

IN HONOR OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Church of the Incarnation on its 90th anniversary, which will be celebrated on Sunday, December 10, 2000. Founded in 1910, the Church of the Incarnation is celebrating ninety years of faith in God and community.

The Church of the Incarnation held its first service on January 8, 1911, in a room rented from the Afro-American Women's Industrial Club for \$6.00 a month. Although its beginnings were meager, its future would not be. Despite financial hardship, the congregation grew steadily, attracting members with the deepest faith and commitment.

In June of 1928, the Church of the Incarnation held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new building. On December 24, 1928, the Church held its first service there.

In 1971, the Church achieved "Parish Status," and later established an award for the man and woman of the year. In order to become more involved in the community, the Church began to sponsor and implement community outreach programs and participated in community development projects, including after school and summer camp programs; the renovation of P.S. #18, which currently provides housing for low-income families; a "Clothing Ministry" for the poor; and a scholarship fund. "Resurrection House" opened for occupancy in 1992. In addition, the Church established a Sunday school and a men's chorus and youth choir, as well as a newsletter entitled "Good News."

The Church of the Incarnation merged with St. Mathew's and St. Stevens in 1997. Today, the three churches together are St. Augustine. A new church and community center will be completed in December 2001.

Ninety years after its founding, the Church of the Incarnation proudly celebrates its history—a history that is a testament to the congregation's enduring faith and extraordinary commitment to God and community.

Today, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the 90th anniversary of the Church of the Incarnation. This congregation's faith is a wonderful example for everyone.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT
WITH REGARD TO INDIA

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, as the year 2000 comes to a close, we can look back over the past twelve months with a profound sense of accomplishment by pointing to a new chapter in our relationship between the United States and India. We have witnessed dramatic changes that have created a dynamic and lasting partnership as celebrated throughout President Clinton's visit to India last July and Prime Minister's Vajpayee's journey to the

U.S. where, on an historic September morning, he addressed a joint meeting of the House and Senate. Today, as never before, India and the U.S., the world's two largest democracies, are collaborating on a host of issues of mutual interest, from technology to the environment and from economic development to the fight against terrorism.

Our close ties with India would not have been possible without the bipartisan cooperation of the Congress. The vast majority of our members have embraced that relationship. We have enacted congressional resolutions demonstrating our solid support for India and its democratic institutions and we have been actively engaged in promoting regional stability in an area of vital concern to U.S. interests, and the flow of commerce between our nations. In view of the overwhelming support in forging a harmonious relationship for the new millennium, it is disappointing that a few of our colleagues have seen fit to disparage and discourage that relationship by launching a series of ill-informed attacks on India and its people. In the interest of accuracy and in the broader context of the growing bonds of friendship between the U.S. and India, it is important that we set the record straight.

First, let us consider the baseless claim that the Government of India was responsible for the bombing of an Air India jet in 1985, which occurred off the coast of Ireland in a flight originating in Canada, claiming the lives of 329 passengers. That incident has now been thoroughly investigated by one of the world's most respected law enforcement agencies, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). On October 27, 2000 after an almost 15-year inquiry, the RCMP charged two residents in British Columbia, Ripudaman Singh Malik and Ajaib Bagri, with the murders of the innocent civilians killed in the crash of the Air India jet. One of those individuals, Mr. Malik, has been identified by Canadian authorities as the financial backer of extreme Sikh separatist groups operating from Canada. Both Canadians have also been charged with the murders of two baggage handlers in Tokyo by a bomb that was meant to destroy yet another Air India flight. These individuals, will be given a trial and afforded every opportunity to defend themselves against the murder and criminal conspiracy charges lodged against them by Canadian authorities.

As the India Abroad News Service reported recently, moderate Sikhs in the U.S. have welcomed the RCMP's apprehension of the suspects. According to India Abroad, the Sikh Council on Religion and Education—a community think-tank based in Washington—concluded:

We, the Sikhs, condemn the killing of innocent people. We also want to emphasize in the strongest possible terms that any such employment of violence for political ends is totally against Sikh teachings and values. The Sikh religion teaches tolerance and respect for all religious beliefs and practices . . . The consensus in the Sikh community in India and internationally has been that political issues must be resolved through dialogue, political process and peaceful means. We are surprised and shocked that there could be Sikh individuals who would commit such a horrible act . . .

