

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING THE VICTIMS OF SUMGAIT

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the pogrom against people of Armenian descent in the town of Sumgait, Azerbaijan. The three-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." In a cruel twist, Orujev went on to serve as Azerbaijan's State Advisor for Ethnic Policy and later as head of State Committee for Work with Religious Organizations.

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.

In the years since the fighting ended, the people of Artsakh, the region's ancestral name, have struggled to build a functioning democratic state in the midst of unrelenting hostility and threats from Azerbaijan, as well as sniper fire and other incursions across the Line of Contact between the two sides. Hatred towards Armenians is both inculcated and celebrated in Azeri youth, as exemplified by the case of Ramil Safarov, an Azerbaijani army captain who had confessed to the savage 2004 axe murder of Armenian army lieutenant Gurgen Margaryan, while the latter slept. At the time, the two were participating in a NATO Partnership for Peace exercise in Budapest, Hungary. After the murder, Safarov was sentenced to life in prison by a Hungarian court and imprisoned in Hungary.

Last August Safarov was sent home to Azerbaijan, purportedly to serve out the remainder of his sentence. Instead of prison, he

was greeted as a hero by the Azeri government and promenaded through the streets of Baku carrying a bouquet of roses. President Ilham Aliyev immediately pardoned Safarov and he was promoted to the rank of major and given a new apartment and eight years of back pay.

In recent weeks, 75-year-old Akram Aylisli, one of Azerbaijan's most celebrated writers, has been subjected to a campaign of hatred. According to a report in the BBC, "[h]is books have been publicly burnt. He has been stripped of his national literary awards. And a high-ranking Azeri politician has offered \$13,000 as a bounty for anyone who will cut off his ear. Aylisli's 'crime?'—in his short novel *Stone Dreams*, he dared to look at the conflict between Azeris and Armenians from the Armenian perspective.

With these disgusting acts, the Azeri state reminded the whole world why the people of Artsakh must be allowed to determine their own future and cannot be allowed to slip into Aliyev's clutches, lest the carnage of Sumgait a quarter century ago serve as a foreshadowing of a greater slaughter.

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY, MRS.  
BETTY HECHLINSKI

**HON. JACKIE WALORSKI**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in honor of my aunt, Mrs. Betty Hechliniski of South Bend, Indiana who turns 80 years old today. A lifelong Hoosier resident, Aunt Betty was the oldest of three children and attended school in her hometown of South Bend, graduating from St. Adalbert Elementary School and Washington High School.

Aunt Betty has always assumed a natural leadership role in the Walorski family, particularly to my father, the late Ray Walorski. The proud mother of three children and five grandchildren, Aunt Betty continues to stay busy in the community, attending church and blessing us all with her wonderful cooking at family gatherings. As the matriarch of the Walorski family, she continues to remind us of the power of generosity and kindness. I am honored to join our family and friends in wishing Aunt Betty a Happy Birthday, with many more years of continued health and joyful memories.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM P.  
GALLIGAN'S 43 YEARS OF SERVICE  
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

**HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to William (Bill) P. Galligan, for

his exceptional dedication to duty and service to the Department of Defense, spanning over a 43-year career, in honor of his retirement at the end of September 2012.

Mr. Galligan enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in February 1969 and served on Active Duty until February 1993. His uniformed service included two combat tours in Vietnam, assignments at bases in Germany and stateside, and 11 years as administrative assistant and Congressional courier on the Comptroller's staff at the Pentagon. With his retirement from the Air Force, he transitioned to a civilian role and continued to serve the Comptroller organization for another 19 years.

In his capacity, including three decades in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) office, serving 15 Congresses from the 98th to the 112th, Mr. Galligan delivered key documents to our Committee from the Department of Defense. We could always count on a story that ended with a chuckle from Bill. Many staff over the years has become fond of Bill and it won't be the same not seeing his face around Capitol Hill anymore.

We wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement. I'm sure he will be enjoying more time with his grandchildren.

