

involved in the financing and facilitation of heroin-trafficking activities, which were then shut down by our military operations in Afghanistan. Today, the DEA continues to push forward in identifying narcoterrorism threats that are vital to maintaining our national security. I look forward to seeing a report from the President that will indicate the efficacy of officially including the DEA in our intelligence system. Clearly, the DEA plays an important information gathering and enforcement role in our War on Terror, this report will simply clarify their position in our national intelligence system.

JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL  
REUNION—YORK, SC

**HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, October 9, 2004*

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, on the weekend before Labor Day, some 400 alumni of Jefferson High School gathered for their first reunion since Jefferson closed more than 30 years ago.

Jefferson got its start in a frame school house built for African-American students next to Wesley United Methodist Church on West Jefferson Street in York, South Carolina. From there, Jefferson graduated to a Rosenwald school and became the African-American public school in a racially segregated system. Although the system was called "separate but equal," Jefferson never had facilities or teaching materials equal to its counterparts, the white schools that I attended. Used books were passed on from white students, dated and worn. The school district built a new high school for white students in 1950, but left black students to make the best of their old one. The students, teachers and administrators at Jefferson did just that. They made the most of their circumstances. The students who came back for this reunion did not dwell on what they lacked at Jefferson High School. They saluted teachers who took a personal interest, believed in them, and encouraged them to excel. They recalled their formidable teams in football and basketball and the musical talent they produced. They recognized the values instilled in them for a lifetime.

When the alumni sat down for a banquet the last night of their reunion, the pride they felt at being "Jeffersonians" was easily felt and well-founded. Among the 400 attending the dinner, there were graduates who had risen to the highest levels of the Civil Service and become department heads in state government; Ph.D.'s in the sciences and liberal arts; college professors; school teachers; successful entrepreneurs; attorneys; and many more who had distinguished themselves. The banquet speaker, Roberta Wright, symbolized their success. She finished Jefferson and went on to become a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Fisk University and the University of Michigan School of Law. She made a stirring speech, challenging everyone to do more for the common good.

With the onset of integration in the early 1970s, Jefferson High School came to an end. But the 3-day Reunion made clear that Jefferson lives on in the lives it made better. Hundreds of the alumni attending attested to bet-

ter, more productive lives because of what they learned at Jefferson under teachers who cared, encouraged, and challenged.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, October 9, 2004*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, because of business in my district (27th Congressional District of Texas) I was absent for rollcall vote Nos. 509–530. If I had been present for these votes, I would have voted as indicated below: 509—"Yes"; 510—"Yes"; 511—"Yes"; 512—"Yes"; 513—"Yes"; 514—"Yes"; 515—"Yes"; 516—"No"; 517—"Yes"; 518—"Yes"; 519—"No"; 520—"Yes"; 521—"Yes"; 522—"Yes"; 523—"No"; 524—"No"; 525—"Yes"; 526—"No"; 527—"No"; 529—"Yes"; 530—"Yes."

IS ISRAEL STILL AN ENEMY OF  
THE STATE IN THE NEW IRAQ?

**HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, October 9, 2004*

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern, and frankly my disbelief, at the arrest of Mithal Al Alusi, an Iraqi citizen who was charged recently for visiting an enemy state.

The world took little notice of what one might expect to be major news in the United States and around the world. Unfortunately, this story has been nearly invisible.

What makes this case so disturbing is the fact that the nation he dared visit, the nation labeled an enemy state by the new post-Saddam government in Iraq is none other than America's strongest ally in the Middle East—the State of Israel.

As unbelievable as it seems, under a 35-year-old law written by Saddam's Baath Party, Israel remains an enemy of the Iraqi State. And any Iraqi who dares visit our ally Israel, can expect the same criminal punishment now being sought against Mr. Al-Alusi.

A New York Times article published on October 6, 2004, described the situation this way:

In recent days, Iraq's special criminal court established by the American occupation authority issued a warrant for Mr. Al-Alusi's arrest based on the 1969 law. According to the Oct. 4 issue of the Iraqi newspaper Al Sabah, a court official said, "Al-Alusi committed a crime by visiting the enemy, the Zionist state," and the official vowed "to protect the Islamic and Arab identity of Iraq."

Is this the new Iraq that we have sacrificed more than a thousand American lives to protect? A country that allows Israel to be labeled as a Zionist threat, and whose courts, which were established under our Coalition rule, are now being used as a tool to inflame anti-Israeli sentiment.

It is a disgrace that as we shed American blood, and the blood of our allies to bring democracy to the people of Iraq, those who have persecuted Mithal Al-Alusi remain in authority.

Secretary Powell is reported as saying that he is looking into the outrage committed

against Mr. Al-Alusi. I encourage him to swiftly complete his examination and to provide guidance toward a U.S. policy that forever eliminates this type of bigotry from Iraqi law.

I hope President Bush, Secretary of State Powell and Members of Congress will step forward and without reservation, condemn this continuation of an anti-Semitic policy that is a hateful and dangerous residue of Saddam Hussein's failed regime.

9/11 RECOMMENDATIONS  
IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 8, 2004*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to provide for reform of the intelligence community, terrorism prevention and prosecution, border security; and international cooperation and coordination, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment as offered by my Texas colleague Mr. Bonilla of the 23rd Congressional District to increase the number of beds available for immigration detention and removal operations in the Department of Homeland Security. As the Ranking Member of the House Immigration Subcommittee, I recognize the urgent need for this proposal.

The growth of the Immigration and Enforcement Agency's (ICE) and Border Patrol Services (BPS) enforcement efforts, along with the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, which requires INS to detain aliens subject to mandatory detention, have increased the Department's need for detention bed space in recent years.

The average daily bed space usage has more than doubled from 8,279 average daily detention beds in FY 1996 to 18,518 in FY 2000. Every year the Department of Homeland Security arrests over 1.6 million aliens.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement has 19,444 beds a night. But an average 22,500 detainees are in custody on any given day. The lack of space has led to a \$1.3 billion shortfall that must be made up in other areas of the budget for Immigration and Customs Enforcement and detention.

One of my concerns is the rise of the harmful effects of the "capture and release" program. Brought on by a shortage of detention space, the program allows immigration officials to routinely release tens of thousands of illegal immigrants from countries other than Mexico after extracting a promise from each to show up at a future detention hearing.

DHS officials acknowledge that more than 70 percent of those released disappear from law enforcement's radar, resulting in a fugitive population of 400,000 nationwide. Mexican migrants who are detained are deported and are usually bused to a port of entry where they cross the bridge to Mexico.

Some 15,000 of these people (non-Mexican migrants) are in communities in Texas in the last eight months. Nearly half of non-Mexicans arrested since October 2003 were released on