment and talked to the men. I was impressed with the quality of the team people that they had assembled, the equipment they had assembled, and the tactics they had. Yet in that full long weekend, I did not actually see activity which would indicate to a reasonable person that there was not activity to be seen.

In spite all of those hours in the air and the hours on the ground and the night vision equipment, I did not again see any illegal activities, although I got many reports of the success of the interdiction of our border patrol and our other agencies.

Well, as I listen to the debate here in the House of Representatives, Mr. Speaker, and the testimony that comes before the immigration subcommittee which I sit upon, and I sit in those hearings two, three, even four times a week and we will have four, sometimes eight witnesses giving us credible data and good well-informed information on this issue from both sides of the issue, Mr. Speaker, and always the years, the cumulative information has built in me after those years of sitting on the immigration subcommittee, I began to think that I have a pretty decent broad background on the subject. And yet there was a gap, Mr. Speaker, there was a gap in that subject because I had not gone down and spent time on the border more or less unguided, more or less outside the scope of the Border Patrol, but gone ahead and gone down to the border and looked under all the stones and met with the people that were actually more likely to be more frank with me.

So that was my mission this past weekend where I spent perhaps as much as 4 days on the ground in Arizona. And the goal was to meet with the people that are enforcing our laws down there, the ones that are out in the night and those people who have seen this bleeding, this hemorrhaging at our border firsthand, that can describe to me the scope of the bleeding in our southern border.

Mr. Speaker, I am here to say tonight that it is astonishing. It is far worse than I had imagined and my imagination was fairly strong. My predictions and the numbers that I put out were fairly aggressive, at least viewed by some of my critics. But there is nothing I saw down on the border over the weekend, Mr. Speaker, that would cause me to believe that I have overstated the numbers of people who are illegally crossing our border or the amount of drugs, illegal drugs, that are coming across our border, or the amount of violence that is visited because of the drug problem both south of the border, north of the border, and the violence that goes throughout the

drug culture in America and the collateral damage to the victims that may not be associate with that at all, but happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time and are victims of murder, victims of negligent homicide generally in the form of a car accident where the driver who was at fault was under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

So what I did, Mr. Speaker, was go down to visit in a region, starting out on Friday, in a region south of Tucson, south and a little bit east of Tucson. I first met with a special agent who briefed me on a lot of information that had been coming by this individual on a consistent basis. And then I went to Bisbee, Arizona, where I went on down then to the border there to Naco, Arizona, right on the border with Mexico. That is a location that has seen a fair amount of violence and a lot of concentration of illegal traffic going along the border. They finally decided to establish and build a fence, Mr. Speaker.

I was guided to that location by a retired Border Patrol officer and a rancher from that region, both with a passion of patriotism for America, both that have a memory of growing up in an America and that part of Arizona that was a different kind of country than it is today. It was then a place that they could feel safe in their streets and safe in their homes and walk the streets and not lock their homes. And today that region has been flooded with just thousands and tens of thousands and perhaps hundreds of thousands of illegals, many of them carrying illegal drugs through that region.

And cars drive across the border where sometimes there had been an existing fence that was built originally to contain livestock, that fence has essentially been systematically broken down, and vehicles with drugs and illegals in them would drive right through the gaps in the fence, sometimes drive through the fence, and take off across the desert or cut across over to a highway and get up on the highway. And once they were on the highway, for a little ways they were gone, they were free, they were in America, not ever to be captured again, not ever to be accountable again unless they were just simply victims of bad luck.

They realized the magnitude of this problem at Naco, Arizona, and went in and built a fence through there, Mr. Speaker. It is built out of interlocking steel that sometimes can be 10 feet high or higher and then above that in some cases they have welded a kind of wire mesh that goes up another 4 to 6 feet. And when they originally built the fence, people said it would not work. It cannot work. People will go over it. They will go through. They will go under it, or they will go around it. In fact, they do go around it, Mr. Speaker.

At one point they picked up a cutting torch and cut a hole through it and made their own gate in that solid steel fence, and that was a pathway by

which people and drugs traveled into the United States, and some went back through that gate. And the patrol went there and welded the gate shut, and as they kept some maintenance up on the fence, the other side essentially gave up on trying to breach the fence.

□ 2230

Now, the illegal traffic goes around the end as one reason, rather than trying to find a way through a barrier that is a good solid barrier that has been very, very effective.

