

September 21, 2001

Friends and family,

I wasn't even going to watch George W's speech last night, but I did and I am glad. He seemed like a different person. He did a terrific job and I agree with everything he said. Maybe he was just reading words on a teleprompter that someone else had written, but if that's the case, he did it so well looked like he was speaking off the cuff. Maybe these terrible events have made him grow into the job.

The Taliban claim we are using Bin Laden as an excuse to attack them. Long before Sept. 11, I've thought we needed to kick those thugs out, because of the way they treat their own people and their destruction of the Buddha statues. The Taliban are terrorists too, only so far their only victims have been the Afghan people. I am starting to believe that our government is going to do the right thing.

Steve

Amy,

I agree we've done some awful things to Muslim countries, but I am also hearing that one of the main reasons the extremists hate us is that we offer a way of life that is contrary to the one they want to impose on their own people. But you are correct. Economic sanctions are nearly as immoral as the atomic bomb - it hurts the innocent as much or more than the military and government. There needs to be some policy changes and some apologies. Dad