

SUMGAIT, KIROVABAD, AND BAKU
MASSACRES

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I stand in solidarity with the Armenian American community in commemorating the pogroms against Armenians in the cities of Sumgait (February 27–29, 1988), Kirovabad (November 21–27, 1988) and Baku (January 13–19, 1990).

Thirty-three years ago, in the Azerbaijani town of Sumgait, peaceful Armenian residents were brutally targeted on the basis of their ethnicity and subjected to unspeakable crimes. The New York Times reported Armenians being “hunted” down and an account of a pregnant Armenian woman, who had been disemboweled. The U.S. Senate passed an amendment in July of 1989, noting that even the Soviet government had termed the murder of Armenians in Sumgait a “pogrom.”

The Sumgait Pogroms were the beginning of an escalation of violence against the Armenian minority, with a wave of anti-Armenian violence spreading to Kirovabad in November 1988 and to Baku in January 1990, which culminated in the forcible expulsion of 390,000 Armenians from Azerbaijan and the 1991–94 war over Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh).

In response to the Sumgait and Kirovabad pogroms, over 100 leading academics and human rights advocates, including the Executive Director of the NAACP and Elie Wiesel, placed an advertisement in The New York Times titled: “An Open Letter to International Public Opinion on Anti-Armenian Pogroms in the Soviet Union.” The letter appealed to the international community to condemn the atrocities and prevent further violence by stating: “The international community of states . . . must prove the authenticity of its commitment to human rights in order to ensure that, due to indifference and silence bordering on complicity, another genocide does not occur.” (July 27, 1990, The New York Times)

Unfortunately, Azeri attacks against Armenian civilians have only continued. In its latest bout of aggression against Armenia and Artsakh in the fall of 2020, Azerbaijan carried out indiscriminate attacks against civilians. A report by Human Rights Watch found that Azeri forces used inherently indiscriminate cluster munitions and artillery rockets or other weapons that did not distinguish between military targets and civilian objects. Multiple strikes hit residential homes in less than a minute, suggesting bombardment of civilian areas.

Today, Armenians are still held captive in Azerbaijan, with no planned date to be returned to Armenia. Armenian prisoners of war have been subjected to physical beatings and other inhumane treatment at the hand of Azerbaijan. The government of Azerbaijan must be held accountable by the international community, and I will continue to work in Congress to shed light on and learn the lessons of such past and present atrocities.

REMEMBERING BOB SMITTCAMP

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a San Joaquin Valley legend, Robert Smittcamp, who passed away on March 4, 2021, at the age of 79. I am deeply saddened by Bob’s passing.

Bob was a one-man Valley institution. A businessman, philanthropist, and community activist, he headed both Lyons Magnus food company and Wawona Packing. He had a particular passion for expanding healthcare access and improving education, donating millions of dollars to enhance both sectors throughout the Valley.

I’m lucky to have had Bob as a close friend and mentor. I was among countless Valley residents who frequently turned to him for advice on Valley issues. His assistance was invaluable on critical issues such as the Valley water crisis and the 2008 recession.

Bob and I also spent many hours discussing how to bring high-quality, affordable healthcare to every Valley family. I valued his insights on that question because he developed innovative ways to provide healthcare for his employees, who he always viewed as part of his own family. I’m convinced Bob’s approach provides a model for drastically improving healthcare for the entire country.

Bob epitomized all the virtues of the San Joaquin Valley. He was always available to help those of us who sought his guidance. But if you were looking for someone to sugarcoat a tough situation, then Bob was not your best option. He was an honest straight-shooter who’d give you candid answers whether you wanted them or not. That’s why I always consulted him when I had especially tough problems that needed realistic solutions.

Bob’s love for the Valley ran deep, and the region is richer in countless ways thanks to his contributions. He created jobs, ran companies that fed millions of people, shared his wisdom and experience with anyone who asked, generously funded deserving community institutions, and raised an exceptional family.

Bob was simply irreplaceable. He’ll be deeply missed, but he leaves behind an incredible legacy of hard work, success, and unconcealed passion for the Valley and its people. I offer my deepest condolences to his wife Annette, his children Brent, Lisa, and Brandon, and the rest of his family.

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mrs. SPARTZ. Madam Speaker, today I rise in opposition to H.R. 1 on account of several major issues with the bill. First, this bill did not go through committees and proper deliberations. Second, this bill takes drastic steps to federalize our elections and infringe on States’ rights. Third, this bill increases opportunities for fraud without proper guardrails or internal controls. To mitigate some fraud risks, I pro-

posed an amendment dealing with election audits, which was rejected by Democrats on the House Rules Committee.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA MEMBERSHIP ON CAPITOL POLICE BOARD ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Membership on Capitol Police Board Act, which would make the chief of the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) an ex officio, non-voting member of the Capitol Police Board (Board). The Board oversees the U.S. Capitol Police (USCP) and security for the U.S. Capitol complex and is comprised of three voting members (the House Sergeant at Arms, the Senate Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper and the Architect of the Capitol) and one ex officio, non-voting member (the USCP chief). My bill would give the MPD chief the same status on the Board as the USCP chief.

The events and aftermath of the attack on the Capitol on January 6, 2021, demonstrate the need for D.C. membership on the Board. Not only would the MPD chief’s membership on the Board help improve coordination between USCP and MPD, which helped save the Capitol and its occupants after USCP was overrun during the attack, it would force the Board to consider the interests of D.C. residents in its decision-making. The Board’s decisions affect D.C. residents more than any other Americans, but no member of the Board has any obligation to consider the perspective and needs of D.C. residents. D.C. residents continue to bear the brunt of the security decisions the Board has made since the attack. For example, the fencing around the Capitol complex has forced D.C. emergency vehicles and residents to take detours and has prevented access to the Capitol grounds, which are used by neighborhood residents for recreation and relaxation.