The Border Patrol officer whom I was there with and the rancher whom I was there with said look at this, and they described the problem they used to have about the thousands of people pouring across there. They said: We do not have that problem anymore. This community is safer than it was. It is more secure than it was. There is far less illegal traffic going through here. There is far less crime of all kinds, far less violence, and far fewer illegal drugs in this community because we built a barrier that kept the elements out that were eroding our quality of life in Naco, Arizona.

That was an interesting trip, and they took me out along the border where that fence essentially stops and diminishes in some locations. There is nothing there, not even a way to define where the border is between the United States and Mexico, but simply open places where illegals can walk across the border and one location just in a dry river bed or they would not be seen by night vision. They were protected by the shrubbery and vegetation. They could simply walk down from Mexico into the United States unimpeded, unobstructed, unobserved and become shadow people here in the United States doing whatever they do.

They were strong advocates of the border barrier and one that is solidly built and one that can be efficient and is becoming a tool that could very much support our law enforcement and let them focus their energy on plans that could be more effective than riding herd on a broad length of an unprotected border. It is ridiculous to think that we could ever hire enough people to sit along the border, especially at night, and watch people come across and then catch them rather than put in a fence that would not allow them to come across in the first place.

That was Naco, Arizona, and again, I learned a lot about the culture and the level of corruption on the south side of the border. It was an interesting conversation.

From there, I went down then to the reservation and was a guest of a number of the Shadow Wolves who are part of the Customs and Border Patrol. Actually, today, they are a part of the Border Patrol. They have been shifted to that, but it is on the Tohono O'odham Reservation, and on the reservation the Native Americans control that land. They have support of the

Border Patrol, but they have had an organization there called the Shadow Wolves. They are Federal employees and their responsibility is to guard the border and interdict illegal drugs and illegal aliens. They are focusing on illegal drugs. Their peak recruitment, the top numbers there, Mr. Speaker; were 22, and when they were 22 strong, in fact, that does not sound like a very large group given the size of the reservation and given the miles of border that they have to protect, and I believe that number is 76 miles of border protected and controlled by 22 Shadow Wolves, members of the Tohono O'odham tribe on the reservation; but those 22, in the period of a year, I have got to dig up the statistics so I will be able to release those and publish those, Mr. Speaker, but the information I received, that they had interdicted more illegal drugs in a 12-month period of time with 22 of their Shadow Wolves than all 2,000 Border Patrol agents did in that entire sector for the same period of time.

That is an extraordinary example of effectiveness and efficiency, Mr. Speaker; and it is the kind of thing that we here in this Congress need to endorse and support and encourage and fund and authorize and protect and encourage and enhance, do all of things that we can do to identify the best among us, to encourage them, to grow that culture off beyond the bounds of the reservation, take that same culture of efficiency and enforcement on to the other reservations, whether Native American tribes that control land on our national boundaries with our neighbors, and the level of success that has been there has not been rewarded. It has not been encouraged. It has not been enhanced by the Border Patrol who seems to want to be seeking to undermine their efforts and absorb them into the broader Border Patrol, in which case, if they did that, the Shadow Wolves would lose their identity.

These people have an extraordinary amount of character and courage and conviction and pride in what they do; but like anyone, if they do not see a reward for that, if they do not see some kind of encouragement, if they do not understand that here in Congress we are supporting them, eventually they will be assimilated into the Border Patrol and their level of efficiency will be assimilated into the broader overall level of efficiency in the Border Patrol.

Now, I do not mean to imply that the Border Patrol is not efficient or that they may not have the kind of personnel that I would like to see. In fact, they have some very extraordinarily, brave, noble, hardworking officers, and many of them. The structure has become big and it has become difficult to be efficient. So I am not here to discourage them. I am here to encourage them, and I often shake their hands and thank them for what they do because they are the last line of defense along our border to protect us from the incursions of millions that take place

in this country every single night, Mr. Speaker.

But what I saw from the Shadow Wolves was not only some of the history in their legacy and their efficiency and effectiveness, but I went out in the field with them and watched the way that they follow the border. When they see that there has been a border crossing there, they will pick up that sound, that track if you will, and they will follow that track down and hunt down the illegals. Sometimes they are carrying backpacks of illegal drugs. Sometimes they are just people entering the United States illegally, but they will find that track and get on a trot and follow that track and trace them to where they are, pick them up and detain them and then process them in a fashion in accordance with law.

Again, their effort has been extraordinary in some of the things that they showed and taught me, too much to go in depth here, Mr. Speaker, on the floor of the House of Representatives, but quite a lot of extraordinary skill that appears to me would be very constructive if it could be passed along to other agencies out there, particularly the broader Border Patrol.

