

After Fansler departed for the bench, Stokes put together the highly successful firm that has become Stokes, Williams, Sharp & Davies.

In 2004, he took on something that he calls "a serious miscalculation," running against state Rep. Jamie Hagood for state Senate and losing badly.

"I'd suffered a pretty serious injury the year before in a fall-down, and I decided that life is short and you better grab it fast. I had some people encouraging me, and a lot of great help and I'd always wanted to serve in that capacity.

"But I ran an inept campaign. I wish I hadn't gotten beat quite so badly and I let a lot of good people down, but otherwise I've moved on."

And then he grinned:

"Tim Hutchison got beat worse."

## HONORING CHRISTOPHER SEWARD

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Seward. Christopher is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christopher has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Christopher has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Christopher has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher Seward for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

## SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS

### HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness of an issue that harmfully affects many individuals both in my district and throughout the United States. April represents Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which was instituted as a means to spread the word about the frequency and aftermath of sexual assault, as well as to garner support for community programs focused on prevention.

April 26th marks the 2nd Annual "Wear Teal to Work Day," an event organized by the Network of Victim's Assistance (NOVA), a community group located in my district with a mission to support, counsel, and empower victims of sexual assault. Several businesses and organizations throughout Pennsylvania have readily agreed to endorse this initiative, and I applaud them for their contributions.

## INTRODUCTION OF FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE INCLUSION ACT

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is time to bring our nation's federal workplace policies into the 21st Century. Signed into law 20 years ago this past February, the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) provides protections to almost 60 percent of the American workforce. This means approximately 90 million workers are covered and eligible for leave under current FMLA policies that allow for up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave from work to care for a new baby or to care for a spouse, child under age 18, or parent who has a serious health condition. While this leave has provided critical work protections to individuals in times of great need, this landmark law does not go far enough in accommodating our modern workforce and families.

Polls related to recent cases before the Supreme Court show that more and more Americans support marriage equality and recognize the need to extend federal rights and privileges to all American families. With that goal in mind, I am introducing the Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act that will allow same sex spouses and partners, grandparents, and other loved ones eligible to take family and medical leave to care for a sick family member. Under current federal law, such individuals do not qualify for FMLA, making it impossible for some employees to be with their loved ones during times of medical need.

Almost 600 employers, including more than two hundred fortune 500 companies, several states, the District of Columbia, and some local jurisdictions have extended these protections to individuals not originally included in the original Family and Medical Leave Act. The legislation I am introducing today would allow an employee to take unpaid leave from work if his or her same-sex spouse or domestic partner has a serious health condition. It also permits employees to take FMLA to care for a parent-in-law, adult child, sibling, grandchild or grandparent if that person has a serious health condition. Additionally, given repeal of don't ask don't tell, this legislation includes domestic partners of service members as permissible candidates for FMLA.

I thank Senator RICHARD DURBIN for introducing this legislation on the Senate side as well as my colleagues who have signed on as original supporters. I urge swift passage of this bill.

## ARMENIAN GENOCIDE ANNIVERSARY

### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, this week marked the 98th anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

I have long been a cosponsor of a resolution introduced in multiple sessions of Congress which reaffirms the United States record on the Armenian genocide.

The Armenian genocide, in which 1.5 million perished, is widely recognized as the 20th century's first genocide. Raphael Lemkin, the Jewish legal scholar who coined the word genocide and tirelessly advocated for international law defining it and preventing it, was driven largely by what happened to the Armenians.

Since that time, the world has witnessed unfathomable horrors during the Nazi-perpetrated Holocaust and subsequent genocides in Bosnia, Cambodia, Rwanda and Sudan. And too often, the world has been silent in the face of such brutality despite claims of "Never Again."

In fact, Sudanese president Omar Bashir, an internationally-indicted war criminal charged with genocide and crimes against humanity, continues to travel the globe with virtual impunity.

Adolph Hitler, in describing his murderous plans and seeking to silence those with reservations, famously said, "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?"