I support the calls to evaluate whether the Board is the right mechanism to oversee security at the Capitol, but as long as the Board is in existence, D.C. should have membership on it.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BOB
EGOLF

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Bob Egoal of Churubusco, Indiana.

For 65 years, Egoal worked in the grocery business. He started his career at John Shelton’s IGA, located on North Main Street in Churubusco in 1956 when he was 14 years old. Seven years later, he purchased the grocery from Shelton in 1967, and in 1982 built a new store south of Churubusco on US 33.

Egoal’s IGA is known throughout the area for its freshly cut meats and daily baked bakery

items. Egolf opened the store early and closed late, operating from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week. He made it a point to talk with his customers and would take special orders of items that people wanted.

Egolf was one of the longest continuous business owners in Churubusco's history. In addition to running his business, he frequently gave his time and money to local causes. But for Egolf's partnership with the Churubusco News, the newspaper would not exist today. He also contributed to the community through various organizations, such as with the Churubusco Area Jaycees, Churubusco Chamber of Commerce and as a longtime Smith Township trustee.

The story of Mr. Egolf is one that is uniquely American: defined by hard work, sacrifice, and service to others. Though Bob is no longer with us, his spirit of good will and generosity to those in Churubusco and beyond endures.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND FLOYD L. WHITE, III

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Floyd L. White, III on his retirement. During his over twenty years of service, Reverend White has been a stalwart of the community, always putting others' needs before his own.

Since 1988, in his private capacity, Reverend White has served as a Pastor for the Woodland Avenue Presbyterian Church, providing spiritual leadership to church members. In his public capacity, since 1988, Reverend White has served America's servicemen and woman. Beginning as Battalion Chaplain, Reverend White administered to the spiritual and moral needs of approximately 150 soldiers and their families. Eventually, from 2012 to 2019, Reverend White served as the Director of Camden County Veteran Affairs where he worked to better the lives of veterans and their families. After twenty years of service, Reverend Floyd L. White, III more than deserves a peaceful retirement and I wish him the best.

I commend Reverend Floyd L. White, III for his dedication to serving the people of New Jersey and I know the Woodland Avenue Presbyterian Church will be sad to see him go.

HONORING DELWYN SHOWALTER AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Delwyn Showalter, a long-time coach, athletic director, and mentor to many students in Mount Ayr, Iowa. Delwyn is set to retire from his roles this year, and I wish to recognize him as my Iowan of the Week for his outstanding service to his community.

Delwyn has been with the Mount Ayr Raiders since 1984, serving in a number of roles from teaching social studies, coaching numer-

ous sports, and as athletic director. Under his leadership as co-coach of the Mount Ayr football team, the program has seen continued success with a recent playoff appearance. In fact, Delwyn and his co-coach Derek Lambert, are the winningest coaches in program history with 135 wins in 19 seasons. Even more impressive, the pair has had only one losing record. Delwyn's coaching prowess doesn't end there, however, as he has also coached the basketball team to three conference championships.

Beyond leading his teams to victories, Coach Showalter has also been a leader for his student athletes. His friends and colleagues describe him as a caring and supportive man with an ability to lead young men. His players talk about his work ethic and how he's a man you can look up to as a mentor. He sets high standards for his students yet connects through humor and humility. We all know that there is much more to high school athletics than simply winning, and Coach Showalter is an example to all on the positive influence a coach can have on young students' lives and their community.

For Delwyn, sports is also a family affair. His two sons, Daniel and David, followed in his footsteps. Daniel coaches with his father on the Mount Ayr staff and David is a teacher and coach in Ackley, Iowa. While I know his players and community will miss Delwyn on the sidelines, I am sure he'll stay connected to the sport through his family. After 36 years with the Mount Ayr Raiders, Delwyn deserves this retirement and we all can be thankful for his service to his community. I am proud to recognize Coach Delwyn Showalter as my Iowan of the week.

GHANAIAN COMMUNITY IN AMERICA

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, the United States of America is home to hundreds and thousands of people of Ghanaian heritage including those who were born on this soil to those whose family emigrated here for education, job, or economic opportunities—for the American dream.

Ghanaian Americans are an important fabric in the tapestry of America from the cab driver to the medical doctor. You will find them in all parts of the country from Chicago to New York to suburban Ohio and Massachusetts. The culture is hard to ignore with rich food, the iconic Kente cloth, storytelling, inventions, architecture, and music.

Today more than ever Ghanaians living in the United States worry about racial injustice, home ownership, access to education, access to small business and immigration support.

Like many Americans, the Ghanaian community in America is not exempt from the COVID-19 crisis. Ghanaian Americans are essential workers and are very active in the health care industry, especially as nurses, personal care aides, and nursing assistants. Ghanaians are included in the 27.5 percent of all Black immigrant workers in the U.S.—more than 750,000—who work in the healthcare sector. Additionally, essential workers include

frontline workers in other key industries like food and service & hospitality and leisure.

And Ghanaian Americans have been contributing to the success and business continuity of important industries during these dire times. Ghanaian Americans are included in 23 percent of immigrants in the U.S. who work in the food and service industry, as well as 20 percent of immigrants in the U.S. who work in hospitality and leisure.

We recognize March 6, 2021 as the 64th anniversary of Ghana's independence, its thriving heritage and the rich contributions of its people who are important members of our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, on Monday, March 8, 2021, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote on the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule (H. Res. 188). If present, I would have voted YEA.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, March 9, 2021 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 10

Time to be announced

Committee on the Budget

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

S-207

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

To hold closed hearings to examine domestic and foreign threats and other challenges facing the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SVC-217

9:45 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider pending nominations.

SD-106