But the culture is there as well as more important the skills to protect the culture of the Shadow Wolves. It is extraordinary. I was impressed with what they do, and I intend to support and encourage and enhance them. I will be looking for a way legislatively to demonstrate my commitment to their commitment to protect our border and defend us against the illegal incursions into the United States and the thousands and thousands of pounds of illegal drugs that come across our border every single day, many of them still pouring through the Tohono O'odham Reservation and in spite of the best efforts of the now-shrunken Shadow Wolves, down from 22 to 16 to cover those 76 miles of border fence. So, again, I have been extraordinarily impressed, but they have done their job.

From there, I traveled outside the reservation and went over then to the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge and met with some people there, some national parks people and Department of the Interior forest rangers. Seventy-five percent of their work, which they signed up to do, would be to protect our natural resources, preserve our parks, enhance our parks, let Mother Nature be enhanced there so that the visiting public could come into these locations, like the Cabeza Prieta National Refuge, and be able to appreciate Mother Nature in its purest form.

That is why our forest rangers and our park officers got into the business, because they appreciate wildlife. They appreciate our plant life. They appreciate how the species of nature have balanced in these regions and how they have grown, and they try to enhance that.

They find that 75 percent of their time, their Border Patrol officers even, 75 percent of their time is spent protecting the border, 75 percent of the

time keeping illegals and illegal drugs out of the park, not a successful effort I might add, and perhaps a futile effort, but an effort that needs to be attempted nonetheless.

With dozens and dozens of abandoned vehicles sitting out across the national wildlife refuge, vehicles that have blazed a trail through there and hundreds of miles of roads have been carved through that national wildlife refuge because that was the most expeditious route for smugglers to drive their suburbans and their 4-wheel drive pickups and you name your vehicle, there, and there will be somebody else behind you, and the next night another and another and another. That formerly pristine desert turns into sometimes a 200-foot wide path after it has been pounded in the desert with traffic enough times it turns into what they call moon dust, just loose dust that lays there in ruts in a way that you can get stuck in that dust, 200 feet wide perhaps.

Before, this was a few less than 10 years ago, in fact, starting about 1998, was when these border incursions began and when they began to create these roads and these trails and tear up our natural resources. The people that are dying in an attempt to get across the desert have gone from a couple of years ago or 3 years ago 150, 175 a year, now across our southern border, as many as 450 a year do not make it across the desert when they seek to walk into the United States. They die of hypothermia, they die of exposure, they die of dehydration, more dehydration than anything else. The desert is not very forgiving, and some of them are not very well prepared. They are not very well-guided, and that human tragedy is exacerbated by the damage to our natural resources which I had a, I will say, less than enhanced appreciation for.

Mr. Speaker, I really learned to respect and appreciate the work that is done by our Department of the Interior, as well as the value of the resources that they are seeking to protect. A case in point I think illustrates this better than anything else would be a rare species of a bat, a long nose bat, and this is an endangered species. It only lives and reproduces in four caves, and those caves are all down in that region.

One of those caves was a cave that was frequented consistently by the illegals who would go up into the region, and then their guide and their track would take them to this cave where the baby bats were born. They began taking a stop off and temporary residence in the cave to the point where they scared the bats off and they would not come back in.

The long nose bat, the lesser long nose bat, left the cave, would not come back to reproduce, and so our National Park Service looked at that situation, said we have to protect this resource; and if this happens in the other three caves, there will be no place for these

bats to reproduce, who knows if they will become extinct.

So they put up a wrought iron fence around the opening to this cave, cost \$75,000, and there is other labor that was not tallied in, put the wrought iron fence around the cave, and it was built in way to keep the illegals out of the cave. Fortunately, the lesser long nose bats returned to the cave, and they are in there now living there and reproducing, but think about it for a moment if you would, Mr. Speaker, the effect of building a fence just around the entrance of the cave that provided a deterrent that allowed the bats to come back and live there again and reproduce and fly out, and they are really essential. They are essential then to the pollination of certain cactus out there in the desert, without which the cactus would not survive. It has a whole set of chain reactions.

I am submitting that we build a fence on the border because it is a lot cheaper to do than it is to build a fence around everything that is threatened from the illegals and the drug trade that comes from our southern border.

That was the lesson there at the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, that being a second stop or actually a third stop along the way; and then from there I went on over to Organ Pipe National Cactus Monument. Organ Pipe is another national monument location, and that is the location where the National Park Service officer, his name was Chris Eggle, was killed in a shootout with drug lords near the Mexican border in the park property.

