

September 14, 2001

IN OUR DARKEST HOUR, AMERICA
STANDS UNITED AND STRONG

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2001

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, like my constituents in the Dayton, Ohio, area, and all Americans, I am shocked and horrified by the brutal terrorist attack on our Nation on September 11. I am saddened for the victims and their families.

It was an act of pure evil. And yet even this evil is not so great that it consumes the good which still abounds in our great Nation.

Carl Sandburg wrote, "I see America, not in the setting sun of a black night of despair ahead of us. I see America in the crimson light of a rising sun fresh from the burning, creative hand of God. I see great days ahead, great days possible to men and women of will and vision."

I am profoundly moved by the spirit of the American people who have responded to the crises with a generosity almost unimaginable. I am uplifted by the mood among members of Congress who have abandoned all partisan differences to pass critical legislation. I am deeply proud to see how our leaders are working together around the clock.

In my district, citizens are calling me to ask if they can give money back to the government to assist with an antiterrorist campaign. A company in the Dayton area which manufactures protective equipment for firefighters is donating boots, gloves, and masks to the New York fire department. High schools in my community set up collection barrels at the football games for people to give food and equipment for the rescue effort.

At this darkest hour, all of America is acting as one in a way I've never seen before. In our unity, we are strong—strong enough to rebuild from this attack and strong enough to overcome the terrorists behind it—and to emerge stronger than before.

In one of his fireside chats in 1940, just before America entered World War II, President Franklin Roosevelt said, "We defend and we build a way of life, not for America alone, but for all mankind."

Once again, Americans are called to defend themselves and civilization itself. I am proud to say that we are up to that challenge.

MUSLIMS LOVE PEACE AS MUCH
AS ANYONE

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2001

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, almost 60 years ago during World War II, our Nation imprisoned Japanese Americans in internment camps simply because of their ethnic background. Today, we are all rightly horrified by this action. In the aftermath of this week's tragedy, we must not repeat this chapter in our history. Arabs and Muslims are NOT all terrorists bent on destroying our Nation. They

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too desire to live in peace with their families and communities. In fact, millions of Arabs live in this great land—2.2 million of whom are Arab Christians.

Our Arab and Muslim compatriots in our nation also weep with pain and sorrow as they grieve the loss of loved ones. Many of them fled their homes and came to the United States as refugees to get away from the very same types of people as those who attacked our country.

In the past few days, the outpouring of deeply sympathetic support and condolences my office personally has received has come from Islamic nations such as Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Egypt, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Western Sahara, and Algeria, and from Palestinians.

As our great nation pulls together, let us not turn to hate and violence, but to the underlying spirit of courage and compassion that has made this country a beacon of freedom and hope for a new life. Justice must and will be implemented—but it will be against those who deserve it, the savage terrorists—not our fellow Arab and Muslim citizens and friends here and around the world.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MIGUEL
RAMIREZ

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2001

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week, our Nation has experienced much human tragedy. Although my hometown of Houston, Texas was spared the devastation that occurred in New York City and in Washington, D.C., we did suffer from a tremendous loss. Today, I rise to pay tribute to Miguel Ramirez.

On Tuesday, September 11, 2001, Aldine High School lost Miguel Ramirez, one of its most promising ninth grade students. Miguel had been preparing for an afternoon football practice session before he collapsed.

Miguel was new to Aldine High School, but he quickly embraced the school and its traditions. He was an honor student and was enthusiastic about football. Despite the fact that Miguel Ramirez was only fourteen years old, he made a lasting impression on his family, his friends and his teachers.

Recently, the *Houston Chronicle* reported on the impact Miguel had had on his football teammates. I would like to share the following excerpt:

"We had a meeting this morning, and the attitude of the team is that they wanted to go out and win a game for Miguel," said freshman coach Mark Mullenburg. "There really wasn't any hesitation about them wanting to play and we talked about that as a team. Miguel was a guy that was always at practice and a guy that always wanted to play. He just started playing this year, and he was so proud of his jersey and so proud of the fact that he was on a team."

Mr. Speaker, the loss of any life is sad, but the loss of a young life is truly tragic. Even in death, Miguel will continue to lead through the

contributions he has left behind, the relationships he has forged, and the example he has set.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in expressing our heartfelt condolences to the Miguel Ramirez family, especially to his parents David and Maria, and to his many friends and classmates at Aldine High School.

HONORING FIREFIGHTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2001

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest thanks and appreciation to all of the firefighters and law enforcement officials who have volunteered their expertise in the wake of the tragic events of the past several days. Tuesday, September 11, 2001 will live in the hearts and minds of Americans for generations to come. To challenge democracy is to challenge the very core of all that we cherish. Communities across our nation have come together, united by a single truth: the spirit of America, though tested, can never be broken.

The men and women who serve as firefighters and law enforcement officials face risks that few of us can truly comprehend. Each day, they must be ready to perform under intense pressure—literally in life or death situations as we have all witnessed in recent days. Their commitment and dedication cannot be questioned.

Perhaps this is best illustrated in the faces of the many firefighters, police officers, and emergency personnel, who have volunteered their time and efforts throughout the past several days. I speak not only of those directly involved with the rescue efforts in Lower Manhattan, but to the many departments nationwide who have offered assistance with equipment, rescue teams, and various other forms of support. Many of these dedicated men and women have gone to their communities sponsoring blood, clothing, food and water drives. They have been an inspiration to us all and yet when asked why you will always hear the same reply: "It's my job." In my home state of Connecticut, the thousands of men and women who serve our local fire and police departments have continually been on hand—ready and willing to do all that they can for our neighbors and I thank them for their incredible work. I want to especially commend the approximately eighty firefighters from the Third Congressional District of Connecticut who are now directly assisting in the New York rescue effort.

It is with great pride and the deepest admiration that I rise today to pay tribute to these men and women and to thank them for their tremendous efforts on behalf of our communities and our nation. I stand today to urge all Americans to thank their local fire and police departments for all that they do for us every day.