

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO COMMEMORATE CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Citizens National Bank in southern Kentucky, an incredible milestone for a small business in rural America.

The first Citizens National Bank opened on Valentine's Day in 1920 in Somerset, Kentucky's public square. Over the last 100 years, this community bank has been recognized as a local leader, affording individuals and families the opportunity to achieve home ownership, loaning seed funds for entrepreneurial dreamers to start their own businesses, and providing a safe and secure way for families to grow their savings and retirement accounts.

Persevering through changes in technology, the bank converted to its first computer system in 1986, added full service automated teller machines (ATMs) in the 1990's, and ventured into mobile banking in 2011. Citizens National Bank was first granted trust powers in 1999 and was listed as a 5 Star Bank by the Bauer Financial Group in the same year, providing new opportunities for growth and progress.

Today, the bank's slogan is, "Moving Forward Together" and it is an honor to join the countless residents in our region in recognition of Citizens National Bank's centennial year of service spanning four counties. Congratulations to the long line of leaders who established and guided this community bank over the years, providing financial security and hope for local families.

THE SMALL BUSINESS SIZE STANDARD MANUFACTURING CLARIFICATION ACT

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, our Nation's small business manufacturers have an invaluable impact on our economy.

This past October, I introduced H.R. 4702, the Small Business Size Standard Manufacturing Clarification Act of 2019. This legislation will help thousands of defense and national security small businesses compete against much larger corporations when applying for federal contracts. It is near impossible for these small defense businesses to plan and secure larger contracts on a 12-month basis. This legislation expands the time from 12 months to up to 60 months. Defense-related small business manufacturers need that extra time to justify their small business designation

due to changes in technology and competition from much larger corporate contracts. Size standards for both revenue-based and employee-based small business manufacturers are not at a level that recognizes the changes in the current marketplace for defining small businesses that support the federal sector.

Recently, the House passed H.R. 5130, the Capturing All Small Businesses Act, which raises the standard to a 24-month basis. Still, it is not enough to properly support our small business manufacturers in the national security sector. In the defense industry, a small business that grows to over 1,600 employees has to compete in a market with companies of more than 25,000 employees.

I am committed to supporting our Nation's small businesses and fixing the issues addressed in the Small Business Standard Manufacturing Clarification Act. I urge the House to consider this legislation and join me in supporting our small business manufacturers.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAKU POGROMS

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to condemn the violence inflicted upon Armenians on the 30th anniversary of the Baku Pogroms in Azerbaijan. I believe that condemning these actions today will help prevent renewed aggression against citizens of Armenian descent who continue to live in Azerbaijan, while bringing attention to efforts to erase these atrocities from our collective memory. Further, I reaffirm our nation's commitment to an enduring, peaceful, and democratic resolution of the Artsakh conflict.

From 1988 to 1990, the Armenian population in Soviet Azerbaijan was the target of ethnically targeted pogroms in the cities of Sumgait, Kirovabad, and Baku. Beginning on February 27, 1988 in Sumgait, Armenian Christians were indiscriminately murdered, raped, and maimed by mobs of criminals and thugs. According to independent reporting, police in Baku allowed the pogroms to continue for 3 days, during which time hundreds are estimated to have been murdered in cold blood.

Despite vocal U.S. and international protests over the Sumgait pogroms, renewed anti-Armenian pogroms were launched in Kirovabad on November 21, 1988 that lasted for seven days. Fourteen months later in the capital, Baku, another pogrom was launched against its Armenian minority. These vicious attacks against unarmed civilians led to the displacement of thousands of Armenian families fleeing systematic violence as refugees.

Madam Speaker, on this 30th anniversary of the Baku pogroms, I want to emphasize the importance of remembering these crimes against humanity. I call on the Azerbaijani government to acknowledge that these atroc-

ities occurred, and that it seeks justice for the victims by prosecuting those who committed these horrific acts of violence. I also call upon the government of Azerbaijan to take all appropriate action to prevent further tragedies of this nature, and to do whatever is necessary to begin the healing process for the families of the victims. I call on the Azerbaijani government to respect the rights of all minorities living within its borders.

