

As Azerbaijanis throughout the world commemorate the massacre and continue to grieve the loss of loved ones, let us commit ourselves to supporting non-violent efforts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

REMEMBERING THE KHOJALY MASSACRE

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the Khojaly Massacre, and to honor the victims of this horrendous act.

The appalling massacre perpetrated on the innocent people of Khojaly in February 1992 is no less shocking 28 years later. One of the worst atrocities ever committed in the South Caucasus, justice has still not been delivered and 150 civilians are still missing.

As we demand respect for human rights and democratic accountability within the international community, it is important that we continue to remember what happened in Khojaly and bring those responsible to account.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DONALD G. STRATTON

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Donald G. Stratton, who passed away on February 15, 2020 after a lifetime of service to his country. Mr. Stratton was a dedicated husband of 69 years, a father, grandfather, great-grandfather, New York Times best-selling author, USS *Arizona* Survivor, and a champion of the memory for those who did not make it home.

Mr. Donald Stratton was born July 14, 1922 in Inavale, Nebraska to Robert and Jessie Stratton. After growing up in Nebraska and graduating from Red Cloud High School, Donald attended Navy bootcamp in 1940. After graduation from bootcamp he was given orders to join the USS *Arizona* in dry dock at the Navy shipyards in Bremerton, Washington. Upon completion of her maintenance and retrofit in Washington, the USS *Arizona* steamed across the Pacific to join her fleet in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in early 1941.

On the morning of December 7, 1941, Seaman First Class Stratton was on his way to visit a shipmate in sick bay when the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor began. He immediately raced to his battle station, winding through ship spaces and climbing three ladders to reach the *Arizona's* sky control platform, where he yelled coordinates to the gun crews firing at the incoming waves of Japanese bombers. Just minutes after he arrived, a bomb struck a direct blow to the *Arizona* hitting the ammunition stores, lifting the 35,000 ton ship out of the water, and sending a fireball hundreds of feet skyward.

Seaman First Class Stratton and his shipmates in the director were surrounded by flames. He and five other sailors were able to

navigate the burning wreckage and signal for help. Boatswain's Mate Second Class Joe George from the USS *Vestal* came to their rescue and saved their lives by repeatedly throwing a heaving line until the men were able to secure it and climb seventy feet, hand over hand, to safety above the inferno that raged below.

Boatswain's Mate Second Class Joe George disobeyed a direct order to cut away from the *Arizona* and instead courageously fought to provide a means of escape for the sailors. Mr. Stratton credited Joe George for saving his life that day and petitioned for years to have his actions recognized. Mr. Stratton called and wrote numerous letters, ultimately meeting with President Trump before Joe George was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" Device for his heroic actions that day.

Mr. Stratton was medically discharged from the Navy in 1942 and returned to Nebraska. Ever the fighter, he decided to reenlist a year later, deny orders to a stateside posting, and eventually joined the USS *Stack* on its way to the Pacific. He fought in the invasion of the Philippines, the invasion of Okinawa, and on patrol missions throughout the Pacific theater.

After returning from war, Donald Stratton traveled the world, raised a family, and devoted his life to preserving the story of what happened that day. Donald is survived by his wife of 69 years Velma, son Randy (Kathy) Stratton, brother Willie Stratton, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Stratton was a hero. A selfless American who dedicated his life to our country and fought to have his shipmates remembered long after they, or he, had passed to another life. It was a privilege to have met Mr. Stratton and it is an honor to stand and commemorate his incredible and full life.

HONORING MR. FULTON W. WALKER

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Fulton W. Walker, a three-year World War II Veteran of the United States Army. On February 28, 2020, Mr. Fulton W. Walker will be recognized for his service and commitment to the United States and presented with his service medals.

Mr. Walker, of Emerson and Texarkana and resident of the Fourth District of Arkansas, began his service during World War II in 1943 at Fort Knox, Kentucky where he trained as part of a tank battalion. He later transferred to Fort Campbell, Kentucky as a member of a transportation outfit where he learned how to drive military trucks to haul supplies.

In July 1944, he deployed overseas to the European Theater of Operations where he served in England, France, Germany and wherever service needs required. He worked tirelessly as a truck driver transporting supplies from coastal docks to the frontlines, all during the darkness of night to avoid enemy detection.

