

Although estimates vary, Armenian militiamen killed several hundred Azeri civilians in the snow-covered woods of Nagorno Karabakh that morning. All told, the Nagorno Karabakh War claimed approximately 20,000 lives and displaced more than a million people in both directions.

Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, I am deeply familiar with the efforts that the United States, in partnership with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, has made over the past quarter-century to resolve this conflict. The United States is a co-chair alongside France and Russia in the trilateral Minsk Group process the OSCE established in the late 1990s to facilitate de-escalation and peace talks between the sides. This process has largely succeeded in keeping all-out war at bay for more than 20 years, but the Armenian and Azerbaijani sides bear responsibility for advancing the cause of peace, including by preparing their populations for a lasting resolution.

I am encouraged by the significant decrease in ceasefire violations over the past couple of years as well as the steady pace of high-level encounters between Armenian and Azerbaijani leaders during this period. Yet no meaningful progress has been made in these talks. Moreover, the Armenian Prime Minister and Azerbaijani President punctuate their private discussions with inflammatory public statements that often distort the historical record and damage the cause of peace.

Madam Speaker, I strongly encourage the political leadership in Yerevan and Baku to use these solemn commemorations of Sumgait and Khojaly this week to turn a new page in this terrible conflict. The most fitting way to honor the lives of those lost would be through words of reconciliation and steps toward peace. Together, the peoples of Armenia and Azerbaijan can ensure such atrocities are never repeated and that future generations will know a life of secure and prosperous coexistence.

**HONORING THE LEMONT POLISH CLUB AND ST. JOHN PAUL II POLISH SCHOOL ON THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY AND THE POLANIE DANCE GROUP ON THEIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2020*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lemont Polish Club, St. John Paul II Polish School and the Polanie Dance Group from Lemont, Illinois. This year the Lemont Polish Club and Polish School will celebrate their 40th Anniversary, while the Polanie dance group will celebrate its 20th anniversary.

Founded in 1980 by Father Edward Witusik, the Lemont Polish Club has upheld the traditions, customs, and language of our Polish heritage, and united the Polish community through our Catholic roots. Shortly after its creation, the Lemont Polish Club founded the St. John Paul II Polish School. The St. John Paul II Polish School serves the people of Polish heritage of Lemont by offering kindergarten

through high school students the opportunity to connect with and explore their Polish heritage. For forty years the school has excelled in teaching its students Polish language, history, and culture. Thousands of children have learned about Polish cultural heritage as well as the role Poles play in the United States and the world now and into the future. With its emphasis on civic responsibility, the school produces students dedicated to supporting and improving Chicago's communities, and I am proud to have it in my district.

The school has seen tremendous growth since its founding. Starting with just 41 students in 1980, enrollment in the Polish school has increased to over 800 students. As St. John Paul II Polish School has grown, they have been able offer more opportunities for their students to learn about and enjoy Polish culture. In 2000, the Polish School created the Polish Dance Group Polanie. The student dancers dress in traditional Polish costumes and perform traditional Polish dances at competitions and festivals across the United States and Europe.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Lemont Polish Club, St. John Paul II Polish School and the Polanie Dance Group on their anniversaries and congratulating them on their many accomplishments. May the Lemont Polish Club and Polish School continue their great work in the community, and I wish them the best as they continue to preserve their traditions for generations to come.

**HONORING THE SERVICE OF  
DEPUTY KEN MIZE**

**HON. DOUG COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2020*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Deputy Roger Kenneth "Ken" Mize for his over five decades of service to the people of northeast Georgia.

Deputy Mize of the Banks County Sheriff's Office retired on January 30, 2020, after serving in law enforcement for 52 years. Mr. Mize, who is best known for his integrity, his "servant heart" and the smile on his face, dedicated his career to protecting our communities and educating our students.

For over 26 years, Mr. Mize served as a role model and mentor for students in the Banks County School System. By working with the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) and Choosing Healthy Activities and Methods Promoting Safety (C.H.A.M.P.S.) programs, Mr. Mize furthered safety awareness in over 30,000 fifth-grade students across Banks and Jackson counties.

Throughout the community, Mr. Mize was known as a role model who always had a calming effect as he walked the school halls, attended board of education meetings, and participated in other school events. His service inspired members of his community to become involved and work to change the lives of students.

From his work as a first responder to his dedication to students, Deputy Mize has committed his career to transforming lives and protecting our communities. I join the people of northeast Georgia in thanking him for his over

five decades of service, and I wish him and his beloved wife, Kathy, all the best in his next chapter of life.