I went there with his father, Bob. I visited the location where the shooting took place, where he stood, where the shooter laid, where he fell, where there is a monument there today that was built and placed by his father, Bob, and his mother, Bonnie. Well, they brought stones from their farm in Michigan down to place around the monument, and there is a cross and a picture and a place to remember where this happened, where it happened that Chris was killed by a drug lord or at least an employee of a drug lord who had driven across the Mexican border where there was no barrier. When he was being under hot pursuit by the Mexican police and his vehicle broke down and collapsed and stopped across the border into the United States and Chris Eggle and his partner were called in on that scene, as they split up and converged on the location where the drug smuggler was, Chris was ambushed with an AK-47 that had been brought into the United States, illegal, of course, on a vehicle that was illegal, with drugs that were illegal, across a border that was undefined, let alone defined with a barrier.

□ 2245

Had there been a vehicle barrier there, had there been a fence there, Chris Eggle would be alive today. He is not.

There is a memorial there at the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument that memorializes him as well. I talked to many of his coworkers that were there. His spirit is alive and his spirit is strong today. The happy Chris Eggle is the one that is remembered. Although he is not with us, his spirit is with us and his sacrifice is something we need to remember.

He is not the only one. He is not the first one. I pray he will be the last one, but I saw nothing down there that would indicate to me, Mr. Speaker, that he will be the last one.

That tragedy taught them something at Organ Pipe after the tragedy of Chris' death at the hands of the drug runner whom the Mexicans were chasing into the United States; and by the way, that drug runner was subsequently shot and killed by the Mexican police department. He was in the United States and shot from their side of the border. That is not an issue with me, but as a matter of full disclosure, I point that out, Mr. Speaker. The lesson learned from that was to close the border, at least shut off the vehicle traffic.

So they have built a vehicle barrier along Organ Pipe and it is most of the way along the Organ Pipe National Monument. It is perhaps 32 miles altogether. As I look at that and travel along the side of that border, it is built so that steel posts full of concrete set in the ground, and then it has got horizontal barriers, about two of those, one about eye height and one about half-way up, designed so that vehicles can't drive through it, but the desert pronghorn can run through it and jack-rabbits can run through it and any kind of wildlife can go back and forth through there.

They had trouble with cattle moving in from Mexico, so they stretched a couple of barbed wires in there to keep the cattle on the Mexican side. Of course those barbed wires were cut because the people who were jumping the border thought it was an obstruction to have to climb over one barbed wire, so they cut the fence.

We drove through and picked a place where the illegal traffic was going across and they were demonstrating how that tracking takes place as they did with the Shadow Wolves on their reservation. What I saw in a number of places, it got to where you could pick it out easily, every night, traffic coming into the national monument and paths that are beaten so smooth, one of the officers said, Well, one day we'll shut off this illegal traffic and it will be a nice path for citizens to come down here and visit our park, because it is already smoothed out, it is kind of graded out by all the foot traffic.

In fact, in one of those locations, Mr. Speaker, the traffic goes across the fence and right by a sign and the sign says, Do not enter into the United States.

This is a dangerous place. The sun is hot. You can die in the desert. There

isn't water for you. There are snakes. There are scorpions. It's dangerous. Turn back. Cynically, the path goes right by the sign. The sign is in Spanish. If they can read, they can read that. But in a way, I think it is cynically they go by that sign just to send us a message.

Fifty-eight percent of Mexicans believe they have a right to come to the United States. Mr. Speaker, they are utterly wrong, but we need to convey that message to them so that they can understand that the United States needs to be committed to enforcing our borders.

The incidents that happened down there illustrate what I saw. First, the argument, as I asked the officers, retired Border Patrol or current officers who were at the point of retiring or quitting and giving up, those were the kind of people that would talk to me. They were the people that would open up to me.

One of them was an officer at a station. No one would talk to me because the orders were, You don't speak to a Member of Congress. You don't talk to anybody from government. Your job is to do your job, but not to tell anyone what that job is, what the statistics are in your area. So they sent me to an individual there who is near retirement and that individual was willing to speak.

In fact, numbers of those individuals were willing to speak with me, some ready to quit, some ready to retire, some retired. They would talk to me straight up and open. They didn't care about the consequences for that. They care about this country. They care about our border security and our border control and they understand that you can't be a nation if you don't have a border. You can't call it a border if you don't defend your border, Mr. Speaker.

I hear the testimony here in Congress as the Border Patrol testifies before the Immigration Subcommittee, and consistently it is, we stop 25 to 33-1/3 percent of the illegals that are traveling across our border. I have used that number consistently in my remarks across this country and I ask that question of the people that are down there in the line, on the line, defending our national security, and I would say, What percentage do you stop? Where do you stand?

