

it is fitting that this award be bestowed upon James Netters in recognition of his accomplishments and contributions.

James Netters was born in Aliceville, Alabama in 1927 and moved with his family to Memphis, Tennessee in 1942. He graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1946, and nine years later was ordained by Reverend L.O. Taylor at Olivet Baptist Church. In 1956, Mr. Netters was installed as pastor of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church-Westwood in Memphis. Under his leadership, Mt. Vernon has been active in the community, operating Mount Vernon Christian Academy, which provides education for infants, and Westwood Manor Elderly Cottages, which offers affordable housing for independent-living seniors. In 1963, James received his B.A. degree from Lemoyne-Owen College and later earned his Master of Divinity from Memphis Theological Seminary in 1987 and his Doctor of Ministry in 1994.

In 1963, as the Civil Rights Movement gained momentum throughout the country, Dr. Netters travelled to Washington, D.C. to participate in the March on Washington, standing on stage while Dr. King delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech. Invigorated and inspired by this experience, Dr. Netters returned to Memphis and was successful at working to integrate public buses. Dr. Netters later joined Reverend J.O. Patterson and Fred Davis to become the first African-Americans elected to the newly formed Memphis City Council. As a Councilman, James Netters worked to bring Dr. King and other national civil rights figures to Memphis to support the sanitation workers during the strike of 1968. He was also influential in working out an agreement to end the strike. In 1971, he stepped down from the City Council to serve as the Administrative Assistant to Mayor Wyeth Chandler from 1972 to 1975. Dr. Netters was the first African-American to serve in this position in Memphis.

Dr. Netters has received numerous awards and recognitions, and has served in various leadership positions including Chairman of the Board of Memphis Light, Gas and Water as well as its Interim President and CEO. He continues to pastor at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church and has grown its membership from 300 to over 4,000. Today, Reverend Netters is the most senior pastor in Memphis. There is no doubt that his work is worthy of this award named after Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. James L. Netters, Sr. on being awarded the 2014 Be the Dream MLK Legacy Award.

TRIBUTE TO THE FRANKENMUTH ROTARY CLUB

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2014

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Frankenmuth Rotary Club in commemoration of the group's 75th anniversary.

The Frankenmuth Rotary Club began operations on April 21, 1939, with a goal of gathering community leaders to provide humanitarian services to those in need—from the local to the international scale. Over the past

75 years, the members have continued to promote a high moral standard in the community while providing assistance with philanthropic projects.

The club began as a small gathering of 35 charter members. Today, the club boasts over 125 members. Over the course of the club's presence in Frankenmuth, various projects helped change the landscape of the community. On multiple occasions, the club has collaborated with area foundations and businesses on building projects, maintenance funds, and renovations throughout the community. These endeavors have emphasized the club's passion for growth and goodwill in Frankenmuth.

In addition to supporting local events and activities every year, the Frankenmuth Rotary Club has supported international service programs; each with a specific cause tailored to the project involved. The club has conducted philanthropic work in Brazil, the Dominican Republic, India, and South America. These projects have provided beneficial services such as clean drinking water pumps, school facility improvements, and dental work for those in need. Through these efforts to improve communities and lives both locally and abroad, the club has served as a model for humanitarian action.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, it is with great honor that I commemorate this 75th anniversary of the Frankenmuth Rotary Club. I offer my sincerest thanks for all that the organization has done and all that it will continue to do in the future.

BLACK JANUARY AND KHOJALY MASSACRE

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2014

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss several matters of importance to Azerbaijan. 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 people were taken hostage, 150 went missing and 487 people became disabled. Also in the records maintained, 76 of the victims were teenagers, 8 families were wiped out and 25 children lost both of their parents while 130 lost one of their parents. According to Human Rights Watch and other international observers, the Armenian Armed forces were reportedly aided by the Russian 366th Motor Rifle Regiment.

At the time, Newsweek magazine reported: "Azerbaijan was a charnel house again last week: a place of mourning refugees and dozens of mangled corpses dragged to a makeshift morgue behind the mosque. They were ordinary Azerbaijani men, women and children of Khojaly, a small village in war-torn Nagorno-Karabakh overrun by Armenian forces on 25–26 February. Many were killed at close range while trying to flee; some had their faces mutilated, others were scalped."

As part of the Khojaly population that tried to escape, they encountered violent ambushes that led to abuses, torture, mutilation and death. The Russian organization, Memorial, stated that 200 Azerbaijani corpses were brought from Khojaly to Agdam within four days.

Time magazine published the following description: "While the details are argued, this

much is plain: something grim and unconscionable happened in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly 2 weeks ago. So far, some 200 dead Azerbaijanis, many of them mutilated, have been transported out of the town tucked inside the Armenian-dominated enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh for burial in neighboring Azerbaijan. The total number of deaths—the Azerbaijanis claim 1,324 civilians have been slaughtered, most of them women and children—is unknown.”

The extent of the cruelty of this massacre against women, children and the elderly was unfathomable. This anniversary reminds us of the need to redouble efforts to help resolve the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. The United States as a Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group should intensify its efforts to reach a resolution of this protracted conflict.

Mr. Speaker, Azerbaijan is a strong ally of the United States in a strategically important and complex region of the world. I ask my colleagues to join me and our Azerbaijani friends in commemorating the tragedy that occurred in the town of Khojaly as well as Black January.

CONGRATULATING JOCELYN
(JOCIE) WURZBURG ON RECEIVING
THE 2014 BE THE DREAM
MLK LEGACY AWARD

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2014

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jocelyn (Jocie) Wurzburg on receiving the 2014 Be the Dream MLK Legacy Award. This special award is given to those individuals whose lives have “embodied the spirit and legacy of service, sacrifice and hope” that characterized the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As a women’s rights and civil rights activist, it is fitting that this award be bestowed upon Jocelyn Wurzburg in recognition of her accomplishments and contributions.