**IN HONOR OF MRS. IRENE  
MORGAN**

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2020*

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Irene Morgan who was among the first warriors on the frontline of the Civil Rights Movement. Although her valiant story is unknown to many, I applaud the Virginia Department of Historical Resources for issuing a new state historical marker for her in Gloucester County in my district.

Irene's incredible story highlights the social hardships that African Americans faced in the U.S. In 1944, while returning home to Baltimore on a bus after visiting her mother in Gloucester, the bus driver ordered her to relinquish her seat to a white passenger. She refused. Consequently, Middlesex County sheriffs arrested her, and the State convicted her. It was from this point that Irene took immediate action. With the help of the NAACP, her case was heard by the Supreme Court. Then, in 1946, defended by Thurgood Marshall and Spottswood W. Robinson, III; Irene won her Supreme Court case, *Morgan v. Virginia*. Her case made it unconstitutional to enforce segregation laws on interstate carriers. This landmark case set the stage for years of civil action against draconian laws that discriminated against our own citizens.

On behalf of Virginia's First District, it is my pleasure to honor Irene. All Virginians and those of Virginia's First District, should take the opportunity to learn about Irene and her act of courage.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in honoring Irene and her family for their contribution to our nation's history and the African American Community. I also want to thank the Virginia Department of Historical Resources for issuing a new marker for her, memorializing her story. On behalf of Virginia's First District we say thank you.

**RECOGNIZING THE 28TH ANNIVERSARY OF KHOJALY TRAGEDY**

**HON. PAUL A. GOSAR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2020*

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, today I rise to bring our attention to the 28th Anniversary of what is known as the Khojaly Tragedy. Years ago, as the Soviet Union fell under the weight of socialism, and the despair and malaise created by socialism finally became too much to bear, many of the former Soviet satellite regions went through regrowth and rebirth. Azerbaijan was one such country.

Azerbaijan, located in the Caucasus region, is an area of unlimited potential. The Azerbaijanis have carved out a remarkable society, a rich culture, and today have a stable government that has led the Azeri people into

relative prosperity. Its petroleum resources are world renown, as is its hard-working citizens.

The re-birth of this nation was not without its struggle. As the existing Soviet political regime broke down in 1991, ethnic and historical rivalries surfaced. Problems with neighboring Armenia resulted in conflict and death, and the Nagomo-Karabakh conflict erupted.

Out of that conflict, one notable tragic incident occurred 26 years ago, where the Azeris were subjected to reported indiscriminate shelling and targeting of the people of Khojaly at the hands of Karabakh Armenian and Armenian forces. It has been reported that up to 613 civilians died on February 26, 1992 as a result of the attack.

We cannot change what happened, but we can remember the victims and remind the world that the targeting of civilians is never acceptable.

The United States is proud to serve as a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group and we will continue to push for a peaceful resolution to this conflict, one that will honor the memory of the Khojaly people so that their families and countrymen may never suffer the same fate, nor anyone else in the world.

We in the United States cherish our strong bilateral relationship with Azerbaijan. I am very optimistic about what our countries can achieve not just for the Azeris and my fellow countrymen, but for the development of the Caucasus as a whole, allowing the world to understand its potential alongside its rich culture and history.

I am honored to recognize the Khojaly victims, and we will continue to keep them in our hearts and minds as we foster a strong working relationship between our two countries and promote a peaceful and fair resolution to this conflict. For Azerbaijan, and for Armenia, peaceful and neighborly relations will result in better prosperity for all of us.

#### HONORING KERRY THOMAS

#### HON. LUCY MCBATH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2020*

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Kerry Thomas, Chief of Police for the city of Chamblee. A self-described "forward thinker," Chief Thomas has served as Chief of Police now for a little over three months. This weekend, citizens in Chamblee will honor Chief Thomas for his service as the city's first African American police chief.

Chief Thomas joined the Chamblee Police Department last November after over 30 years of service to the Savannah Police Department. During his career in Savannah, his work experience spanned from a Patrol Officer, Forensic Examiner, Captain, and Assistant Chief of Police. His appointment as Chief was recommended by Chamblee City Manager Jon Walker and confirmed by Mayor Eric Clarkson and the Chamblee City Council. He was selected out of an application pool of 48 candidates from across Georgia and beyond. According to Mr. Walker, Chief Thomas "expressed a great depth of knowledge and offered a methodical and results oriented approach to policing."

