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# COMMEMORATING THE SUMGAIT POGROM

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 2, 2010*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, this past Sunday marked the twenty-second anniversary of the pogrom against Azerbaijanis of Armenian descent in the town of Sumgait, Azerbaijan. The 3-day massacre in the winter of 1988 resulted in the deaths of scores of Armenians, many of whom were burnt to death after being brutally beaten and tortured. Hundreds of others were wounded. Women and girls were brutally raped. The carnage created thousands of ethnic Armenian refugees, who had to leave everything behind to be looted or destroyed, including their homes, cars and businesses.

These crimes, which were proceeded by a wave of anti-Armenian rallies throughout Azerbaijan, were never adequately prosecuted by Azerbaijan authorities. Many who organized or participated in the bloodshed have gone on to serve in high positions on the Azeri government. For example, in the days leading up to the massacre, a leader of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, Hidayat Orujev, warned Armenians in Sumgait: "If you do not stop campaigning for the unification of Nagorno Karabakh with Armenia, if you don't sober up, 100,000 Azeris from neighboring districts will break into your houses, torch your apartments, rape your women, and kill your children." Orujev is currently the State Advisor for Ethnic Policy to Azeri President Heidar Aliyev.

Despite efforts by the Government of Azerbaijan to cover up the events of February 1988, survivors of the pogrom have come forward with their stories. They told of enraged mobs, which threw furniture, refrigerators, television sets and beds from apartment balconies and set them afire. Armenians were dragged from their apartments. If they tried to run and escape, the mob attacked them with metal rods, knives and hatchets before the victims were thrown into the fire. One witness said of a victim, "He was still moving, trying to escape from fire, but five young men were pushing him back into the fire with metal rods." Others told of Interior Ministry troops, who stood by doing nothing.

The Sumgait massacres led to wider reprisals against Azerbaijan's ethnic minority, resulting in the virtual disappearance of Azerbaijan's 450,000-strong Armenian community, and culminating in the war launched against the people of Nagorno Karabakh. That war resulted in almost 30,000 dead on both sides and created more than one million refugees in both Armenia and Azerbaijan.

This April will mark the 95th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, a crime that Azerbaijan's ally and protector Turkey has devoted enormous political resources to deny. Just as we cannot allow the first genocide of the Twentieth Century to fade into history, the memory of the victims of Sumgait must not be forgotten either.

## TRIBUTE TO DON THOMPSON

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 2, 2010*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an accomplished and talented corporate leader who is an outstanding role model as we celebrate Black History Month. Don Thompson is the recently appointed President and Chief Operating Officer for the McDonald's Corporation in Oak Brook, Illinois. Mr. Thompson is in charge of global strategy and operations for McDonald's 32,000 restaurants in 117 countries. He is tasked with maximizing profits for the company's many shareholders across the globe.

Don was raised in Chicago and Indianapolis by his grandmother. He credits his early success to her unwavering commitment to his education and wellbeing. Thanks to her determination and Don's hard work, he graduated from Purdue University with a degree in electrical engineering and got a job at the Northrop Corporation. He joined McDonald's in 1990 as a Restaurant Systems Engineer but soon realized his interest lay in restaurant operations.

In 1993, Don was named Director of Strategic Planning and Quality Management. Since then, he has risen quickly through McDonald's operational structure, performing beyond expectations in each position he has been given. In 1998 he was named the San Diego Regional Manager, a position that put him in charge of 300 area restaurants. Within a year, San Diego went from being McDonald's 39th most profitable market to its 2nd.

Five years later, Don was promoted to the position of Executive Vice President of Global Innovation where he helped expand and improve McDonald's global operations. Under his guidance, foreign branches were retooled to satisfy local palates. McDonald's international sales soon grew as a result and many observers attributed this turnaround to Don's ambitious initiatives.

In 2006, Don became the President of McDonald's USA where he oversaw all of the company's 14,000 American locations. He helped steer the company to several years of positive domestic growth. Last month Don was named to his current position as President and Chief Operating Officer. He now plans McDonald's global strategy and helps execute its implementation.

Don has been recognized for his outstanding work at McDonald's by a number of media outlets and business associations. Black Enterprise named him Corporate Executive of the Year. In 2008 the Trumpet Foundation awarded Don the Corporate Executive award. Last year, he received the Presidential Inspiration Award from Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated.

Along with being a gifted businessman, Don is a committed member of his community and remains true to his humble beginnings. "Don't get into the pity party of what's going to be done for you, because there are so many things you can do for yourself," he has said. "Others will see what you do and will look to support and help you." He currently serves on the board of trustees for Purdue University and is a member of the Executive Leadership Council. He is a former member of the San

Diego Ronald McDonald House Charities board of directors.

