

America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUMGAI
MASSACRES AGAINST AZER-
BAIJANI CITIZENS OF ARMENIAN
HERITAGE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, this Sunday will mark the anniversary of the tragic massacres that took place against Azerbaijani citizens of Armenian heritage in February of 1988, in the town of Sumgait, Azerbaijan. This 3-day rampage, carried out by Azerbaijani nationalists, left dozens of Armenians dead, a majority of whom were set on fire alive after being beaten and tortured. Hundreds of innocent people received injuries of different severity and became physically impaired. Women, among them minors, were abused. More than 200 apartments were robbed, dozens of cars were destroyed and burned, dozens of art and crafts studios, shops and kiosks were demolished, and thousands of people became refugees.

Madam Speaker, these crimes were never adequately prosecuted by the Government of Azerbaijan, and most of its organizers and executors were simply set free, many of whom are presently members of the Azeri Parliament. Despite the attempt by the Government of Azerbaijan to cover up these crimes, enough brave witnesses came forward to give an accurate account of the offenses.

The Sumgait massacres are just another in a long line of Azerbaijan's aggressions against the Armenian people. The events in Sumgait were preceded by a wave of anti-Armenian rallies that shook the city in February 1988. Almost the entire territory of the city, with a population of 250,000, became an arena for mass violence against its Armenian population.

The attacks also marked the beginning of a larger campaign of ethnic cleansing targeting the Armenian people, culminating in the war launched against the people of Nagorno Karabakh. The war claimed nearly 30,000 lives and left over one million refugees in both Armenia and Azerbaijan. The continued hostilities in Azerbaijan and the military aggression against the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh in 1992 through 1994 led to the disappearance of a 450,000-strong Armenian community in Azerbaijan within a span of just a few years. As this April marks the 95th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, we also pause to remember the crimes committed in Sumgait and the pogroms conducted against the Armenian people in Azerbaijan.

Madam Speaker, this anniversary reminds us yet again of the historical injustice the Armenian people have faced, unfortunately, throughout their history. As we join with the Armenian people and all people of goodwill in remembering these atrocities, I strongly urge Azerbaijan and Turkey to cease their blockade and aggressive posture against the Armenian people and work to achieve a lasting peace. It is time for the United States to do all that it can and to use its geopolitical influence to send a message that ethnically charged genocides, illegal blockades of sovereign nations

and the constant harassment of the Armenian people will not be tolerated.

RECOGNIZING THE TREE OF LIFE
FOOD PANTRY IN PURCELL-
VILLE, VIRGINIA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Tree of Life food pantry in Purcellville, Virginia, which is in my congressional district. Through the group effort of dedicated volunteers, the Tree of Life food pantry has been able to help the hungry in western Loudoun County.

The Tree of Life food pantry was established in November 2009 to serve the hungry in Purcellville and the surrounding area in Loudoun County. In these tough economic times, so many families across the Nation are struggling to put food on the table. Some face grave economic challenges. Food pantries, like the Tree of Life, are able to help people make it through these challenging times.

The Tree of Life food pantry owes some of its success to its local partners, including Giant and Wegmans grocery stores and Costco Wholesale warehouse, which all pledged their support to the organization. These partnerships are proof that the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act, which protects food donors from liability, has been successful in helping to deliver surplus food to food banks in need.

Besides providing for the hungry, the Tree of Life food pantry also serves its community through ministering to the elderly and sick by providing additional food and resources. This organization has truly been a blessing to its community.

I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing the good work of the Tree of Life food pantry and its dedicated volunteers in serving the hungry in Loudoun County, Virginia.

HEALTH INSURANCE INDUSTRY
FAIR COMPETITION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Health Insurance Industry Fair Competition Act.

The McCarran-Ferguson Act, passed in 1945, exempted insurance companies from antitrust legislation that applies to most other business. The Health Insurance Industry Fair Competition Act removes the antitrust exemption for health insurance companies, requiring them to compete fairly and adhere to the same antitrust laws as others. No longer will health insurers be allowed to price-fix, divide up territories among themselves, or sabotage their competitors in order to gain a monopoly in the marketplace. Such practices have been outlawed in other industries for decades.