ANNIVERSARY OF ANTI-ARMENIAN POGROMS IN AZERBAIJAN

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, this year we honor the memory of hundreds of ethnic Armenians killed—and hundreds of thousands displaced—between 1988 and 1990 in brutal and violent pogroms in Azerbaijan. In the 1980s, citizens in Azerbaijan of Armenian heritage embarked on one of the first pro-democracy movements against the Soviet Empire, calling for self-determination, fair treatment, and an end to discrimination. This pro-democracy movement was met with extreme brutality in waves of pogroms and forced deportations of Armenians from Azerbaijan. Mobs violently attacked ethnic Armenians in the cities of Sumgait in late February 1988, Kirovabad in November 1988, and the capital, Baku, in January 1990.

For three days in February 1988, mobs murdered, raped, assaulted, and burned alive ethnic Armenians. This came as the result of years and decades of anti-Armenian rhetoric and policies engineered by the Azerbaijani government, contributing to a lethal climate of dehumanization, racism, and religious intolerance.

Despite an international outcry, including bipartisan resolutions, statements and letters from concerned members of Congress, the violence continued. Between 1988 and 1990, according to human rights organizations, an estimated 300,000 to 350,000 Armenians fled Azerbaijan under threat of violence or were deported. The failure of the government to legitimately address simple democratic demands, and the violent response to largely peaceful movements, fueled a spiral of reactionary intercommunal violence and prolonged armed conflict in the region. Today, I stand to remember and honor all of those killed, wounded and displaced in these anti-Armenian pogroms.

The lessons of the events of 1988 to 1990 are obviously acutely relevant as we look around the world today. Ethnic and religious hatred that foments violence is on the rise—the Rohingya in Burma have been slaughtered, Uighur Muslims in China are being put in concentration camps because of their religion, and tens of thousands of Jehovah's Witnesses have been declared extremists in Russia for following their peaceful religion.

• 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.

When human beings are denied their universal freedoms, and when governments put in place dehumanizing rhetoric, policies, and laws; then hatred, violence, and suffering follow. I urge my colleagues to stand with me in recognition of the plight suffered by ethnic Armenians thirty years ago and to stand vigilant against the use of ethnic and religious hatred to stir violence against minorities here in the United States and around the world.

RECOGNIZING MR. RANDY ROUTON

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize my friend, Mr. Randy Routon for his nearly thirty-four years of dedicated service in mental health as the Chief Executive Officer of LifePath Systems, a mental healthcare provider in Collin County.

Randy's steadfast leadership helped thousands of families and individuals throughout our community gain access to life changing mental healthcare. Randy's inspiring dedication was also illustrated by his role on many boards, committees, task forces, and clubs throughout our community.

I proudly worked with him during my time in the state legislatures towards our shared goal of ensuring everyone in Collin County has a chance to receive high quality of mental healthcare.

I know Randy looks forward to spending more time with his wife, Diane, as well as their six children and six grandchildren during his retirement.

As Randy prepares to begin his next chapter, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in thanking Randy Routon for his selfless and dedicated career of serving those around him.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and sincere admiration that I rise today to celebrate Black History Month and its 2020 theme—African Americans and the Vote. 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. This year's theme reflects on the extraordinary contributions of African Americans throughout the history of our democracy as we reflect on the ongoing efforts to ensure equality for all Americans. As we reflect on the past, this year's theme focuses on the fight to ensure that African American voices and votes mattered in America.

The year 2020 commemorates the 115th anniversary of the 15th Amendment, which granted African American men the right to vote. When the amendment was first introduced, it did not mention black men. After the

conclusion of the civil war, however, abolitionist Frederick Douglass spoke before the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society advocating for the right for black men to vote. While the debate continued, in 1869, 150 African American men from seventeen states gathered for the first national meeting of African Americans in the history of the United States.