These moderate and responsible views of the U.S. Sikh community stand in sharp contrast to the false information in press releases prepared by the so-called "Council of

Khalistan" on the destruction of the Air India jet that were reflected in statements by one of our colleagues. This "Council" has little presence and

Turning to the second event—the massacre of 36 Sikh villagers in Chittisinghpura on March 20, 2000 which occurred just as President Clinton arrived for his state visit to India. Statements that the Indian government was responsible for this infamous act of murder, defies the facts. The true story is otherwise. Indian authorities have arrested a prime suspect in the case who disclosed that the massacre was the work of a group of terrorists in the ranks of the Hiz-ul-Majahideen (HUM) and HUM's affiliate, the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LET). The HUM has already been designated by the State Department as a foreign terrorist organization and I have joined with other members of the Congress in calling upon the State Department to name the LET as a terrorist organization.

Both the HUM and LET are on the long list of terrorist organizations that are encouraged and supported by Pakistan. Attacks from forces outside of India, often led by armed mercenaries, are consistent with the pattern of terrorism that these and other terrorist groups have carried out for many years against innocent Hindus and Muslims in Kashmir. Their motive is clear—they seek to disrupt the territorial integrity of India and to show that a multi-religious society cannot survive. The attack on the Sikh community in Chittisinghpura, by cynically choosing the very eve of President Clinton's visit to New Delhi to perpetrate these atrocities, follows the policy of ethnic cleansing to eliminate whatever little minority population that resides in the Kashmir valley. Casting blame on India for these deliberate acts of violence is at odds with the facts of the case and India's constitutional obligation to protect the civil and human rights of its diverse communities.

Finally, let us consider recent statements claiming that India is practicing "state terrorism" in Punjab and Kashmir, citing unsubstantiated figures from questionable and unreliable sources. Using these claims, it is contended India should be declared a terrorist state. Such a notion flies in the face of the documented record by the U.S. State Department citing the improvement of human rights in India. It is also contrary to the partnership between the U.S. and India in combating the menace of international terrorism by engaging in day-to-day cooperative counter-terrorist activities.

With India's record of democracy deeply rooted in its constitution and its tolerance for its many religious and ethnic communities, India itself has suffered from the ravages of terrorism to a degree virtually unparalleled around the world. The human cost of this cross-border terrorism has been staggering. Indeed, over the years, more than 16,000 Indians in Punjab have been murdered and maimed by cross-border terrorists. The deadly toll in Jammu and Kashmir has exceeded 21,000.

It is in this context that we should examine the damage that can be caused by unsubstantiated allegations and false propaganda. Charges are continually hurled against the Government of India every time a vicious act

of terrorism is committed—for example, the bombing of the Air India jetliner in 1985, the attack on the Sikh community in March of this year, and the shooting of innocent pilgrims on their way to the Amarnath caves in August. There is more than sufficient evidence to show that the last two acts committed this year were the handiwork of elements from Pakistan belonging to the LET. The facts with regard to the Air India case point to Canadian-based Sikh supra-nationalists as the source of the aviation disaster. If this kind of propaganda is uncritically allowed to hold sway, it encourages militant units like the LET to perpetrate similar atrocities against innocent civilians. It is characteristic of the modus operandi of these terrorist groups to deflect attention from their inhumane acts by deliberately shifting the blame to India.

The first and only address by a foreign head of state before a joint meeting of the 106th Congress by India's Prime Minister Vajpayee speaks volumes about the position of the U.S. Congress on U.S.-India relations.

The recent ill-informed statements by some of our colleagues do not represent the views of most Members of the U.S. Congress.

RECOGNIZING LARRY JUSTICE OF
MACON, GA, FOR HIS RETIREMENT
FROM THE BIBB COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2000

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor an exceptional citizen from Macon, Georgia's 8th Congressional District, Larry Justice of Macon, Georgia, on his retirement from the Bibb County Board of Commissioners.

Larry Justice was first elected to the Macon Board of Commissioners in 1969 and has served as chairman for 10 years. As a long time public servant, Larry has served on the State of Georgia Local Health Advisory Commission and is the past president of the Macon Board of Realtors.

I have had the distinct honor of working with Larry on such projects as the Fall Line Freeway, Robins Air Force Base and many other issues in transportation, health, education and defense. I will miss his tenacity and hard work ethic, as well as, our close working relationship.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Larry Justice for his dedication and service to Bibb County. He is an extraordinary citizen, and I am proud to serve as his Representative in the People's house.

