

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 Casco, 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.

Madam Speaker, in order to combat atrocities such as these, we must first look to the past and ensure the victims of hate are never forgotten. We must educate ourselves and our

neighbors on these events and all events like them to prevent further massacres in the future.

We have a solemn duty to remember the devastation the Armenian people suffered—

and demand a world where freedom can be found for all people, and where events like the Baku and Sumgait Pogroms are relegated to a dark and distant past.