

# State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

## Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 73

House concurrent resolution congratulating Townsend Swayze on his receipt of a special award from the Government of Bangladesh

Offered by: Representative Buxton of Tunbridge

Whereas, in 1947, when the British decided to end colonial rule and grant India independence, it was clear that the Hindu and Muslim populations could not share a common government, which led to the establishment of the separate nations of Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan, and

Whereas, the new nation of Pakistan consisted of two areas, and Punjab became West Pakistan and Bengal was designated as East Pakistan, and a 1,000 mile swath of India lay between them, and

Whereas, West Pakistan economically dominated East Pakistan, and when the West Pakistani language of Urdu was declared the only official language, to the exclusion of the East Pakistani language of Bangla, conflict between the two sectors of Pakistan sharpened considerably and a Bengali independence movement emerged, and

Whereas, in 1971, prior to the West Pakistani invasion of East Pakistan and the ensuing short but extremely vicious civil war resulting in the birth of Bangladesh, Townsend Swayze of Tunbridge was a U.S. Department of State desk officer with responsibility for American aid to Pakistan, and

Whereas, the declared American foreign aid policy was that assistance to Pakistan should be distributed to both East and West Pakistan, and

Whereas, with the assistance of a small team of U.S. Department of State colleagues, Townsend Swayze suspended all foreign assistance to Pakistan for an eight-month period prior to Bangladesh's independence, preventing West Pakistan from applying foreign assistance in ways detrimental to East Pakistan, and

Whereas, over 40 years later, in December 2012, Townsend Swayze was one of approximately 60 honored guests who the Government of Bangladesh, at its expense, invited to the capital, Dhaka, for three days of festivities and presentation of a special award recognizing their role in supporting Bangladeshi liberation from West Pakistan, and

Whereas, this unexpected honor was well deserved, as Townsend Swayze's efforts to prevent Pakistan from receiving foreign assistance that would have thwarted the liberation movement in Bangladesh helped lead to that independence, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Townsend Swayze on his receipt of a special award from the Government of Bangladesh, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Townsend Swayze in Tunbridge.