The year 2020 also marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. During this time, the Women's Rights Movement was intertwined with the Antislavery Movement. African American women played a prominent role in the movement by organizing, attending, and speaking out at political and religious events, thus leading to the ratification of the 19th Amendment. We honor these brave and dedicated women who contributed to the foundation of African American liberty including Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Maria W. Stewart, Henrietta Purvis, Harriet Forten Purvis, and Sarah Redmon, among many others. As we pay tribute to these heroes of American history, let us remember their profound perseverance, sacrifice, and struggle in the fight for freedom and equality and the remarkable impact their contributions have had in shaping our great nation. This month and always, it is important that we honor and celebrate America's greatest advocates for equal rights and civil liberties.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in celebrating Black History Month and honoring those who fought, and continue to fight, for civil rights and justice. We honor the African American men and women who have played such a crucial role in changing the landscape of American society for the better.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF PAULDING COUNTY'S 200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Bicentennial of Paulding County, Ohio, the last frontier to be settled in our great state. Our country was founded because of the brave pioneers who ventured into the Great Outdoors in order to create a better life for future settlers.

In 1819, Captain James Riley and his surveyors trudged through the mosquito infested Great Black Swamp to lay out the township lines for what would later become Paulding County.

The Great Black Swamp covered more than 1,500 square miles. It was created more than 10,000 years ago after the glaciers receded and formed the Great Lakes. From the surveyor's notes, we know that the Ottawa and Shawnee Indian tribes inhabited this land of deciduous swamp forest. The giant oaks, hickory, elm, ash, and many other large tree species created a dense canopy, which blocked sunlight from reaching the forest floor. The dense forest and mucky conditions made settlement of the area extremely difficult as Paulding County, in its entirety, laid beneath

the swamp. The landscape required drastic alterations before settlers were able to make Paulding County into the flat, agriculturally rich region that it is today.

In 1820, this area was named Paulding County in honor of John Paulding, an American hero during the American Revolution who aided in the capture of Major John Andre, a British spy who was the co-conspirator of Benedict Arnold.

The celebration of the 200th Anniversary of Paulding County reminds our community of the determination and pioneering attitude upon which counties throughout Ohio and our country were founded. Congratulations to Paulding County on this significant milestone.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAKU POGROMS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the 30th anniversary of the Baku Pogroms against Christian Armenians that took place from 1988 to 1990. In February 1988, the Armenian population in Soviet-controlled Azerbaijan became the victim of racially motivated, violent pogroms that started after peaceful protests took place against Moscow's arbitrary separation of Armenia and decades of repression and discrimination. The violence began with the Sumgait pogroms in February of 1988, and continued in Kirovabad (November 1988), and Baku (January 1990). Following this, the Armenian community suffered through a failed war of aggression by Baku to subjugate the people of Artsakh.

During this time, hundreds of Armenian civilians were killed, raped, beaten, maimed, and expelled from their homes for no reason other than their ethnicity. These hateful acts were fueled by anti-Armenian rhetoric from Azerbaijani officials and citizens. These pogroms were part of a systemic effort to ethnically cleanse Azerbaijan of Armenians and to send a message to Armenians to stop challenging Soviet Azerbaijani authorities.

For over 30 years, Azerbaijan has attempted to cover up these crimes against humanity and has propped up the perpetrators of the Baku and Sumgait Pogroms as national heroes. It is critical that the United States government recognize and denounce this ethnically motivated violence and attacks on innocent children, women, and men in Armenian communities.

We must all be aware of the history of violence targeting the Armenian people. I am grateful that the State of Illinois emphasizes Armenian genocide education and I will work with my colleagues to promote legislation to help facilitate more states doing the same. We must ensure that the victims of the Sumgait and Baku pogroms are never forgotten and that such hateful acts of violence never happen again. We must remain committed to achieving a lasting peace in the Caucasus, and ensure that the people of Artsakh are able to live free from Azerbaijani abuse and aggression.