They would hesitate in their answer, and I would say, 25 to 33 percent? Do you stop a fourth? Do you stop a third? How many do you stop? They would laugh and give me a number. One of them burst out in hysterical laughter when I submitted that they could be successful in stopping 25 percent of the illegal traffic. He responded back to me, No, it's more like 3 percent of the illegal traffic, of the illegals coming into the United States do we stop and perhaps 5 percent of the illegal drugs. It's not 25 percent. It's not 33 percent. In fact, it's not 10 percent.

But of the informed answers that I got down there, and I asked it at every

stop, the informed answers that I got, I never got an informed answer above 10 percent, of anybody that was involved in actual protection of the border and processing people that were coming through that border. Ten percent.

Now, think about it for a moment, 10 percent, Mr. Speaker. Last year, we apprehended about 1,188,000 illegal entrants into the United States on our southern border, on that 2,000-mile run. 1,188,000. If that number is correct on 10 percent, if you move that decimal point one over, that is 11,880,000 attempts to cross the border. You can take perhaps a couple of million off that if you wanted to be generous and take it down to 10 million succeeded. I don't think actually 10 million succeeded coming into the United States, but I do think the number is far higher than the numbers that we are working with in the media today.

We have used the number here, 11 million illegals in America. We used the number for 3 years while 4 million people a year at least were coming across the border, maybe a lot more than that. And over 3 years the number didn't accumulate, but about 500,000 a year, even less. So after 3 years we finally raised the number to 12 million, but no one now pays attention to that. We are still back stuck in that 11 million mode of illegals in America.

Mr. Speaker, that number is far higher than 11 million.

Maybe we are successful in stopping 10 percent. Maybe the individual who advised me that 3 percent of illegals and 5 percent of the illegal drugs, maybe he was off by a factor of, oh, let's say two. Maybe it is 6 percent of the illegals and 10 percent of the illegal drugs. However you measure this, it is astonishing in its magnitude in the cost to this country. In fact, we are headed down a path, it won't be very much longer that everyone who wants to come to the United States will be here. The message was sent January 6, 2004, when our esteemed commander in chief gave a speech, it is called in America, "the amnesty speech." It was the one that said, here is the policy that we want to have, it is one of a guest worker/temporary worker as the only solution.

If you have too many illegals in America, I suppose the quickest and cheapest and the most guaranteed solution one could have, Mr. Speaker, is simply legalize them all, give them all amnesty, give them a path to citizenship, voila, no problem. We have fixed the problem because we have legalized them all by a version of amnesty.

The American people, Mr. Speaker, reject amnesty in this country. They understand that we have to have a rule of law, that citizenship must be precious, that you must respect the rule of law. There is more to being an American than having somebody stamp automatic citizenship on your green card or on your matricular consular card.

There is more to being an American than that, Mr. Speaker. Being an

American is rooted in and based upon a common culture, an understanding and a common sense of experience and history, of reverence and respect for our borders, for the sovereignty of the United States of America, for the destiny of this country, for the assimilation that has made us so great, that have been able to take immigrants in from all over the world, bring them into this great giant melting pot of America, give them this opportunity and let them reach out and earn and succeed in this opportunity for success.

The legal immigrants in America have performed extraordinarily well. In fact, the vigor that they bring to our society and our economy surpasses much of the vigor that we find in the native-born Americans that are here.

All of us in this Congress, Mr. Speaker, support a rational immigration policy that is designed to enhance the economic, social and cultural well-being of America. But if we have an open borders policy and the people that advocate for an open borders policy are really advocating for an unlimited amount of immigration, everyone who might want to come here to the United States could come here; and if all 6 billion people on the planet want to arrive here in the same year, that is fine with them.

They don't take a stand that there is such a thing as too much immigration, even too much illegal immigration. They will not stand in the way of one of them. They will not stand up and say, The best thing you can do for your country is to stay in your country, grow its economy, be part of the solution, bring reform to the governments of places like Mexico and points south, places that are so utterly corrupt that the economy is strangled, places that are so corrupt that there has to be protection paid at every stop along the way, that you can't get a birth certification when you are born in a country unless you happen to be born into a family that has the connections and maybe is willing to pay the kind of funds to pay off the Madrina network that is there so that you can get your birth certificate and somebody identify who you are and be able to move around in this society or that society.

