

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT ADRIAN N. OROSCO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Sergeant Adrian N. Orosco who lost his life defending the freedom of our Nation in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

A native of Corcoran, CA, Sgt. Orosco, 26, joined the United States Army in 2001. After his 2 year service contract was completed, Mr. Orosco re-enlisted for an additional 4 years. Sgt. Orosco re-enlisted with the hopes that a career in the armed forces would provide a better life for his family and because military service provided him with the opportunity to serve his country in the most noble manner. He was then assigned to the 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Irwin, California.

Unfortunately, Adrian Orosco's tour in Baghdad, Iraq ended when an improvised device detonated near his military vehicle on the 9th day of December 2005. In recognition of his sacrifice Sgt. Orosco has been posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

Adrian Orosco is survived by his wife, Elizabeth and their three children, Adrian, Andrew and Isabelle, all of whom reside in Fort Irwin.

I would like to extend my heartfelt sympathy and most sincere condolences to Sgt. Orosco's family.

It is my belief that Adrian Orosco's life symbolizes the ultimate sacrifice one can make for his country. His valor, strength, courage and pride in our Nation will forever live in the thoughts and hearts of his family and Americans across the Nation. In addition, Sgt. Orosco's dedication to the principles of freedom and democracy will serve as an example to all of us, for generations to come.

BORDER PROTECTION, ANTITERRORISM, AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION CONTROL ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4437) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to strengthen enforcement of the immigration laws, to enhance border security, and for other purposes:

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Chairman, I believe that America is at its best when we welcome people from other countries, other cultures and possessing diverse skill sets. I believe that, in fact, this strengthens our country.

I need only to go back a couple of generations to see this in my family, who immigrated to this amazing country from Ireland and Eastern Europe.

But my ancestors came legally and that is the question, in part, before us today. We

have lost control of both our northern and southern borders, our maritime border is porous and anyone with the most innocent or worst of intentions can walk or drive into the United States and assimilate into our communities.

This illegal immigration must be stopped.

Securing our border is the proper first step. This Act authorizes a thousand new border patrol agents and properly equips them with modern technology. More needs to be done to properly secure our ports of entry along our east and west coasts and our northern and southern borders. For the many agencies involved this is a large but very important task.

Employers are provided better means to information, allowing them to determine whether or not the potential hire is properly documented. This Act also places some responsibility on employers to make such a determination.

We must revise our current laws to allow legal and secure immigration.

I am disappointed that this bill doesn't include a sensible, nonamnesty guest-worker provision. We have the opportunity to take the lead on this aspect of immigration policy and it would be a mistake to ignore it.

A good guest-worker statute recognizes that folks from around the world and yes, from Mexico, desire to work in the United States to earn good wages to help their families, and these workers add to the value of our country and its economy.

A guest-worker statute should ensure that the guest-worker is not a criminal, is not associated with a terrorist organization, is healthy and has an employer-sponsor. The employer must have some responsibility to actually hire this person for the entire duration of the worker's time in the United States and notify the proper agency if the worker changes or leaves the employer.

As the great nation we are, we should welcome those who want to contribute and not accept those who refuse to live under our rule of law.

BORDER PROTECTION, ANTITERRORISM, AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION CONTROL ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4437) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to strengthen enforcement of the immigration laws, to enhance border security, and for other purposes:

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Chairman, I am disappointed that I must rise today in opposition to H.R. 4437, the Border Protection, Antiterrorism and Illegal Immigration Control Act. I am enormously concerned with our Nation's lack of border security and the dysfunctional nature of our current immigration system. Our Nation's immigration laws are disrespected both by those who cross our bor-

ders illegally and by the businesses that hire those illegal immigrants. Unfortunately, the legislation we are considering today does little to realistically solve these problems. I'm saddened to say that it is based not on policy, but on politics.

I support important amendments to this bill that will help secure our borders and cut down on illegal immigration. For instance, I support the amendment offered by Representative HUNTER of California requiring the construction of reinforced fencing, along with lights, cameras and sensors, along high priority areas of the U.S.-Mexican border. Additionally, I support the amendment offered by Representative NORWOOD of Georgia that authorizes and empowers local law enforcement officials to help enforce immigration laws.

However, this legislation addresses only half the problem our Nation currently faces. Nearly 11 million undocumented immigrants currently live within our borders. That's 11 million people living in the shadows whom we know next to nothing about. This legislation criminalizes these 11 million people, pushing them further into the shadows, and does not consider the impact this will have on our legal system. For instance, this bill does not address the number of pro-bono, taxpayer funded attorneys these immigrants will need to fight their criminal charges in court nor does it address the hundreds of new prisons that would need to be built in order to house 11 million new criminal aliens.

Ultimately, I support a comprehensive immigration policy that is good for families, national security and the economy. Comprehensive immigration legislation introduced by Senator JOHN MCCAIN of Arizona would substantially secure our Nation's borders. Beyond that, it would fine those immigrants already here illegally and punish employers that hire illegal immigrants. However, it would also give the 11 million undocumented immigrants in our country, along with others who are not yet in the U.S. but who hope to one day live and work here legally, a chance to earn legal status. After paying a fine, proving they have been employed in the United States and undergoing a background check, immigrants living here illegally prior to the enactment of the bill would be eligible to apply for a new, non-immigrant visa, and after six years given an option to apply for permanent residency. Additionally, an essential worker visa category, with market-based caps, would be established for new immigrants. These immigrants would be given the option to apply for permanent citizenship after four years.

The McCain bill punishes illegal immigrants for breaking the law but also acknowledges that we cannot act as though we have solved our immigration problem by ignoring the 11 million illegal immigrants already living in our country. As my votes on the Hunter and Norwood amendments prove, I support strong enforcement of our immigration laws and measures to make our borders more secure. But I believe that the only way to fix our broken immigration system is to ensure that, beyond enforcement, we take a realistic approach and acknowledge the immigrants currently living within our borders and those that will likely wish to come in the future.