

would be a tragic mistake. We cannot permit the war against terrorism to be manipulated into an affirmation of the status quo in countries that are ruled by tyrants. In the long run, that would pit the United States against those struggling for honest and democratic government, which would lose whatever goodwill our country has in this world.

Nazarbayev, as with his fellow dictators in other former Soviet republics of Central Asia, assumed the title of president through sham elections. He is so repressive and corrupt that his regime will eventually collapse of its own weight. Islamic extremists—already active in the area—as well as China, will be scrambling to pick up the pieces when these gangster regimes fall apart. But we need not let that dismal scenario come to be. Now is the time to press Nazarbayev, as well as other Central Asian strongmen, to hold early free and fair elections monitored by international observers. If he needs to save face, Nazarbayev could simply confirm the many rumors that he plans to step down and retire to one of the countries where he stashed his ill-gotten financial gains.

Of course the Nazarbayev regime, like other human rights abusers, threaten more than their own people. Moscow's Centre TV on February 17, 2001, accused the Nazarbayev regime of illegally selling weapons, like advanced Russian-made S-300 air defense system and heavy tanks, to rogue regions. The United States has had many run-ins with the Nazarbayev regime over arms sales. Early last year, for example, Kazakhstan sold forty MIG fighters to North Korea. And on June 4, 1997, the Washington Times reported that the U.S. had protested plans by Kazakhstan to sell advanced air defense missiles to Iran. This pattern of weapons trafficking must stop. Clearly, this is a policy endorsed by Nazarbayev himself.

Finally, on September 14, 2001, the Swiss Federal Department of Justice made available to the U.S. Department of Justice the findings of a lengthy investigation of corruption involving President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan. These issues raised by this report needs to be addressed. What we have here is a regime condemned by leading human rights organizations, that has trafficked in arms with the dregs of the world, that has been ambiguous in its support of the war on terrorism, and is under investigation for corruption by both Swiss and U.S. law enforcement agencies.

Maybe our message to Mr. Nazarbayev is that it is time for him to go. At the very least, he should not be allowed to leave Washington thinking that the U.S. will acquiesce to the status quo in exchange for platitudes about joining us in the war against terrorism. Kazakhstan is a country rich in natural resources. Its people should be enjoying prosperity, peace and yes, freedom. Instead, the iron grip of despotism is strangling the democratic alternative, and with it the hopes of economic progress for the country as a whole.

Let us be on the side of the people of countries like Kazakhstan. Let us use our influence with those in power in such repressed societies to show them a graceful way of exiting power, rather than giving them, and their repressed populations, the mistaken notion that we are the friends of such corrupt and tyrannical regimes.

TRAGEDY THAT HIT AMERICA

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the events of September 11, 2001 in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania have struck the hearts and minds of Americans everywhere. I am especially touched by the thoughts of the young people who are the future of this great nation. Shanleigh Hart is a 6th grade student in Miss Shiver's class at Southeast School in Salem, Ohio, and she has written a poem remembering "The Tragedy That Hit America". Shanleigh's words are inspiring and should all make us proud to be Americans.

TRAGEDY THAT HIT AMERICA

A threat to America
Brave Country
Count on us
Depend on our army
Extreme explosions
Foreign countries deny
Greatly upset
Hope shines through
Interviewing all over
Just not fair
Killing
Learning to work together
Maybe there will be a war
Never will be forgotten
Obviously not expected
Prepare for war
Quietly they did it
Respectfully we work
Sad as can be
Terrifying
Unfair to us
Very disrespectful
World War three
Extremely unbelievable
Young and old
Zealous people

In memory of all the victims and their families, we are not letting this one go! We are America.

CHAMORRO FIREFIGHTER ASSISTS IN PENTAGON RESCUE OPERATIONS

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, as the Nation is undergoing the recovery process from the terror and destruction brought about by the September 11 attack on America, I would like to take this opportunity to share the experiences of a former resident of Guam who was called upon to assist in the rescue efforts at the Pentagon.

Born and raised on the island of Guam, Mark Anderson moved to the state of Virginia in 1999 to pursue his dream to become a firefighter. Having been employed by the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department for the past couple of years, Mark and his colleagues were called to respond to the Pentagon attack that fateful day. Mark assisted in fighting fires, locating survivors and recovering bodies—working 10 grueling hours without any breaks.

The image of charred rubble and scorched equipment all over the site of the crash will re-

main with Mark for years to come. To describe the magnitude of the destruction, he conveyed a scene of embers, ashes and heaps of office equipment strewn all over the place. While performing his duties that day, Mark confessed to having been concerned for his own and his colleagues' safety particularly since they were informed that another hijacked plane may be heading for Washington, DC. His duty, however, dictated that he push and attend to the task at hand. This, he did without any hesitation.

Although Mark's fire company was on the site for only 1 day, they were placed on a "call back" status for several days afterward. If given the chance to do it over again, Mark says that he would have no hesitation in doing his part once more. Attention and honors have been heaped upon him and his colleagues for their performance but Mark feels that he only did what was expected and required of him. He is grateful for having been given the chance to actively take part of an effort that will forever be remembered in history.

The tragedy of September 11 has touched every aspect of American society. Although located half a world away, the people of Guam have felt the effects and have made contributions towards our Nation's efforts to recover from the effects of these attacks. Individuals such as Mark Anderson exemplify the best of our island and I am proud of his patriotism and call to duty exhibited on September 11.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mark Anderson and his colleagues for their contributions. We realize the value of their service and commitments. By working together as these people have, we will be able to overcome any adversity that comes our way.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO MR. MICHAEL ANTHONY GRANDILLO ON HIS RETIREMENT AS PRESIDENT OF THE TIFFIN CITY COUNCIL

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize a great man who has dedicated much of his life to his community. At the end of the year, Mr. Michael Anthony Grandillo will retire as President of the Tiffin City Council. For the past 14 years, he has served as Councilman of the 4th Ward of the City of Tiffin in the Fifth Congressional District of Ohio.

Mike has had a long and distinguished career on the Tiffin City Council. He was appointed to the seat in 1985 and was re-elected to every four-year term since then. He served as Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Committee when the city of Tiffin experienced tremendous growth. He was also Chairman of the Law and Community Planning Committee who has oversight responsibility for economic development in Tiffin. Under his leadership, Tiffin recognized as having one of the top three municipal economic development programs in the State of Ohio.

His dedicated service to this community does not stop with the Tiffin City Council. He is currently Secretary and Director of the Friedman Village, a non-profit corporation which developed and manages an 18 acre assisted and independent living facility. He is an