The level of corruption is astonishing. It runs deep. I would add to this that in spite of all the statistics that I could tell you, in fact, I will go to some of those statistics in a moment, Mr. Speaker, but first I would like to recount a few incidents that really bring home the circumstances and reality.

As I was there on the Tohono O'odham reservation with the Shadow Wolves, there was a drug smuggler who was pulled over and stopped. We were out in the desert tracking some illegals and getting a feel for how that worked and excellently being guided. While this was on, there was a call to an emergency and a number of the Shadow Wolves mobilized and they called in a Black Hawk helicopter that was there to aerially observe a vehicle that

was escaping from the ground people. They followed the vehicle and got it trapped up into a dead-end road and the driver took off and ran and they followed him and finally apprehended him.

They brought him and the pickup, the small truck as I would say to some of my other friends in America, Mr. Speaker, into the compound there where the Shadow Wolves headquarters is and looked the vehicle over. It looked like it had been reworked, that they had taken it through a body shop and created a false floor underneath the bed of that pickup. The bed itself had a plastic liner in it so you couldn't see the bodywork that had been done. We looked that over and they pointed out to me how that work was done. It was done in a chop-shop in Mexico.

Once they got the clearance to go ahead and search the truck, they went in with the jaws of life and peeled the bed of that vehicle up and apart. In there we carried out 18 large bales of marijuana, about 10 pounds or more per bale, at least 180 pounds of marijuana lying underneath that 6- to 8-inch false floor of that vehicle. The alleged perpetrator, and I did lay eyes on him and evaluated him, I guess, for my own perspective, he had a 13 tattooed on his arm, many other tattoos all over his chest and arms. It was clear to the people there that he was MS-13, Mara Salxatrucha 13, the most dangerous gang that we have ever seen in this continent.

That dangerous gang, of course, is smuggling drugs up into the United States. They had collared one of their members, one of their perpetrators who was then in that holding cell.

I was there to help unload the drugs from the pickup, there to observe this entire process. There recorded and there to burn it into my memory, Mr. Speaker, that we think of a large quantity of drugs where I come from, it might be, oh, perhaps a few pounds. Occasionally we get larger loads coming up through Iowa, of course. But when somebody says a lot of illegal drugs, we are thinking of a quantity substantially smaller than 180 pounds. They think of 180 pounds or 200 pounds of illegal marijuana as a decoy, a decoy that might be designed to draw the law enforcement down another path so that when the path clears, when all the law enforcement pounces on the decoy, then the larger loads can come through, the 1,000 pounds, the 2,600-pound loads, the full semi loads can start up the road.

It is a fact that on those drug routes, those highways that flow from the southern part of Arizona up into the rest of the United States, on those small mountains that are there, there are lookouts on every strategic point.

□ 2300

Those lookouts are manned by two people, and they are supplied regularly and they stay on that mountain for 2-week stretches at a time. They are well

armed. They have good equipment. They have night vision goggles. Infrared equipment. For daylight they have top-notch optical equipment, and they have automatic weapons of all kinds, and they have good food and good support, and they sit up there. And they have good communications so that they can radio from mountaintop to mountaintop and be able to tell each other where our drug enforcement people, where our Border Patrol are, where the ICE people are, where the special agents are, where the Park Service people are, so that when the coast is clear, they can run their large load of drugs up through the corridors.

Now, this is an astonishing thing to be able to see that military positions in the United States are occupied by the drug lords and their troops, and that they are well equipped and well armed and well maintained and well supplied, and they are manned 24/7 by two people, and we are sitting down here on the floor of this Congress, Mr. Speaker, thinking we can get a handle on this some other way. But the numbers coming across the border, Mr. Speaker, are astonishing and the positions that are taken on those mountaintops where the lookouts are are shocking that we would tolerate that in this country, know they are there but not go up and take them out.

The volume of drugs, again, is something beyond my imagination before going down there. I had never seen such a pile of illegal drugs. Our Federal agencies report that 90 percent of the illegal drugs in the United States come across the Mexican border, and the value of those drugs is in the area of \$60 billion a year. And we sit here in the United States of America, we tolerate such a thing, such a thing that we would let foreign interests, foreign economic interests, illegal interests violate our laws and enrich themselves with the wealth of a Nation.

And the drug addiction that is here in America, of course, feeds it, Mr. Speaker; and that is another subject for another time. That is something that we need to address.

That is one incident, the interdiction of about 180 pounds of marijuana by the Shadow Wolves during a later afternoon down on the Tohono O'odham Reservation.