Jocelyn Wurzburg was born in Memphis, Tennessee in 1940, and received her B.A. in sociology and anthropology from Rhodes College in 1965. While she had always been keenly aware of injustices toward minority groups, it was not until the assassination of Dr. King in 1968 that Jocie became moved to take a stand. Later that year, she founded the Memphis Chapter of the Panel of American Women to “discuss the nature of prejudice and the effects it has on our fellow citizens.” Over the course of 10 years, the panel met with over 100,000 people and slowly changed attitudes on race in Memphis.

Jocie was also important in helping to prevent a second sanitation strike in Memphis. She and a group of women organized as the Concerned Women of Memphis and Shelby County (CWMSC) to encourage the City Council and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) to “negotiate in good faith to avoid a strike.” While city officials at the time denied CWMSC’s role in preventing a strike, Rhodes College history professor Gail Murray says that the city negotiated on all the terms set forth by CWMSC. Then AFSCME national director, Jerry Wurf, confided in Jocelyn, saying that it was CWMSC that warded off a second strike.

In 1971, Jocelyn was appointed by Governor Winfield Dunn to the Tennessee Human Rights Commission (THRC) and immediately began working on language that became the Tennessee Human Rights Act, which passed the Tennessee General Assembly in 1978. This was the first anti-discrimination law in the state of Tennessee covering employment, housing and public accommodations, and it gave THRC the power to investigate, mediate and litigate claims of discrimination for the first time. She was reappointed to the commission in 2007 by Governor Phil Bredesen.

After Jocie successfully worked to avoid a second sanitation strike and pass the Tennessee Human Rights Act, she received her J.D. from the University of Memphis School of Law in 1979, and worked to negotiate marital dissolution agreements. Inspired by the belief that mediation was an effective way to avert crises, she gained over 600 hours of Mediation Training and opened Memphis’ first mediation firm in 1984. She established the Mediation Association of Tennessee and it has since spread statewide. Her clients include the Shelby County Government, United States Postal Service, the EEOC Panel and the Department of Justice ADA Claims.

Jocelyn Wurzburg has received numerous appointments and awards throughout her career, including an appointment to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and an appointment by President Gerald Ford to the U.S. Commission for the Observance of International Women’s Year. There is no doubt that her work is worthy of this award named after Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jocelyn (Jocie) Wurzburg on being awarded the 2014 Be the Dream MLK Legacy Award.

IN RECOGNITION OF SENIOR
PRESIDING ELDER ELIJAH SMITH

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Presiding Elder Elijah Smith, who will be retiring as Senior Presiding Elder of the Eastern District for the Southwest Georgia Annual Conference for the African Methodist Episcopal Church after forty-nine years of faithful and dedicated service to the Lord. He will be honored at a retirement celebration on Friday, January 17, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Columbus Convention and Trade Center in Columbus, Georgia.

A native of Fort Valley, Georgia and a man after God’s own heart, Presiding Elder Smith began serving the ministry in the early 1960s. After being ordained an Itinerant Elder in 1967, he spent twenty-seven years pastoring various congregations in the Southwest Georgia Conference, including Eastman Circuit, Allen Chapel in Americus, Mountain Creek in Sumter County, and Saint John in Columbus. Under his leadership as pastor, the Saint John A.M.E. Church chapel was built on Steam Mill Road in Columbus. In June 1994, Bishop Donald George Kenneth Ming appointed him as a presiding elder. For many years, Presiding Elder Smith served as an instructor and assistant dean of the Board of Examiners in the Southwest Georgia Conference.

Presiding Elder Smith’s commitment to the ministry and support of civil rights led him to be a notable minister among other African American ministers rising up to challenge the segregation laws and suppression of voting rights in the South. After serving as president of the Sumter County Branch of the NAACP, he was recognized as an NAACP Life Member.

In addition to being a servant of God, Presiding Elder Smith was a civil servant and retired from Robins Air Force Base as an electronic technician.

A widely respected civic, community, and ministerial leader, Presiding Elder Smith has received numerous accolades and commendations. He was honored as one of the “50 Most Influential African Americans in the Columbus-Ft. Benning-Phenix City Areas” by the Courier Eco Latino.

Presiding Elder Smith, a man highly favored by God, has accomplished many things in his life, but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his wife, Janet, and their nine children.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the Columbus, Georgia community in paying tribute to Senior Presiding Elder Elijah Smith for forty-nine outstanding years of Pastoral Ministry. Through his service to God’s people, he has transformed many lives and inspired others to serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

CONGRATULATING THE ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorees of the 2014 Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner. The Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce serves the people and business community of the greater Lewiston/Auburn area, working hard to strengthen economic opportunity throughout the region and the state.

Each year, the Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce recognizes local businesses, business leaders, and individuals who promote and advance a vital and healthy business environment. These individuals and businesses are committed to strengthening opportunity and prosperity in Maine.

This year’s award recipients include: Jason Levesque of Argo Marketing, recipient of the Business Leadership Award for a Larger Company; John Grenier of Rainbow Bicycle, recipient of the Business Leadership Award for a Smaller Company; Art Boulay of Strategic Talent Management, recipient of the Ray Geiger Award; Kathy Durgin-Leighton of YWCA, recipient of the Community Service Leadership Award; Positive Change Lisbon, recipient of the Lisbon Business Award; Jodi Cornelio of Turner Publishing, recipient of the Turner Business Award; Hurricane Café and Deli, recipient of the Greene Business Award; Community Credit Union, recipient of the Education Award; Pettengill Academy, recipient of the “Cool Chamber Award;” Craig Saddlemire, recipient of the Public Service Leadership