

this great war, you have earned this soldier's respect. Thank you for all your service.

SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING
UNITED STATES-INDIA RELATIONS

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2000

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I welcome Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee of India—the Prime Minister of a key strategic ally of the United States and an important partner in the struggle against international terrorism. Mr. Vajpayee's government has achieved significant economic development, modernization, and consolidation of democracy in India. These accomplishments are all the more impressive when examined in the context of the terrorism India has to cope with on a daily basis. It is so easy for any government to seize on such a threat in order to centralize power at the expense of personal freedoms. It is so tempting to cite foreign security threats in order to legitimize a military coup. However, New Delhi has elected to fight terrorism and develop India without infringing on the population's democratic rights and freedoms. And this is a major, yet unheralded, triumph of both Mr. Vajpayee's government and the people of India.

To comprehend India's recent achievements one must take a closer look at the terrorist threat posed to India.

Despite undeniable achievements of the Indian security forces, the situation in Kashmir continues to deteriorate. The forces used against India now include a combination of Kashmiri fighters and a growing number of foreign operatives.

The terrorist threat to India goes beyond the disputed Kashmir. Only a couple of weeks ago, Abu Abdul Aziz, one of the key Pakistani-sponsored Islamist leaders publicly defined the ultimate objectives of the Kashmiri Jihad: "Our destination is not Kashmir. Our aim is that all of India be converted into a Muslim state." There was not a word of recrimination or even disassociation from Islamabad.

In examining India's struggle against terrorism, one must remember the unique geo-strategic importance of the Indian sub-continent. North-west India, including Kashmir, is located at the edge of the Arc of Crisis. Stretching from the Caucasus in west, through Central Asia to northern India and the north-western Chinese province of Xinjiang, the Arc of Crisis is emerging as the world's next primary reserves of oil and gas—the Persian Gulf of the 21st Century. The Arc of Crisis is also the continental gateway to China and the Far East. Long term stability in the Arc of Crisis is therefore an indispensable interest of the United States. The long and deep coast-line of the Indian subcontinent are crucial for the stability and safety of the maritime commercial traffic in the Indian Ocean—mainly between Europe, the Persian Gulf and East Asia. The safety of maritime commerce in the Indian Ocean, as well as the oil fields of the nearby South China Sea, are also indispensable interests of the United States and the West. A

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friendly India is the key to furthering these U.S. interests.

Hence, India is a bulwark of regional stability and consequently a guardian of crucial strategic and economic interests of the United States and the entire West. The national interest of the United States is to have a strong, democratic and prosperous India as an ally and a partner. India can stabilize the volatile yet crucial region—ensuring that the strategic and economic interests of the U.S.-led West are furthered and not infringed upon. Moreover, the rapid economic development growth of India makes it a most promising trade partner with the United States. For example, India's burgeoning software-developing industry is a major contributor to the U.S. computer industry. In the era of growing globalization, the U.S. can and should benefit from the Indian economic surge. However, to fully realize its potential, India must be free of subversion and terrorism.

Therefore, the terrorism waged against India harm the national security and economic interests of the United States. Ultimately, a strong, democratic, and economically viable India serves and furthers the U.S. national interest. Hence the U.S. should stand side-by-side with India and cooperate in its struggle against terrorism. The U.S. should help the democratic government in New Delhi to continue and maintain the delicate balance between resolutely fighting terrorism and preserving democracy, civil rights and a rule of law for all. So far, the record of Mr. Vajpayee's Government has been both impressive and improving. The United States should applaud India for its reform efforts in the face of terrorism.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ALBERT AUGUST
"GUS" KARLE

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2000

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to honor Mr. Albert August "Gus" Karle. Mr. Karle, who has served the Waycross-Ware County community for forty-five years, has decided to step down from his position as president of the Waycross-Ware County Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Karle has been a dedicated member of the Waycross-Ware County community for many years. He has worked in the private sector for forty-one years, thirty-six years for the railroad, before retiring and dedicating his time to the Waycross civic arena. Mr. Karle has unselfishly assisted the YMCA, the Downtown Waycross Development Authority, and the Waycross-Ware County Chamber of Commerce, where he served as President for five years before retiring in June of 2000.

The Waycross-Ware county community and myself are proud of Mr. Karle's service and dedication. His leadership and prior activity in both the local civic and church affairs will be greatly missed but certainly not forgotten.

September 13, 2000

HONORING FLOYD E. ESPINOZA

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to commend Costilla County Commissioner Floyd E. Espinoza on his contributions to his community. The Honorable Mr. Espinoza has served Costilla County since 1994 and has fought hard to increase the tax base in his area. December will conclude Mr. Espinoza's six-year service as County Commissioner.

Mr. Espinoza spent over three decades in the Federal Government before moving to elected office. These thirty some years were spent in the Air Force and United States Department of Interior. Mr. Espinoza's contributions and leadership to Costilla County have made it a better place for all of its citizens to live.

Mr. Espinoza has served his community in outstanding fashion and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

Floyd, your community, State, and Nation are proud of you and we're grateful for your service.

TRIBUTE TO DICK WALDEN

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2000

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to honor Mr. Dick Walden of Warner Robins, GA. Mr. Walden is retiring from his position as president of the Warner Robins Chamber of Commerce after devotedly serving the local business community for 16 years.

Mr. Walden's retirement will bring a close to 30 years of accomplished service in Chamber of Commerce Management. He has served five chambers in Georgia and Florida, as well as serving on the board of directors of both the Georgia and Florida chamber of commerce executive associations. Mr. Walden's achievement has been appreciated by many as the Georgia Chamber of Commerce Executives Association named him Chamber Professional of the Year in 1991. His accomplishment is apparent through the growth and economic progression that Warner Robins has experienced under his leadership. The number of member businesses in Warner Robins has more than grown from 310 to 1,336 under his direction.

Warner Robins has benefited immensely from the contributions of service and devotion that Mr. Walden has made to the area. The economic health experienced over the past years is a reflection of Mr. Walden's hard work and dedication. I appreciate all of his accomplishment and hope for his continued success in future endeavors.