But the following evening, as I was looking around, I went down to a place called Sasabe, and that again is on the border with Mexico. I visited a port of entry there that is manned by the Border Patrol. They didn't expect that I was coming. I didn't call in advance. I just drove down there and got out of the vehicle and began to talk to them. Good people. They are doing their job there, and they are doing it well as far as I can see.

As I began to have a conversation with them, there was an emergency call. There had been a drug deal that had gone bad on the other side of the border in the Mexican community just on the south side of that port of entry.

Usually, it is a shooting, Mr. Speaker, but this was a knifing. And the subject who was knifed had a large wound in his abdomen about 3½ inches wide, entered in below the ribs on the right side and up through and it did end up lacerating his liver. It didn't get his lung as far as I know.

But the word came that the ambulance was going to cross from Mexico into the United States. And they prepared for that. They called in a Medivac from the hospital in Tucson. And the Medivac, by the time it arrived, there had been two U.S. ambulances that had arrived. The Mexican ambulance didn't have any oxygen, didn't have bandages, had only surgical gloves on it was a paramedic that was with me lent himself right to the task and began to stabilize the patient. When the oxygen came, they put oxygen on the patient and held him stable until they could load him onto the helicopter and airlift him out to the Tucson hospital, all at the cost of the American taxpayer, Mr. Speaker. And the cost of this I will get compiled over time.

The ambulance that came across from Mexico simply parked on the United States side. Two ambulances came in, one from near Tucson, one from 24 miles away. One brought oxygen. The other was there for support. And all lent a hand to get him loaded on the helicopter and flew him up to University Hospital in Tucson where they do a great job, and they have the only trauma center in all of southern Arizona.

It was a real eye opener for me to see this individual who had been knifed in this fight, covered with tattoos and substantially pierced and inebriated with alcohol and cocaine, at his own admission, as part of the contributor, I think, to the violence on the other side.

And I am advised that that kind of incident wasn't just a fluke. And I kidded the Border Patrol officer, you staged this for me. Of course he didn't. He didn't know I was going to be there. But it happens about four times a quarter in that location alone, roughly 16 times a year. More shootings than stabbings, when we evacuate people out from Mexico into United States hospitals.

And so I followed up yesterday, Mr. Speaker, and visited the hospital and visited the patient. And he had been stabilized and his life had been saved. Without that extraordinary effort, it is likely he would not have survived the next few hours. But his life appears now that it has been saved, and I am grateful for that.

But I also met with the hospital administrators and they are eating millions of dollars of costs in funding the people who are generally illegals in the United States. They don't separate that cost from those that are evacuated from an injury or a wound that takes place on the Mexican side of the border.

But the American taxpayers fund this. The American ratepayers fund this. And the hospital swallows a fair amount of it. And there have been occasions where residents and American citizens of Tucson aren't able to be treated because all the beds are full, full of people who are illegally in the United States. And so that health care for the Tucson residents, the Americans occasionally will go to Phoenix, and then the family members that live in the city have to drive to Phoenix to visit their family. And just the travel time puts their lives at risk as well.

That's two incidents, Mr. Speaker. And I did follow up on those, and I will follow up on the information that comes from it.

I would add the third incident was I went down to the border last night, down to the San Miguel Gate on the reservation, sat in the dark for 3 hours and listened. And it wasn't difficult to hear the vehicles bring the illegals down near the border, drop them off and hear them talking, hear them hush up and then single file, go through the desert brush, cross the border into the United States and be off to points unknown.

I used to believe that it was the illegal traffic into the United States that was the biggest problem, and that illegal drugs was a problem that was part of that. And I am informed that when we put the barriers in there, the vehicle barriers, that since they can't drive across the border with illegal drugs any longer, Mr. Speaker, in some of the locations there are many places where they can, they simply put 50 pounds of marijuana in a backpack, on one young male Mexican or Central American, generally Mexicans, and each one takes a backpack of 50 pounds each. Maybe 10 of them at a time, maybe 25 at a time. They have caught as many as a hundred at a time, walking each with 50 pounds. And they can walk through 10 or 15 or more miles of desert on the Mexico side, 25 or more miles of desert on the U.S. side, and arrive up at a transportation predetermined location, and then drop off their illegal drugs there. And many of them turn around and walk back to Mexico where they pick up another load.

So the illegal crossings, many of those illegal crossings are people coming into the United States with illegal drugs, turning back around and walking back into Mexico to get another load of illegal drugs. Sometimes I wonder if we wouldn't be better off in this country if they would simply stay here and get a job, illegal or not, Mr. Speaker. And I don't advocate that, certainly.