There is power in speaking the truth, even about atrocities that occurred nearly a century ago, so that others with evil aims will not be empowered by our silence.

Sadly President Obama, despite his campaign promises, has once again failed to characterize the brutal slaughter of one and half million people as genocide.

## CONGRATULATING NORWICH TOWNSHIP CITIZENS ON THEIR BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

### HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the citizens of Norwich Township, located in Franklin County, on their bicentennial anniversary.

Though the first pioneers west of the Scioto River and South of Hayden Run arrived in 1807, the Township was not officially founded until 1813—a year after the City of Columbus, 56 years before the City of Hilliard was incorporated, and 10 years after Ohio was admitted into the union.

Norwich Township boasts a rich history. The township's one-room schoolhouse known as "Smiley's Grove" opened in 1814, and by 1878 the school system was fully integrated. In fact, many early settlers in Norwich were emancipated slaves.

One of the largest limestone deposits in the world can be found in the southeast corner of Norwich, bringing scores of jobs to the area at the turn of the century.

Wesley Chapel Methodist Church is a historical landmark in the township. It was organized in 1832, and a public cemetery was added on adjacent to the church in 1836. This fall, citizens will celebrate their bicentennial anniversary with a historical walk beginning at the cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, I would like all Members of Congress to join me in congratulating Norwich Township and its residents as they celebrate their bicentennial anniversary.

COMMENDING PRESIDENT  
NURSULTAN NAZARBAYEV OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

**HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 25, 2013*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Republic of Kazakhstan on the 10th anniversary of President Nursultan Nazarbayev's initiative in establishing the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions.

In the 111th Congress, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed H. Res. 535, a Resolution I introduced to commend the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions for calling upon all nations to live in peace and mutual understanding.

The Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions has always been based on the premise that religion can be an important arbiter for resolving political differences and conflicts, and I am pleased that The Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions has created a platform for building bridges of mutual understanding. The Congress has become an effective forum for leaders of world religions to promote a united approach to the critical issue of interreligious dialogue.

The Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions also has become a full-fledged platform for multi-track discussions on the most pressing issues of international religious affairs. Kazakhstan's capital, Astana, has hosted four high-profile gatherings of senior clerics from Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism, Hinduism, Taoism and other faiths. It was my privilege to attend a gathering of the Congress which included participation from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Christian denomination of which I am a member.

A symbol of tolerance, Astana was a center for interreligious discussions during Kazakhstan's 2010 OSCE Chairmanship and the subsequent Organization of Islamic Cooperation Ministerial Chairmanship in 2011–2012. As a secular state with a predominantly Muslim population, Kazakhstan has been working to promote tolerance and interreligious dialogue since the first days of its independence. As the world was recovering from the aftermath of 9/11, Kazakhstan responded to international grievances by convening a Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions.

President Nazarbayev also has met with Pope Benedict XVI and other high-ranking representatives of the Vatican, focusing discussions on the necessity for further development of interreligious dialogue. The visit of John Paul Pope II in Kazakhstan in 2001 as well as a visit to the Vatican by President Nursultan Nazarbayev in 2009 indicates that an active bilateral cooperation exists.

In February 2013, the Chairman of Kazakhstan's Senate and Head of the Secretariat of the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions Kairat Mami also met with Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican and expressed gratitude to the Holy See for support of the Congress.

During these meetings, Pope Benedict XVI praised the efforts of President Nazarbayev in preserving intercultural understanding and ac-

cord, and wished success, especially in the strengthening of peace.

At the Vatican, Kazakhstan's Chairman of the Agency for Religious Affairs Kairat Lama Sharif and the Cardinals of the Holy See also discussed the prospects of the Congress of Astana and the deepening of interreligious relations. As Angelo Sodano, Dean of the College of Cardinals of the Holy See, stated, "I think that the idea of the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev to hold the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions is very important. This is a great contribution to the development of interreligious dialogue. And very big work has been conducted for the past 10 years. This year the diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and the Vatican is 21. During all this time the mutual aspiration for interreligious and intercultural concord only has strengthened."

