

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 Kashmir. This brief tour of a nation of more than 140 million people who were our loyal allies during the critical years of the cold war with the Soviet Union was pleasant and tremendously informative. The purpose of my trip was twofold. First, I represent the largest community of Pakistani and Kashmir-American citizens in our nation. Their concerns for their homeland are also my concerns. Secondly, since I was a high school student, and for all of my adult life, I have been captivated by the problem of Kashmir self-determination which mysteriously does not arouse the pity and

anger throughout the world that it deserves. To raise the national and world level of visibility on this issue I have founded the House Pakistan-Kashmir Caucus.

During our stay in Pakistan and Kashmir as the guest of the Council of Pakistan Americans and the government of Azad Kashmir we covered a full and productive itinerary:

We were received by several high level officials of the national government including the Head of State, General Parvez Mucharref; whose present title is Chief Executive Officer. We also met with the Foreign Minister, the Minister of Education, the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, the Administrator of the City of LaHore, the Governor of the province of Punjab.

We conferred with the American Embassy and Consulate officials in both Islamabad and LaHore including Ambassador Milman, Principal Officer Sheldon Rappaport, and Counsel General David Donahue along with the very helpful members of their staffs.

As a result of the recent passage of the Brownback amendment which exempts education aid from the set of sanctions presently being imposed on Pakistan, we met with an unusual number of education officials and visited six schools and four higher education institutions. Because of my long-term assignment on the Education Committee I applauded the Brownback amendment and conveyed my intent to closely work with those who are charged with administering it.

On a one day trip to Azad Kashmir we visited three schools and a refugee camp. We met children with high spirits and keen intelligence. We also met refugees who were obviously crushed in both spirit and body.

In Islamabad, and LaHore as well as in Azad Kashmir we participated in several press conferences and meetings which discussed the Kashmir problem at great length. The Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Sultan Mahmood Chaudary showed particular concern about the present stalemate and the decline in American interest as a third party. We assured him that, despite the exceptional power and influence of the Indian lobby, we would return to achieve a greater balance of thinking and action with respect to Pakistan and Kashmir. We also pledged to work with the Pakistani and Kashmiri community in America to "jump-start" a "People's Movement to Free Kashmir".

Self determination, democracy and human rights are assigned the highest priority in the value scheme of the international community in this year 2000. The people of Kashmir have been denied all three of these vital social and political components while the nations of the world have watched their plight for 53 years. The United Nations has reneged on a vital promise to Kashmir for more than five decades. The great powers who sit on the Security Council have ignored the pains of the Kashmir people.

For humanitarian reasons Kashmir must be set free. Of equal importance is the fact that this long festering problem fuels an explosive dispute between Pakistan and India. Because both of these powers now have nuclear weapons, Kashmir has become one of the globe's most dangerous regions. Justice for the people of Kashmir is now inextricably interwoven

with freedom from the massive world nuclear contamination which would result from any nuclear conflict in South Asia.

The continuing refusal of the United States and its allies to assign the highest priority to the Kashmir problem is a dangerous strategic blunder. The failure to pursue a vigorous and thorough non-violent diplomatic solution in Kashmir will result in tragic future consequences.

TRIBUTE TO JACK VALENTI ON
HIS RECEIPT OF THE CIVILIAN
PATRIOT AWARD

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in congratulating and honoring Jack Valenti, the President of the Motion Picture Association of America, on his receipt of the first Citizen Patriot Award. This award recognizes outstanding contributions by civilians to our nation's military personnel and to our nation's security. My dear friend, Jack Valenti, is a friend to many of us here in this body, and he is most deserving of this singular honor. Jack first served our country during World War II, flying over 50 combat missions over Italy. Later, he served in a position of great responsibility in the administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson. He then went on to represent our nation's film industry here in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I could spend all day extolling the virtues of this outstanding man, this extraordinary citizen and patriot. However, my efficient nature suggests that I share with you the excellent remarks of Secretary of Defense William Cohen when he presented Jack with this award. I request that excerpts of Secretary Cohen's speech be placed in the RECORD.

REMARKS OF SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM
COHEN PRESENTING THE CIVILIAN PATRIOT
AWARD TO JACK VALENTI, PRESIDENT OF THE
MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

I had a long speech tonight, but that's not what I'm going to inflict upon you. You had an opportunity to pay tribute to a young sailor who survived the U.S.S. *Cole* tragedy. I don't know if many of you are aware of what took place following that terrorist bombing. But for 48 to 72 hours following that tragic event, these young men and women aboard that ship worked much of the time without any power. They were in total darkness. They had no external support. They had lost 17 of their colleagues. Fifty were desperately wounded. They had chaos all around—smoke, jagged metal. Then they lost the power and the water was coming in at 10 gallons per minute, and they had to bail it out bucket by bucket. But they were determined to save that ship to make sure that ship did not go down.

So I again want to tell you how proud I am [of our forces], and how proud I am of President Clinton for having reached across the aisle to say, "I want this Republican to serve in my administration to send a signal to the American people and to the Congress that when it comes to national security there is no party label. There is no party difference.