So as I listened and was there while illegals were creeping across our border in the dead of the night, not even 24 hours ago, Mr. Speaker, and it is another dimension entirely, to see the drugs, the interdiction of the drugs, the violence on the border, the knifing, the blood, the lack of health care that is there, the incursions on our border,

the volume that is backpacked up into the United States, the volume that is trucked into the United States, and to understand that if we can seal this border and seal it with confidence, we could shut off 90 percent of the illegal drugs that get by in the United States, at least until they find another route to go around.

But we can build an effective barrier. And as I submitted that to the people down there working on the border, consistently, they realize that if we build a good solid barrier, one that couldn't be cut through, one that couldn't be driven through, one that was solid and one that would make it easy for them to drive the trail and enforce it, that it could be the most effective tool that we could have.

It costs us \$6 billion a year, Mr. Speaker, to incarcerate the illegals here in the United States. Twenty-eight percent of our prison population are criminal aliens.

That is our city, our county, our State and our Federal penitentiaries, 28 percent criminal aliens, \$6 billion a year. We can build one tremendous barrier with \$6 billion and a one-time expenditure.

Of course, we wouldn't get it all built in 1 year, so we could spread it out over 3 or 4 years, and we could concentrate on the areas that needed it the most. We must do that, stop the bleeding, stop the bleeding first. Shut off the leaky pipe, and then we can begin to have a legitimate debate in this country on what to do about the mess it has left.

But I submit that we shut off the jobs magnet, and we end birthright citizenship.

Another interesting little anecdote down in that same hospital was a Mexican national who was pregnant with multiple births. They took care of her prenatal care out of the hospital in Tucson, and they also set up the provider in Mexico so that they could have the equipment to arrange for and give her good care for multiple births.

Instead, she waited until she went into labor, waited close to the border, came into the United States, went into the hospital in Tucson and delivered five children there to the tune of six figures times X. Those children all have birthright citizenship. They all have now the right and the ability to bring in by chain migration their extended family members. Who knows what that costs, Mr. Speaker?

Our compassion knows no bounds, I understand; neither do the borders of the United States of the America, apparently. The United States Senate needs to pass the legislation 4437 that we passed in this House, send it to the President for his signature, establish enforcement, Mr. Speaker, and then we can have a legitimate discussion on whether or not we might want to have guest workers in this country.

□ 2310

THE BLUE DOG COALITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ING-LIS of South Carolina). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS) is recognized for the time remaining until midnight.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the 37-member strong, fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition. There are 37 of us that are Democrats. We are fiscal conservatives and we are concerned about the debt and the deficit that plagues this great Nation ours.

In fact, you can see here, the Blue Dog coalition today, the United States national debt is \$3,361,683,340,530 and some change. Now, for every man, woman and child, including those born today, their share of this enormous national debt is about \$28,000. It is what we call the debt tax, d-e-b-t. That is one tax that cannot go away until we get our Nation's fiscal house in order.

It is hard now to believe that from 1998 to 2001 we had a balanced budget in this country. Things were going pretty well. Now, what do we have? We have gasoline prices that are up 80 percent, health care up 50 percent, higher education, college costs up 40 percent. Things are not going so well. Mr. Speaker, I submit to you, it is directly related to this debt, the largest debt ever in our Nation's history, this deficit, the largest deficit ever in our Nation's history.

You know, the projected deficit for fiscal year 2007 is \$348 billion. But the reason it is \$348 billion is because they are borrowing, our government is borrowing from the Social Security trust fund. The projected deficit for fiscal year 2007, not counting the Social Security surplus; in other words, if the politicians in Washington kept their hands off the Social Security trust fund, the real deficit for fiscal year 2007 is \$548 billion.

The first bill I filed as a Member of Congress was a bill to tell the politicians in Washington to keep their hands off the Social Security trust fund. Now I am beginning to understand why the Republican leadership would not give me a vote, even a hearing, on this bill, because they are now using the Social Security trust fund to run our government to pay for tax cuts to those earning over \$400,000 a year in this manner of reckless spending that we are seeing going on, in fact, for the sixth year in a row.

The 2006 deficit, \$372 billion. Not counting the Social Security surplus, it was \$605 billion. In fiscal year 2005, it was \$318 billion; if you don't count the Social Security surplus, Social Security trust fund, it was \$494 billion. Fiscal year 2004, \$412 billion deficit, and it goes on and on.

My point is this, Mr. Speaker, our Nation is borrowing \$1 billion a day. We are spending \$279 million every day to Iraq. But don't ask this administration for a plan on how that money is