HONORING THE FORT WORTH
ALUMNI (BETA TAU LAMBDA)
CHAPTER OF THE ALPHA PHI
ALPHA FRATERNITY

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2000

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the outstanding efforts of the Fort Worth Alum-

ni (Beta Tau Lambda) Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, which marked its 60th anniversary on this past Monday, December 4th.

Throughout its 94-year existence, the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity has been an exemplary organization, with a mission committed to public service. The Fort Worth Alumni Chapter has done a tremendous job of furthering Alpha Phi Alpha's mission and has worked to make a real difference in our North Texas community.

The Fort Worth Alumni Chapter has taken action in our community to curb juvenile delinquency, foster job training skills and community safety programs, and combat teen pregnancy by educating young men.

Through the years, the members of Alpha Phi Alpha and the Beta Tau Lambda chapter have become leaders of their community, a testimony to the strength of their education as members of this fine organization.

Congratulations again to the Beta Tau Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity on your 60th anniversary. I know you will continue serving our Fort Worth community throughout the next 60 years.

HONORING MR. FRED W. LILLEY
FOR 40 YEARS OF FAITHFUL
SERVICE TO THE AMERICAN
PUBLIC

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2000

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, upon my election to the House of Representatives in 1994, I opened a district office in Greenville, NC located next door to the local Social Security Administration. Little did I realize at the time how beneficial this location would be in helping the people of the third district.

As you can imagine, my district office over the past 6 years has been busy assisting constituents with their Social Security problems. The work my office has performed on these cases has allowed my staff and I to develop a number of wonderful relationships with the employees of the Administration. One of these relationships in particular has proven to be especially valuable—the relationship between my office and Mr. Fred Lilley, district manager in the Social Security office next door.

Fred Lilley has always been most helpful to my office. Time and time again he has assisted my staff and I in resolving problems for my constituents and has offered valuable advice and insight. That is why, while happy for Fred, I was somewhat saddened to hear of his upcoming retirement from the Social Security Administration.

Upon Fred Lilley's retirement on December 30, 2000, we will be losing a committed and caring public servant—one who has dedicated his career to helping his fellow man. He has given 40 years of service to the citizens of our Nation through his work with the Social Security Administration and the U.S. Army and Army Reserves. Originally from Martin County, NC, Fred began working for the Social Security Administration following graduation from East Carolina College in 1960. During the ensuing years he worked in a number of offices throughout the southeast, including a ten year assignment in Social Security's Atlanta Re-

gional Office before being transferred to Greenville in July of 1979. Since that time he has served as District Manager in Greenville, which includes both the Greenville and Elizabeth City offices. The Greenville District serves eight northeastern North Carolina Counties having over 45,000 beneficiaries receiving over \$300 million annually in Social Security benefits. Fred's respect for individual differences, his ability to build on their strengths and compensate for weaknesses, has made him the quality manager with whom we have enjoyed working.

Fred Lilley loves his country, is active in local and community events, and lives each day to its fullest. A retired Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, Fred is also a member of the Reserve Officers Association, the Civil Affairs Associations, The Association of the U.S. Army, and is a member and past President of the Greenville Civitan Club. He is a loving husband to his wife, Lenora who is an assistant librarian at a local elementary school and a wonderful father to his daughter Gail, who currently resides in Florida.

The service that Fred Lilley has given to the taxpayers for the past forty years has, in my opinion, exemplified what a true public servant should be. His concern about efficiency and always making sure the citizens are given courteous and sincere service will long be remembered as Fred Lilley's legacy.

HONORING HAROLD PRAEDIGER

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2000

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Mr. Harold Praediger, who is retiring as Borough Council President of Rockledge in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Praediger has been a resident of Rockledge for 45 years and has contributed years of extraordinary service to his community. He has been a member of the Borough Council for more than 14 years where he served as Recreation Chairman, Vice President and currently as President. As President, Mr. Praediger has played an integral role in kicking off the new Municipal Building project that is scheduled to break ground next year.

A graduate of Abington High School, Mr. Praediger resigned as the Head of Maintenance at Jeanes Hospital in Philadelphia and is now a co-owner of Acker's Hardware. He and his wife, Linda, have three children: Michael, Steven and Leigh Anne.

It is a privilege to acknowledge the achievements of Mr. Harold Praediger. The entire Rockledge community has benefited from his leadership and fellowship. I join the Borough Council in congratulating him on his many years of exemplary service.

A FREE KASHMIR IS IN THE U.S.
VITAL INTEREST

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2000

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I have just returned from a 1-week visit to Pakistan and