TRIBUTE TO SARAH COLLINS-RUDOLPH  
IN RECOGNITION OF HER SACRIFICES AS A SURVIVOR OF  
THE 1963 BOMBING OF SIXTEENTH  
STREET BAPTIST CHURCH IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Sarah Collins-Rudolph, a little known American hero whose life was forever changed on the morning of Sunday, September 15, 1963. On that tragic day, Sarah's sister Addie was one of four little girls killed in the noted bombing of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. While her name isn't engraved in memorials or printed in history books, to many in the Birmingham community, Sarah is known as "the fifth little girl." As we remember the 50th anniversary of this tragic event in our nation's history, we pay tribute to the four lives that were lost. But, we must also remember those that survived this horrible tragedy. Sarah Collins-Rudolph is one of those survivors. Sarah is the last of eight children born to Alice and Oscar Collins of Birmingham, AL. The day of the bombing, she was just 12 years old. Sarah and Addie Mae were one year apart and formed a unique closeness due to their closest in age.

On the morning of the bombing, Sarah was in the bathroom of the church's basement with the four victims including Addie Mae, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson and Cynthia Wesley. Sarah was the only girl in the bathroom

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

that day to survive. She lost her right eye and her life was filled with corrective surgeries and extensive medical care for her injuries. There were 21 survivors of the bombing of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church but no single family suffered as much as the Collins family, losing Addie Mae and caring for Sarah's multiple injuries.

The physical and emotional scars of this senseless tragedy remain with Sarah as she continues her extraordinary life. Even today, there are moments when she struggles mentally with her fate of being bombed at just 12 years old. Despite the persistent aftermath of the events, she is dedicated to making sure that the nation remembers the bombing and its significance to the civil rights movement. Sarah shares her painful story in hopes that future generations will know their history and remember those that were symbols of the civil rights movement.

Today, I salute Sarah Collins-Rudolph for her sacrifices to our country. We are often reminded of the civil rights giants that fought on the front lines for justice and equality. But it is an imperative that we never forget the sacrifices made by all those who were a part of this transformative time in America. On behalf of a grateful nation, we say thank you to Mrs. Sarah Collins-Rudolph for the personal sacrifice and courageous fight she has endured for civil and equal rights. On that Sunday morning in 1963, Sarah's life changed instantly and she was forever scarred by the actions of those who sought to stifle America's movement. But because of Sarah, we rejoice in a new era of our history that realizes the dreams of those before us.

We salute Mrs. Collins-Rudolph because her story was a catalyst for a new America. Her sacrifices led us to the liberties and freedoms that many of us enjoy today. I am especially grateful for Sarah's story for had it not been for her painful journey, my own journey would not be possible. As Alabama's first Black Congresswoman, I stand before you today with a humble heart knowing that Sarah's journey paved the way for my own place in American history.

I ask all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in saluting Mrs. Sarah Collins-Rudolph, an Alabama treasure and an American hero.

#### TO RECOGNIZE THE FAIRFAX COUNTY YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE AND THE 2013 FAIRFAX COUNTY FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME HONOREES

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fairfax County Youth Football League and to congratulate the 2013 Fairfax County Football Hall of Fame honorees and scholarship award recipients.

The importance of youth sports cannot be overstated. Participation in organized sports instills in our youth many values that will serve them well throughout life. These values include sportsmanship, teamwork, honesty, a sense of belonging, and maybe most important, the work ethic developed by striving for

success and working to achieve a common goal. Organized youth sports also contribute to our society. Studies have shown a correlation between participation in sporting activities and increased academic performance. Some studies indicate that a reduction in gang activity can be partially attributed to refocusing at-risk children into organized, supervised activities such as youth sports.

