

In recent years, the Urban League of Greater Madison has been at the forefront of fighting for equality in our community with its vision to make Greater Madison the "Best in the Midwest" for everyone to live, learn, and work by 2020. Last year, the organization launched a campaign to place 1,500 low-income job seekers into career pathway employment by 2020, continuing its long legacy of advocating for economic justice and opportunity.

Through its efforts to pursue education, employment, and empowerment, the Urban League of Greater Madison has remained committed to fighting for progress and our future. It is my honor to now recognize the Urban League of Greater Madison in celebration of its 50th Anniversary and I wish them many more years of success.

**SID HULTQUIST SELECTED FOR  
INDUCTION TO THE VICTOR VALLEY  
COLLEGE ALUMNI HALL OF  
FAME**

**HON. PAUL COOK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 26, 2018*

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sid Hultquist, who was selected for induction to the Victor Valley College Alumni Hall of Fame. As an alumnus of VVC, Sid became a fixture in the Victor Valley and distinguished himself as a leader and public servant.

During his 38 years of fire service, Sid worked for nearly every firefighting agency in the High Desert. Under Sid's guidance as Fire Chief for the Apple Valley Fire Protection District, the agency was able to secure additional funding to hire new firefighters and reduce critical response times for town residents. Undoubtedly, the training he received at VVC was instrumental in helping Sid excel in many areas of his career.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I would like to congratulate Sid Hultquist for his induction to the Victor Valley College Alumni Hall of Fame. I couldn't think of a better honor for someone who gave so much to his community.

**REMEMBERING THE ANNIVERSARIES  
OF TWO TRAGEDIES IN  
AZERBAIJAN**

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 26, 2018*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I would like to take time to recognize the anniversaries of two tragedies in the history of this great American ally.

On January 20th 1990, heavily-armed Soviet troops stormed the capital city of Baku in a final attempt to quell anti-communist uprising. The day is most commonly known as "Black January" due to the terrible human losses and subsequent military rule. 26,000 soldiers fired into crowds of civilians targeting women, children, hospitals, and ambulances. Fighting lasted for three days and resulted in

131 fatalities, over 600 injuries, 841 arrests where detainees were subject to torture, and to this day an unknown number are still missing. These horrific acts did not have their desired effect in the slightest on Azerbaijan who won independence less than two years later.

The second occurred on this day, February 26, twenty-six years ago in the city of Khojaly where several thousand ethnic Azerbaijani people were trapped in a blockade by Armenian troops seeking to lay claim to the Nagorno-Karabakh region. Citizens of the city were told that they may escape if they left immediately but regardless, hundreds of innocent citizens, including women, children, and the elderly, were brutally murdered or taken prisoner on that day. This was the largest massacre as part of a conflict that is still ongoing.

As the first nation to lend its support to the United States following the attacks of September 11th, so too does Azerbaijan deserve our support and condolences for their losses. These were terrible crimes against humanity which we must never forget, and I urge my colleagues to commemorate them on this day.

**IN HONOR OF MARK SCARANO,  
FEDERAL CO-CHAIR OF THE  
NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL  
COMMISSION**

**HON. ANN M. KUSTER**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 26, 2018*

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Mark Scarano as he steps down after nearly three years as Federal Co-Chair of the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC). Through his service on the Commission, Mark has continued his life's work as a community economic developer serving areas that are most in need of support. Mark got his start in this field in Millinocket, Maine, and later in Piscataquis County. We in New Hampshire were fortunate that he came next to Grafton County, where for eight years he led its Regional Development Corporation and significantly expanded workforce development and entrepreneurship programs.

In 2015, I was tremendously proud to support President Obama's nomination of Mark to co-chair the NBRC, and his unanimous confirmation by the Senate was a testament to his stellar reputation and achievements. He has proved more than worthy of that honor, as he has been a tireless leader, steward, and advocate of the Commission's important work during a period of tightening budgets and the emergence of new challenges, like the opioid epidemic, which are threatening our rural economy and its development.

Ten years after it was first authorized, the Northern Border Regional Commission continues to play a critical role in driving the economic growth and community development in some of New Hampshire's most economically distressed communities. It supports projects that create and sustain jobs, tackle workforce development, infrastructure, telecommunications, healthcare, culture, and much more. Mark has worked diligently during his tenure to streamline processes and procedures and maximize the impact of the Commission.

