

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

tied to the Legion, Since the Auxiliary was founded, their goal has been to serve veterans and their families—a goal at which they have succeeded at time and time again. Even one hundred years later, the women of the Auxiliary continue on in their quest to help as many veterans as possible—and for that, we are deeply thankful.

The one hundredth anniversary held by the Corning American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 746 will include remarks from several local and national officials. The Corning unit has been in operation since May 13, 1929 and will soon be celebrating ninety-one years of helping veterans.

Currently, the national American Legion Auxiliary has more than six hundred thousand members across the country who volunteer countless hours of their time and effort to perform various services. The Auxiliary has also stood with the American Legion to advocate for various issues such as veterans' rights, enhancing United States Department of Veterans Affairs benefits and ending homelessness among veterans.

This organization has always and will continue to serve our nation's veterans. I thank them for their service, unwavering commitment, and dedication to their mission.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body join me to recognize the one hundredth Anniversary of the American Legion Auxiliary.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE 2019 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

##### HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2020*

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2019 recipients of the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Presented annually, the Ellis Island Medals of Honor pay tribute to our Nation's immigrant heritage, as well as individual achievement. The Medals are awarded to U.S. citizens from diverse ethnic backgrounds who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives, while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage and culture. We honor these outstanding individuals because the important work they do today, creates a better world for all of us tomorrow. This momentous occasion was celebrated with a patriotic ceremony on Ellis Island and a re-commitment by the leaders of the organization to their mission of honoring diversity, fostering tolerance and promoting religious and racial unity across America.

Since the Medals' founding, more than 2,500 American citizens have received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, including seven American Presidents, numerous United States Senators and Congressmen, two Nobel Laureates, and many athletes, artists, clergy, and military leaders. This Medal is not about material success, nor is it about the politics of immigration; it is about the people who have committed themselves to this nation, embraced the opportunities America offers, and

most importantly, who have used those opportunities to not only better their own lives but make a difference in our country and in the lives of its people.

Citizens of the United States hail from every nation known to man. The iconic metaphor of this nation as a veritable melting pot of cultures continues to ring true, and it is this diversity that adds to the unique richness of American life. It is the key to why America is the most innovative, progressive and forward-thinking country in the world. The Ellis Island Medals of Honor not only celebrate select individuals but also the pluralism and democracy that enabled our forbearers to celebrate their cultural identities while still embracing the American way of life. This award serves to remind us all that with hard work and perseverance anyone can still achieve the American dream. In addition, by honoring these remarkable Americans, we honor all who share their origins and we acknowledge the contributions they have made to America. I commend NECO and its Board of Directors headed by my good friend, Nasser J. Kazeminy, for honoring these truly outstanding individuals for their tireless efforts to foster dialogue and build bridges between different ethnic groups, as well as to promote unity and a sense of common purpose in our nation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the good works of NECO and in congratulating all of the 2019 recipients of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. I also include in the RECORD the names of the recipients:

#### 2019 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Paula Abdul, Michael Ainslie, Dr. Nina Ansary, Duraid Antone, Anthony Asher, Richard Ashooh, Ajay Banga, Monir Barakat, David Beasley, Chief Carmen Best, Dr. Joel Bloom, Peter Boyer, A'Lelia Bundles, Marilyn Carlson Nelson, Elizabeth Cascio, Major General Michael Churn, Sr.—USA, Ali Cinar, Michael Cohen, MD, Trammell Crow, Reza Dana, MD, Tan Dun, Brigadier General Troy E. Dunn—USAF, Richard Edelman, Claudia Edelman, Nader Engheta, PhD, David Fanning, Wendy Federman, Henry Fernandez, Sergio Fernandez de Cordova, Michael Franti, Douglas Freeman, Beth Friedman, Joshua Friedman, Howard Gillman, Sanjay Gupta, MD, James Harpel, Honorable Jane Hartley, Matthew Higgins, Herve Humler, Paul Hutchinson, Vice Admiral Mary Jackson—USN, Sinan Kanatsiz, Dr. Mehran Kardar, Muhtar Kent, Barry Kibrick, Justin Kim, Steven Klinsky, Maureen Shenyn Klinsky, Gene Lee, Hyeongno Lee, Alison Levine, Brigadier General Lorna Mahlock—USMC, Karol Mason, Honorable Juan Mattos, Jr., Patricia McDonald, Dr. Roxana Mehran, Enrico Mirabelli, Esq., Dr. Simin Mozayani, Dr. Lawrence Najarian, Gregory Olsen, Chief Kathleen O'Reilly, Carl Panattoni, Jane Panattoni, Jonghwan Patrick Park, Sergio Pecori, William Popp, Teri Popp, Esq., Honorable Anthony Portantino, Professor Yahya Rahmat-Samii, Jason Rezaian, Ginni Rometty, Avishai Sadan, DMD, MBA, Honorable Adam Schiff, Eric Schmidt, Chief Dermot Shea, Howard Shecter, Esq., Donna Soloway, Richard Soloway, Bret Stephens, Ken Sunshine, Michael Tadross, Will Tanous, Captain Jason Tama—USCG, Dr. Prakasam Tata, Tony Thomas, Josie Thomas, Frances Townsend, Clara Wu Tsai, Delia Viader, PhD, Samuel

Waxman, MD, Dr. Torsten Wiesel, Montel Williams.

#### OBSERVING THE 27TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY MASSACRE

##### HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2020*

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I rise to remember the victims of the Khojaly Massacre, and mark the 28th Anniversary of this attack. Azerbaijanis remember this tragedy as the darkest chapter in the Azerbaijan-Armenian conflict.

In the fall of 1991, Armenian and Soviet forces surrounded the town of Khojaly in the region of Nagorno-Karabakh. After bombarding the city, these forces attacked on the night of February 25 and on the 26, killing 600 innocent Azerbaijanis, including women, children, and elderly people. Hundreds more were left severely disabled from the attacks. In a 1992 report, Human Rights Watch stated that the attacks on fleeing civilians "deliberately disregarded . . . customary law restraint".

The victims of Khojaly remind us of the value of peace. Unfortunately, the dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh is still ongoing, despite the efforts of the United States and international community to foster a negotiated settlement. I call on all parties involved to productively engage with the Minsk Process to find a peaceful resolution to this decades old conflict.

The horrific events in Khojaly almost three decades ago lead us to mourn the innocent civilians who lost their lives that day. I encourage my colleagues to join with me and the Azerbaijani people as they remember this tragedy.

#### REMEMBERING THE BAKU AND SUMGAIT POGROMS

##### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2020*

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the atrocities committed against Armenian civilians during the pogroms in Sumgait and Baku, Azerbaijan that took the lives of many innocent people.

From February 26 to March 1 of 1988, the Armenian population in Sumgait was the target of a horrendous massacre. Innocent Armenian civilians in this seaside town were beaten, raped and murdered in the streets and even in their own homes, simply because of their ethnicity.

A similar atrocity occurred in Baku, Azerbaijan just two years later. A seven-day massacre of Armenian civilians saw them attacked, beaten and killed as perpetrators roamed the streets, committing arson and robberies. Many Armenians were expelled from the city, targeted, as before, for their ethnicity.