I commend the Fairfax County Youth Football League for providing opportunities for our children to succeed and be a part of a team. I also congratulate the following students, coaches and community leaders who are being recognized at the 23rd Annual Fairfax County Football Hall of Fame:

\$1,500 Scholarship Award Recipients: Raina Aide (Cheerleading, J.E.B. Stuart HS), Harrison "Sonny" Romine (Football, Chantilly HS), Brian Deely (Football, Westfield HS), and Ben Sanford (Football, Madison HS)

Fairfax County Football Hall of Fame 2013 Inductees: Evan Royster (Washington Redskins, Penn State, Westfield HS, FPYC), Bruce Hanson (Head Coach, Yorktown HS), and Steve Wilmer (Coach/Commissioner—McLean Youth Football)

Football Official of the Year—Youth Sports: Steve Caruso (Fairfax County Football Officials Association)

Karl Davey Community Achievement Award: Tom Healy (Southwestern Youth Association, FCYFL)

Tom Davis Meritorious Service Award: Deb Garris (Manager, Synthetic Turf Branch, Fairfax County Park Authority)

Gene Nelson Commissioner of the Year Award: Jason McEachin (Dulles South Youth Sports)

High School Players of the Year: Jonathan Allen (Stone Bridge HS), Tyler Donnelly (Yorktown HS), Oren Burks (South County HS), Sean Huelskamp (Chantilly HS), Scott Carpenter (Gonzaga College HS), Nick Newman (Battlefield HS)

High School Coaches of the Year: Mickey Thompson (Stone Bridge HS), Jason Rowley (Oakton HS)

Youth Sports Players of the Year: Avery Howard (Manassas YFL), Virginia "Ginny" Delacruz (SYC), Justin Burke (RYA), Preston Bacon (CYA), Miles Thompson (Fairfax Police Youth Club), Anthony Eaton, Jr. (Alexandria Youth Football), Hunter Godin (APYFL), Robbie McGoff (SCAA), Nicholas DiVecchia (SYA), Markel Harrison (VYI), Carlo Esposito (BRYC), Michael Bayeux-Gary (HOYF), Phillippe Oliveros (CYA), Joshua Breece (Ft. Belvoir Youth Sports), Noah Adler (VYI), Christian Jessup (Dulles South Youth League)

Youth Sports Coaches of the Year: Anthony Price (Gum Springs Community Center), Buddy Morris (BRYC), Tommy Durand (Arlington Football League), Donny Cooke (VYI)

Youth Cheerleaders of the Year: Haley Clay (Dulles South Youth League), Rachel Strauss (VYI), Angel Bailey (HOYC), Asjah Snead (HOYC), Meghan Adams (GHYFL)

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Fairfax County Youth Football League as well as those students, coaches and community leaders who are being honored at this 2013 Hall of Fame celebration.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on February 27, 2013, I was unavoidably detained and missed roll No. 53. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

#### HONORING MARINE MASTER SERGEANT ELBERT LESTER

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. I rise to recognize a remarkable veteran, Marine Master Sergeant Elbert Lester. On Friday, November 2, 2012 Marine Master Sergeant Elbert Lester, now eighty-seven years of age, was awarded the Munford Point Marines' Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor bestowed by Congress for distinguished achievement.

The Munford Point Marines were the first African-Americans to serve in the United States Marine Corps in 1941, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Fair Employment Practices Commission, ultimately forcing the Corps to recruit blacks. When asked, "Why did you choose the Marine Corps?" he replied "They decided that for me." He then explained while at the Army recruiting station, the black company was asked for volunteers to go into the Marines. No one did. "So, they put our names in a hat and my name was one of those that were pulled. I was one of the unlucky ones."

Elbert Lester was assigned to the 27th Depot Company as a Corporal and would leave the service as Master Sergeant. Following training, his unit was put aboard a ship in Norfolk, VA to Guadalcanal, a thirty-day voyage that would begin his time of service in the South Pacific. Most of the 19,000 black Marines trained at Munford Point were assigned to ammunition and depot companies, bring ammunition and supplies to the front lines, and returning wounded and dead to transport ships.

After the war, he returned to Quitman County, Mississippi where he married his childhood sweetheart Pearlina Williams. They have thirteen children: Frank, Teresia, Pearlie Mae, Elbert Jr., Patricia, Lacsia, Napoleon, Miranda, Alberta, Timothy, Roderick, Darius, Cornelius and three adopted: Waring, Tiffany and Kikera Brown. Mr. and Mrs. Lester have been married for 65 years and live on their 80-acre farm. They attend Woodland Missionary Baptist Church, where they both sing in the choir.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Monford Point Marine Master Sergeant Elbert Lester for his sacrifices in promoting democracy around the world and the United States of America.