Through his excellent leadership, Mark has been an invaluable resource to the Granite State and improved the lives of thousands who have relied on projects championed by the Commission.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I thank Mark for his many years of dedicated service to the Granite State and the Northeast. His achievements will continue to benefit our state for years to come. I am honored to recognize and congratulate Mark, and wish him the very best of luck in the years ahead.

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE  
DENNISON MEMORIAL COMMUNITY  
CENTER**

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 26, 2018*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 150th Anniversary of the Dennison Memorial Community Center.

The Dennison Memorial Community Center has been serving our area since 1868, when the New Bedford Ladies City Mission was officially incorporated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Their mission was to care for the less fortunate through free dental clinics, public baths, and social activities. Named after Rev. Tristan Dennison, the heart and soul of the organization, this center became a pillar of the community.

Today this center continues to serve the people of New Bedford, equipped with a recreational center, daycare, academic assistance and more. Dennison is made up of an incredible, multi-lingual staff working tirelessly to strengthen the city of New Bedford. Welcoming children and teens, age 6 to 16, there is no doubt the center will continue to have a major impact on the success of the next generation.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the 150th anniversary of the Dennison Memorial Community Center for their dedication to bettering their community. I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking them for their invaluable service and wishing them all the best in the many years to come.

**RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF REV-  
EREND DR. BERTRAND MAURICE  
BAILEY, SR.**

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 26, 2018*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the life of a man of staunch faith, Reverend Dr. Bertrand Bailey, Sr. Reverend Bailey was born to the late Reverend Dr. Mauual Lee Bailey and Dr. Bertha Mae Bailey in McKinney, Texas. At the age of 16, Rev. Bailey answered the call to commit his life to preaching and serving his community through ministry. Pastor Bailey went on to not only receive a Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in philosophy and religion from Bishop College; but also two honorary degrees from Short College and Jackson's Theological Seminary.

For over 30 years, Rev. Bailey served as pastor at St. Andrew Baptist Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Under his leadership and spiritual guidance, the congregation grew both in numbers and in Spirit. Rev. Bailey has served as a guest revivalist for citywide and local church revivals in Douglassville, Texas and across the nation. A published author, Rev. Bailey has released several books along with recorded music and preaching CD's. During his tenure, Rev. Bailey oversaw renovations to the sanctuary and fellowship hall to better serve the needs of the congregation. This included increasing accessibility through building handicap bathrooms. Additionally, many ministries have grown from his leadership and passion for the Lord.

From the very beginning, he dedicated his 11 children to God, four of which went on to become ordained reverends themselves, including my pastor Dr. Bertrand M. Bailey, Jr. He is survived by his wife, of over 41 years, Mrs. Juandalyn J. Bailey and their children: Bertricia, Bertrand Jr., Bertrain, Bertheophilus, Bertshalyn, Bertjuanette, Bertholomew, BerTabitha, Bertrick, and BerThaddaeus, Bertrina (deceased) and his brother, Samuel L. Bailey; 17 grandchildren; a host of nieces and nephews. Although he has returned to his Heavenly Home, the works and seeds he planted on Earth continue to grow and prosper. And we are all better people having known him and stood in his light.

#### ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

### HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 26, 2018*

Mr. PAYNE. There was a time when moments of silence, and thoughts and prayers meant something. That time has long passed.

The Columbine High School massacre was nearly two decades ago. Sandy Hook was over five years ago. The Sutherland Springs and Las Vegas shootings were last year. Yet Congress did nothing to end gun violence in the United States.

How many lives must be sacrificed at the altar of the gun lobby before Congress says enough is enough?

Mass shootings have become all too common, and ordinary acts of violence are perpetrated on the streets every day. In fact, more Americans have died from guns in the United States since Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated than in all the wars this country has fought—starting with the American Revolution.

Each day in this country, ninety-six Americans are killed with guns. Seven of those people are children and teenagers. And Black men are thirteen times more likely than a white man to be shot and killed with a gun.

Gun safety is a civil rights issue. It is a human rights issue.

Congress needs to take immediate action on the dozens of reasonable gun-safety bills pending in this legislative body. We must ban semiautomatic assault weapons. We must stop the online sale of bulk ammunition. And we need to strengthen and mandate universal background checks.

But there's something else Congress can and must do. Congress must find creative

ways to encourage people in the United States to voluntarily disarm. Research has shown that greater numbers of firearms result in higher numbers of firearm-related deaths.