While reaching the upper echelons of American business, Don has remained a committed family man. He lives in the Chicago area with his wife Elizabeth and their two children.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Don Thompson on his recent appointment and the positive example he sets for all Americans. In this month, when we recognize the contributions of African Americans in this country, it is fitting and proper that we include corporate leaders like Mr. Thompson, who have broken barriers and opened doors for future generations to follow. I applaud his extraordinary accomplishments and the wonderful legacy he has built through hard work and perseverance.

## EXTEND TAX CREDIT FOR THE PRODUCTION OF STEEL INDUSTRY FUEL

**HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 2, 2010*

Mr. DOYLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to lend my support to a provision in the Extenders Bill that is being debated in the Senate to extend and clarify a tax credit for the production of Steel Industry Fuel, SIF. Last Fall, my colleagues and I introduced a similar bill to extend and clarify the SIF credit. SIF is used by the domestic steel industry as a feedstock for the manufacture of coke, which is coal that has been carbonized and is used as a fuel in steel making.

In October, 2008, Congress enacted a new refined coal tax credit under Section 45 of the tax code for the production of steel industry fuel, which is made from coal waste sludge and coal. The availability of the steel industry fuel tax credit provides a subsidy for projects that may not otherwise be commercially viable on account of materials, process, technology and other transaction costs. As originally enacted, the SIF credit was available for only one year. The placed-in-service period for the credit expired as of December 31, 2009, so new steel industry fuel projects cannot be brought on line without an extension of the credit.

The use of Steel Industry Fuel provides significant energy, environmental, and economic benefits, all of which argue for an extension of the SIF credit. The primary benefit of manufacturing SIF is that the production process recaptures the BTU content of coal waste sludge. The Environmental Protection Agency has approved the production of SIF as a method for disposing of coal waste sludge, and the production of SIF is the preferred method of coal waste sludge disposal. In addition, our domestic steel industry can become more competitive by using SIF because it lowers production and operation costs.

From an energy resource and environmental standpoint, the production of SIF is the superior method of disposing of coal waste sludge, it would otherwise be treated as a hazardous waste under applicable Federal environmental rules. The alternative methods of disposal are incineration and land-filling, each of which requires the physical conveyance of a waste product off-site. These disposal methods fail to

recapture the energy content of the coal waste sludge because the coal waste sludge, which has a high BTU content, is not used as a fuel.

An extension of the Steel Industry Fuel tax incentive is of critical importance in the current economic downturn, and its expiration has had a negative impact on our domestic steel industry. Steel companies and coke plant operators have suffered large losses as steel demand has declined significantly. These companies have been forced to lay off thousands of workers in my State of Pennsylvania, as well as in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, and elsewhere. Domestic steel manufacturers have had to operate at low capacity utilization rates and coke batteries have been placed on "hot idle," which is a holding pattern to prevent the coke battery bricks from cooling and damaging the battery. The extension and clarification of the SIF credit will help these manufacturers mitigate their losses as the economy recovers.

The one-year credit period and short placed-in-service deadline for SIF facilities have had a negative impact on SIF producers' ability to attract the outside investment needed to finance SIF projects. This negative impact has been compounded by the economic conditions that have prevailed since the enactment of the credit. SIF projects typically involve lengthy negotiations to implement the transaction structure necessary to claim the SIF credit, address environmental considerations, and negotiate the relevant economic terms. This in turn effectively reduced the one-year credit period to a lesser period for certain projects. The short time period to place projects in service—slightly over one year after the enactment of the credit—meant that there was too little time to get projects up and running. For these reasons, the intended subsidy of the SIF credit did not operate as designed and the extension of the credit—from one year to at least two years—and the extension of the placed-in-service deadline—from December 31, 2009 to December 31, 2010—are needed.

Included in the legislation I cosponsored is an important clarification on an issue that has slowed negotiations with respect to SIF projects. I very much hope that the final extenders package will include this and other clarifications. It is expected that, for the convenience of the parties and for environmental safety, facilities producing SIF will typically be located on land leased from a steel company or other owner of a coking operation. Such a lessor will not be treated as having an ownership interest in the SIF facility under the clarification because it leases land and related facilities, sells coal waste sludge or coal feedstock, and/or buys SIF so long as such person's entitlement to rent and/or other net payments is measured by a fixed dollar amount or a fixed dollar amount per ton, or otherwise not determined by reference to the profit or loss of the facility. Similarly, a licensor of technology will not be treated as having an ownership interest in the SIF facility because it is entitled to a royalty and/or other payment that is a fixed amount per ton or otherwise not determined by reference to the profit or loss of the facility. Such arrangements may also cause facilities that produce SIF to operate at a loss before the credit is taken into account. However, it is intended that the occurrence of such a "pre-tax loss" will not affect entitlement to this credit, regardless of whether such "pre-tax

loss" is caused by the terms of the lease, license, supply or sales contracts between the parties. To that end, the bill provides necessary flexibility for varying circumstances of ownership interests and clarifies that the existence of such arrangements will not prevent the equity owner of a facility from receiving tax credits for its sales of SIF. This amendment would provide greater tax certainty to potential investors in SIF projects.