At the end of the war, he returned home to Arkansas and re-entered the Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal College (AM&N), now the University of Arkansas at

Pine Bluff (UAPB). He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and English in May 1950. He then moved on to graduate school earning a Master's in Education Administration from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in 1957.

He then served in several different capacities including as an English teacher and high school basketball coach in Rison, Arkansas. In 1952, he accepted a teaching position in the grade 1–12 school in Star City, Arkansas and two years later became principal, serving in this position until 1965. The Pine Bluff School District hired him into his next assignment where he served as elementary school principal, middle school principal, district central office federal title I program coordinator and finally assistant superintendent in charge of all federal programs for the Pine Bluff School District.

Mr. Walker mentored many students throughout his 36-year career and served as a role model to all he interacted with. His faithful service to students in Southeast Arkansas is a testament to his military service in putting others before self.

I am honored to recognize Mr. Fulton W. Walker and all African American veterans of World War II for their rich history of service and bravery. I thank each and every one of them for protecting the freedoms of this country, and hope their legacy continues for generations to come.

HONORING PAM WILLIAMS AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Pam Williams, the Director of the Isiserettes Drill and Drum Corps in Des Moines, as the Iowan of the Week. As the Isiserettes celebrate their 40th anniversary this year, I know this longstanding community program relies on the contributions and dedication of Ms. Williams to the Isiserettes Drill and Drum Corps.

Ms. Williams, or Ms. Pam as her students call her, co-founded the Isiserettes in 1980, a time when there weren't many creative outlets for young African American kids in Iowa. Since then, the Isiserettes have become an icon in the Des Moines Metro, with performances at the Iowa State Fair, parades all over the city, and even music videos with local musicians. They also perform nationally, hold several titles and have earned the honor of performing in both of President Obama's Inaugural Parades. We are deeply proud to see them representing Iowa as they travel across this country.

Even at the age of 75, Ms. Pam never misses a rehearsal. You can always find her working hard on choreography and helping students reach the high expectations she's set for them. Students between 7 and 18 years old dedicate themselves to early morning practices on hot summer days, and must maintain good grades in order to participate. As a result, they boast a 91 percent graduation rate amongst members of their team. Ms. Pam's students describe her as one of the

strictest people they know, but they will also tell you she is like a second mother to them. The key to the Isiserettes' success is the family atmosphere fostered by Ms. Pam and her team.

It should not go without notice that Isiserettes Drill and Drum Corps is a volunteer-led organization. Ms. Pam does not receive a single dime for the thousands of hours she puts into the organization every year. She does it out of the goodness of her heart, the benefits to our community, and her commitment to the success of her students. Ms. Pam has built the tradition, pride, and dedication that has sustained the Isiserettes for 40 years.

It is Ms. Pam's dedication to providing a safe place for students to express themselves through music and dance that makes her a pillar of our community. It is an honor to commemorate Ms. Pam and recognize her as the Iowan of the Week.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, on Friday, February 7, 2020, I was unable to vote on Roll Call No. 52: Amendment No. 1 offered by Rep. Shalala. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

I was unable to vote on Roll Call No. 53: Motion to Recommit. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

I was also unable to vote on Roll Call No. 54: Passage of H.R. 5687, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief and Puerto Rico Disaster Tax Relief Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING THE CENTRALIA COMPETITIVE DANCE TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Centralia High School Competitive Dance Team for its first-place finish in the 2020 Class 1A Illinois state dance competition.

After the first day of competition, Centralia found itself in third place. By the thrilling conclusion of the event the next day, though, Centralia was hoisting the championship trophy.

Centralia finished with 97.18 points, beating its nearest competitor by nearly a full point. The score would have been high enough to top Class 2A, as well. Teams are evaluated in categories such as choreography, difficulty of the music, technique, synchronization, staging, spacing, and showmanship.