Over the past two weeks, reports and viral videos have shown many law-abiding gun owners expressing buyers' remorse and destroying their firearms. There is a movement underway in this country among gun owners to purge their firearms—particularly semiautomatic assault weapons—before they can be used to harm people.

That's why I introduced the Safer Neighborhoods Gun Buyback Act of 2017 (H.R. 3613) last year—to encourage people to voluntarily disarm. Gun buyback programs have proven their worth in communities across the United States. Law enforcement supports safe gun buyback programs. And research has shown that fewer guns means fewer gun deaths. By providing grants to fund gun buyback programs, Congress can incentivize Americans to do the right thing and safely dispose of their semiautomatic assault weapons.

There are dozens of gun safety bills active in this body that would make our streets, our schools, and our homes safer. It's time for us to declare never again. Congress cannot continue to do nothing. People are dying. We must do better by our children.

#### RECOGNIZING “BLACK JANUARY” AND THE KHOJALY MASSACRE

### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 26, 2018*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate two tragic events in Azerbaijani history. 2018 marks the 28th anniversary of the “Black January” killings and the 26th anniversary of the Khojaly massacre.

On January 19, 1990, the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet Presidium declared a state of emergency in response to the growing national independence movement in Azerbaijan, and Soviet troops moved into the Azerbaijani capital of Baku. They fired indiscriminately at peaceful demonstrators, and destroyed critical infrastructure, like medical facilities. When Soviet troops left the city on January 20, more than 130 people were dead, over 700 were injured, 841 were arrested, and five were missing. Human Rights Watch released a report on the incident, later named Black January, stated that, “indeed the violence used by the Soviet Army on the night of January 19–20 constitutes an exercise in collective punishment. The punishment inflicted on Baku by Soviet soldiers may have been intended as a warning to nationalists, not only in Azerbaijan, but in other Republics of the Soviet Union.”

On February 26, 1992, Armenian troops descended on the town of Khojaly, located in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. During their advance, Armenian armed forces massacred over 600 unarmed people, including 106 women and 83 children, and left less than 2,000 survivors. Hundreds more became disabled due to their horrific injuries. More than one hundred children lost a parent and 25 children lost both parents. At least 8 families were completely killed. The Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict remains unresolved.

In spite of these tragedies, Azerbaijan has emerged as an independent nation with a

growing economy. It is also a strong ally of the United States; U.S.-Azerbaijani cooperation efforts include playing a leadership role in non-proliferation issues; providing troops to serve shoulder-to-shoulder with U.S. forces in Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan; allowing transit of non-lethal equipment used by coalition forces through Azerbaijan to Afghanistan; construction of the Southern Gas Corridor from the Caspian Sea to Italy, thereby providing Europe with an alternative to Russian energy sources; and supplying 40 percent of Israel's oil. Azerbaijan also has a thriving Jewish community and is an ally of America's ally Israel.

I urge my colleagues to recognize the sacrifices of the Azerbaijani people in their steps toward a free market economy and democracy, and to work together to facilitate peace in the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict.

#### HONORING THE YEARS OF SERVICE OF THE USS “IOWA” TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 26, 2018*

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation to commend the USS *Iowa* for her seventy-five years of service to the United States of America; Saturday, February 24, will be her 75th anniversary:

Whereas the USS *Iowa* is a national treasure to the United States, having protected the country during both World War II, and the Korean War; and

Whereas the USS *Iowa* served our country over fifty years and designated as the “World's Greatest Naval Ship”; and

Whereas the USS *Iowa* has welcomed and escorted our nation's Commander in Chief on many occasions, no other battleship has been host to more U.S. Presidents than the *Iowa*; and

Whereas the USS *Iowa* has earned fourteen different ribbons and received numerous Command Excellence Awards over her fifty years of service; and

Whereas the USS *Iowa* continues to serve the United States as a living monument that highlights our nation's rich naval history; and

Whereas seventy-five years of continued service deserves the highest marks; and

Now, therefore, I commend the USS *Iowa* and all who served and continue to serve on this beautiful vessel, for seventy-five honorable years.

#### REMEMBERING THE KHOJALY TRAGEDY

### HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 26, 2018*

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because Azerbaijan has been a reliable friend and valuable partner of the United States, and it is appropriate for Congress to commemorate the victims of the Khojaly tragedy as our Azerbaijani friends mark the 26th anniversary of the event.