Prior to his service in the police force, Chief Thomas proudly served in the United States

Army as an Armor Crewman Specialist from 1984 until 1987. During his time in the Army, Chief Thomas deployed to Germany. Upon his honorable discharge, he transitioned into the Georgia Army National Guard, where he served another three years.

It is my honor to recognize Chief Thomas for his service, his sacrifice, and his dedication to keeping the city of Chamblee safe. As we approach the end of Black History Month, may we be reminded of the enormous contributions that black men and women make to the United States every day. On behalf of myself, the Sixth Congressional District of Georgia, and the United States House of Representatives, I am proud to join the city of Chamblee in honoring Chief Kerry Thomas.

#### KLINK FAMILY CONTINUES TO ADVOCATE FOR WOMEN CANCER PATIENTS

#### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2020*

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize sisters Sasha and Francesca Klink and their mother Irma Klink, for their tremendous effort to help women going through cancer treatment feel their best.

Cancer is a disease that affects people of all walks of life, regardless of race or economic status. Sasha and her mother Irma are both breast cancer survivors. The Klinks opened their Sugar Land, TX beauty boutique, Cure & Co., and spa Pop & Pigment in 2013 to bring positive distractions to other women going through cancer treatment.

By providing beauty products, wigs, head coverings and spa treatments to cancer patients, the Klinks have helped many women feel beautiful and confident during their journeys to wellness.

Sasha, Francesca and Irma all understand the toll that cancer affects patients and their families, as well as the fear, uncertainty and frustration it brings. Their valuable work eases the pain of patients, helps heal the hurt of their families and inspires others to assist those in need.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I thank Francesca, Sasha and Irma for their dedication to helping the women of TX-22 on their journey to beat breast cancer.

#### REMEMBERING MEMPHIS LAWYER JAMES S. GILLILAND

#### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2020*

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Memphis lawyer, public citizen and community leader James S. Gilliland, who passed away Monday at 86. Jim was one of the great lawyers of Memphis with a sterling national reputation, having received every award for his phenomenal professionalism and active role in community affairs throughout his career. That included the 2018 "Pillars of Excellence" Award from the Univer-

sity of Memphis School of Law. Well respected in his hometown, Jim's service in Washington, as general counsel to the Department of Agriculture during the Clinton Administration, added to his prestige.

Jim was born in Memphis and graduated from my alma mater, Vanderbilt University, and its law school, being named the Most Outstanding of the Law Class of 1957. After passing the bar, he served as a full-time prosecutor in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific and Far East, after which he returned home to join the then seven-lawyer firm now known as Glankler Brown PLLC. He became a partner and remained with the firm for 30 years. By 1964, he had met and married Lucia Flowers and the couple had three fine children—Katherine, Elizabeth and James Jr.—who continue to reflect their parents' spirit of community involvement.

Jim's civic commitment was seen in his service chairing the Liberty Bowl, the Memphis Cotton Carnival, the Memphis Arts Council and LeMoyne-Owen College boards of directors. Jim also oversaw the Memphis Mayoral Transition Team for our city's first African American Mayor, Willie Herenton. He received the Memphis Bar's Sam A. Myar, Jr. Award as the most outstanding young lawyer in 1972. In 1995, baseball champion Hank Aaron presented him with the United Negro College Fund's "Beacon of Hope" Award for his work supporting minority education. He was a close friend and counsel to Al Gore throughout his political career.

In 1993, President Clinton nominated Jim for the general counsel post at the Department of Agriculture and he was confirmed by the Senate. There he managed a legal staff of 200 lawyers in 23 regional offices around the country, dealing with the legal issues involved in agricultural production, international trade, food policy, the interests of the forestry industry and rural small towns.

Returning to Memphis after his federal service, Jim became involved in local and national boards, including serving as chair of the American Battlefield Trust, the private partner of the National Park Service focused on preserving American battlefields. Jim was always supportive of me and other public servants and he and Lucia helped make Memphis a more tolerant and inclusive community.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to Lucia, his wife of 55 years, and his children, his grandchildren, his colleagues and his many friends. His was a life well-lived.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

#### HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2020*

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the one hundredth anniversary of the national American Legion Auxiliary and the special one hundredth anniversary celebration being held by the Corning American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 746.

The Auxiliary was founded shortly after the American Legion was chartered after World War I. It was decided that a new women's organization should be founded that was closely