Centralia's victory is a testament to great coaching, hard work, skill, and raw nerve. The squad is coached by Bethany Lorenzini. Team members include Jestin Taylor, Andrew Johnson, Ali Moreno, Gracie Moore, Elijah Jones, Erica Burnett, Clara Peroo, Alyssa Smith, Katelyn Parker, William Collins, Destiny Wallace, Reed Mays, Kailynn Witherspoon, Cash Berry, Zoe White, and Sophia Schossler. Managers are Diamond Battle and Ece Polat.

The state championship is the first in any IHSA competition for Centralia since it claimed the Scholastic Bowl during the 1990–91 school year.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure I stand to recognize the Centralia Competitive Dance Team and offer it my sincere congratulations on being state champion. I wish the team all the best in the future.

IN HONOR OF EL AMOR M.
BRAWNE ALI

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is an honor and privilege to recognize a dedicated public servant who continues to make our community proud as a Ward Leader. As public officials, entrusted by their peers to oversee elections and party activity, Philadelphia Ward Leaders represent a corps of unsung heroes that help facilitate the progress that molds our city. I am honored to be joined by one of our most distinguished, esteemed Ward Leaders today, and in commemoration of Black History Month, ensure that their contributions to our city remain enshrined in our historical record for generations to recognize.

Black History Month is more than a mere byline on the month of February, it is an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the extraordinary contributions that the African American community has made, and continues to make, on our nation's history and culture. And I can think of no honoree more deserving of this recognition, who embodies the selfless commitment to their neighbors and peers, than Ms. El.

El Amor M. Brawne Ali, of Ward 37, has also taken it upon herself to invest in our city's youth. Beyond her work for local candidates and elections, she has undertaken projects that will provide structured activity to keep kids involved after school. This manifests itself in many ways, one of which is through her efforts to revitalize Foterall Square Park. What used to be a vibrant gathering place has since devolved to abandoned fields and neglected playgrounds, but with El Amor's leadership, Foterall is back on track to reach its full potential. The impact of her efforts will transform the neighborhood for these kids, their kids, and generations to follow. I thank Ms. El.

Taking after the long lineage of Philadelphians who have helped sculpt our democracy into an increasingly inclusive system that encourages public participation, Ms. El has left her own mark on our city. I look forward to years of collaboration so we can create a more inclusive, representative democracy throughout our community.

HONORING THE PASADENA HOST LIONS CLUB'S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Pasadena Host Lions Club upon its centennial anniversary.

Lions Club International began in 1917 with a mission to encourage volunteers to serve their communities, promote peace and international understanding, and improve the world with kindness by meeting humanitarian needs. Currently, Lions Club International has 1.4 million members in forty-seven thousand Lions Clubs. As the fifth Lions Club in the state of California, the Pasadena Host Lions Club was chartered on March 26, 1920.

For 100 years, Pasadena Host Lions Club members have provided innumerable hours of dedicated service toward the improvement of the Pasadena community, with an emphasis on persons with disabilities, seniors, youth and the homeless. Helen Keller referred to Lions Clubs as the "Knights of the Blind," for their support of organizations that serve those impaired in sight. This is seen through Pasadena Host Lions Club supporting White Cane Safety Day—providing Lions the opportunity to raise awareness on safe navigation of the visually impaired, support of other local groups for the visually impaired, assisting the founding of Lions Eye Foundation of Southern California, and creating the Pasadena Lions Memorial Trust for the welfare of persons with disabilities and children.

Other organizations the club supports include the Aspen Camp of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Pasadena Police Foundation, American Red Cross, Pasadena Senior Center, City of Hope, Union Station Homeless Services, Pasadena Jaycees, Young and Healthy, Pasadena YMCA and the Salvation Army.

In addition, the club provides youth scholarships, and currently has six charter LEO Clubs for youth that focus on leadership, experience, opportunity and service.

Pasadena Host Lions Club members have faithfully served the greater Pasadena area for one hundred years. I ask all Members to join with me in commending the Pasadena Host Lions Club on their celebration of hundred years of service.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF EDWIN ALLEN, JR.

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Edwin Allen Jr. who is retiring from the City of Fredericksburg's Fire Department. He served as their Fire Chief for the last 16 years and substantially contributed to city's public safety. Edwin had a long, rewarding career serving the community and working for the great people of the First District.

45 years ago, the Fredericksburg Fire Department hired Edwin. As an ecstatic, driven