SIF is typically produced at facilities that are located on the premises of coke plants that are owned by integrated steel companies that are unrelated to the SIF producers. The SIF production facility is situated on or near conveyor belts that may be leased from the integrated steel company and production of SIF may occur while coal—and coal blended with petroleum coke—is transported on the conveyor belts. SIF producers may purchase coal from the integrated steel producer, taking title and having risk of loss while such coal is transported on the conveyor belt.

The bill provides a safe harbor that establishes that the SIF producer shall be treated as the producer and seller of SIF that it manufactures from coal to which it has taken title. The bill further clarifies that the sale of SIF shall not fail to qualify as a sale to an unrelated party for purposes of the SIF credit solely because the sale is to a party that is also a ground lessor, supplier, and/or customer.

Our bill also establishes that SIF may also be made using coal or coal that is mixed with some petroleum coke or other coke feedstock. Such "pet coke" has traditionally been used by steel companies/coke operators in a blend with coal as a feedstock for coke. Steel companies also have explored and presently contemplate the use of other coke feedstocks to manufacture SIF. The bill provides that the use of pet coke or other coke feedstocks in the production of SIF does not invalidate or otherwise reduce the credit.

The steel industry is still prominent in my district in Pittsburgh and I'm hopeful that SIF projects will expand our domestic energy resources by using what would otherwise be a hazardous waste of the coking process in a fuel product. The availability of the tax credit will attract outside investment to the steel and coke production industries and promote job growth in the domestic steel production industry and in related industries that service the steel and coke production industries. The extension of the SIF credit will spur the investment of millions of dollars that will create hundreds of new jobs—in construction and processing—and maintain other jobs in the domestic steel industry, in Pittsburgh and around the country. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and hope the Senate will extend this credit and make these much needed technical corrections.

#### RECOGNIZING THE DIFFICULT CHALLENGES AND HEROISM OF BLACK VETERANS

SPEECH OF

**HON. LARRY KISSELL**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 2010*

Mr. KISSELL. Mr. Speaker, a constituent of mine, Michael Lawson, recently told me about

the little known role the first all black fighting regiment had during WWI.

The 15th New York Infantry, "The Harlem Hellfighters," later federally designated as the 369th Regiment Army. They served valiantly, including 191 days without a replacement and never lost a prisoner or a foot of ground. He said there had been no formal American recognition of the dedication and sacrifice of these young men. The French did recognize them with the Croix de Guerre, their highest military honor as well as a monument dedicated by a grateful French government.

Michael knew all about the Harlem Hellfighters because his grandfather, MAJ Melville T. Miller, served more than 50 years in the U.S. Army through two World Wars and the Korean War. Major Miller began his service as a member of the unit when he was just 16 years old.

#### RECOGNIZING THE KIWANIS CLUB OF FINDLAY ON ITS NINETIETH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JIM JORDAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 2, 2010*

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Kiwanis Club of Findlay, Ohio, as it celebrates 90 years of service to the greater Findlay area.

Since 1915, Kiwanians have been dedicated to "changing the world one child and one community at a time." Chartered 90 years ago today, the Kiwanis Club of Findlay has answered this call from the start, playing a vital role in supporting youth programs throughout Hancock County.

Findlay's Kiwanians proudly sponsor local Key Clubs and K-Kids programs, support the University of Findlay's Circle K Club, and inspire our country's future leaders through the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Program. For more than 70 years, they have sponsored Boy Scout Citizenship Day to help young people learn about the duties and responsibilities of their local government officials.

The club is well known for its outstanding scholarship programs, which to date have seen in excess of \$100,000 awarded to more than one hundred students. It developed this program in recognition of its longtime secretary and treasurer, Fred Brucklacher, a life-long advocate of higher education.

In 2007, in the aftermath of devastating flooding throughout the Findlay area, the Findlay Kiwanis led efforts to raise more than \$17,000 in cash and school supplies to donate to students and families in need.

Madam Speaker, the club will mark its anniversary with a dinner this evening, where Kiwanis International Vice President Alan Penn and Ohio District Governor Donald Parker will lead the tributes to the club's long history of service. Among the honorees will be Dwight Snyder, Jr., a former state chapter officer who has compiled a 40-year record of perfect attendance at local meetings.

I invite my colleagues to join me in saluting the Kiwanis Club of Findlay on its ninetieth anniversary and wishing its members every success in the future.