An organized photo exhibition at the Vatican was devoted to the 10th anniversary of the Congress, and the photo exhibition will now be displayed in the U.S. Capitol during a reception to be held on May 7, 2013. I am honored to participate in this worthy cause.

Once more, I commend President Nazarbayev for his visionary leadership. President Nazarbayev is a man committed to peace, and I stand with him as he spares no effort to advance understanding. For historical purposes, I thank him for establishing the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, and for promoting religious dialogue between people of all faiths.

**AUTISM AWARENESS**

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 25, 2013*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness for the 2 million individuals in the U.S. that have autism. Autism is a brain disorder that affects the mental development of children all across the United States.

Autism is a disease that is being thrust into the national spotlight. One in every 88 children in the United States is now affected by it. That number is a ten-fold increase in prevalence over a period of just 40 years. Indeed, autism is the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States.

Some solace is found in the fact that many organizations are making great strides in promoting awareness of autism. One that is active in my district is the Autism Cares Foundation, located out of Richboro, PA. It is organizations such as this that are on the front lines of combating the challenge that autism is presenting to this country. I am proud of the people at Autism Cares and those in organizations like it that are committed to building awareness and outreach as they continue to serve families living with autism.

**BLACK JANUARY AND KHOJALY  
MASSACRE**

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 25, 2013*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss several matters of importance to Azer-

baijan. I note that January 20, 2013 marked the 23rd anniversary of an historic and tragic day in the history of the country of Azerbaijan. On the night of January 19, 1990, 26,000 Soviet troops invaded the capital city of Baku and surrounding areas. By the end of the next day, more than 130 people had died, 611 were injured, 841 were arrested and 5 were missing. This event is memorialized as "Black January," and, for the citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan this event left an indelible mark on the minds of all citizens.

Soviet troops entered Azerbaijan under the pretext of restoring public order, while actually aiming to forcefully end peaceful demonstrations for independence. However, Soviet incursion further incited aspirations of Azerbaijani people to regain their independence after 70 years of Soviet rule.

In the end, Azerbaijan's pro-Moscow regime grew weaker and by 1991, popular pressure resulted in restoration of independence of Azerbaijan. On August 30, 1991, Azerbaijan's Parliament adopted the Declaration on the Restoration of the State Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and on October 18, 1991, the Constitutional Act on the State Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan was approved. November 1991 marked the beginning of international recognition of Azerbaijan's independence. The United States opened an embassy in Baku in March 1992 and it has remained committed to aiding Azerbaijan in its transition to democracy and its formation of an open market economy.

Some historical observers have noted that the violence inflicted on the citizens of Baku may have been intended to send a message to other Soviet republics that similar aspirations of nationalism would not be tolerated. In the wake of this horrific act and inspired by the strength of the Azerbaijani people's belief in the principles of democracy, the Republic of Azerbaijan has maintained its independence for more than 16 years, despite lingering economic and social problems from the Soviet era. Today, Azerbaijan has developed into a thriving country with double digit growth, in large part due to a freely-elected president and parliament, free market reforms led by the energy sector, and most importantly, no foreign troops on its soil.

The road to independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity for the Azerbaijani people has not come without adversity and sacrifice. Although Azerbaijan thrives today, the people of Azerbaijan recognize those who lost their lives on Black January in 1990 and honor their sacrifice through their commitment to the ideals of democracy. As we reflect on this terrible tragedy, we who believe in the tenets of freedom and the hope of democracy should recognize the incredible sacrifice made by the people of Azerbaijan and by free people all around the world.

I also rise to commemorate the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly massacre perpetrated by Armenian armed forces on February 25 through February 26, 1992 in the town of Khojaly in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. Khojaly, now under the occupation of Armenian armed forces, was the site of the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians in the course of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict.

Khojaly, once the home to 7,000 people, was completely destroyed. Six hundred thirteen people were killed, of which 106 were women, 83 were children and 56 were purported to have been killed. In addition, 1,275