The Health Insurance Industry Fair Competition Act will bring much needed reform to the

health insurance industry by allowing true competition between health insurers. Competition is what drives our economy, spurs innovation, and ensures that the American consumer gets a fair deal. More competition means lower health insurance costs for higher quality healthcare.

For too long, the health insurance exemption has led to higher premiums for consumers and contributed to the unsustainable increases in health care costs. As a result, 94% of all health insurance markets are "highly concentrated"—meaning consumers have little or no choice between insurance providers. There are only two industries in our country that are exempt from antitrust laws—the health insurance industry and major league baseball.

The American people deserve better than this and I'm proud to cast my vote in support of the Health Insurance Industry Fair Competition Act.

JOSEPH ISIAH TORCHIA

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph Isiah Torchia. Joseph is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Heart of America Council Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joseph has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Joseph has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Joseph has displayed dedication and perseverance with this significant achievement, values which will stay with him throughout his life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joseph Isiah Torchia for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT
REORGANIZATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show further support for H.R. 2314, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2009 and would like to submit for the RECORD a letter of support from the Honorable Calvin Say, Speaker for the House of Representatives in the Hawaii State Legislature.

STATE OF HAWAII,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Honolulu, HI, February 19, 2010.

Aloha,

I write to express my support for you, the Hawaii Congressional Delegation, in your efforts to pass the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act.

The Native Hawaiian people have sought passage of this bill for ten years. The Hawaii State Legislature, which serves as the representative voice of Hawaii's people, has demonstrated continued commitment to Native Hawaiian self-governance and self-determination by unanimously affirming three separate resolutions supporting federal recognition of Native Hawaiians.

Thank you for creating an atmosphere of dialogue with the various stakeholders. I appreciate your diligence and openness in working with the state administration and community constituencies to address the best approaches offered. I trust your judgment in this matter, and am confident that through your careful and thoughtful deliberations, we will have a measure that is worthy of the goals to which we have all aspired over the last ten years.

I believe that the people of Hawaii recognize it is time to deliver a fair process for Native Hawaiians to resolve longstanding concerns in their community as other Native peoples have done. Federal recognition is an essential component in advancing the social and economic condition of Native peoples. To deny Native Hawaiians the rights of self-determination and self-governance as accorded to other Native peoples goes against the very principles of justice and fairness on which our country was founded.

The Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act provides an empowering and stable structure on which Native Hawaiians can build a prosperous future for themselves and for our state. Both our identity and the economic well-being of our state are very much intertwined with the well-being of the indigenous peoples of our island home. Effectuating a balanced process that will bring clarity to this issue is the right thing to do for our state, Native Hawaiians and all of the citizens of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

CALVIN K.Y. SAY,
Speaker of the House.

FEEDING NEW ORLEANS' SOUL

HON. ANH "JOSEPH" CAO

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Mr. CAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Black History Month to recognize Ms. Leah Chase. Known as the "Queen of Creole Cuisine", Ms. Chase is a chef, a television host, a cultural ambassador, and the owner of the famous Louisiana landmark Dooky Chase restaurant. Dooky Chase is located in the historic Tremé neighborhood of New Orleans and was immortalized in the television show "Frank's Place".

But it was established as a spiritual, cultural, and historic landmark long before television producers came knocking. During the 1960's, Dooky Chase was a meeting place for civil rights activists and NAACP members coming from all around the region. And, during segregation, notable African American artists such as Ella Fitzgerald and Lena Horne dined there.

When Hurricane Katrina flooded the restaurant, forcing it to close its doors for the first time since 1941, Mrs. Chase could have left, leaving behind all of the history and prominence of this historic spot.

But, she returned, rebuilt, and re-opened to serve, nourish, and inspire the bodies and souls of future generations by its critical con-

tribution to African-American history and the history of this great Nation.

Today, I am proud to recognize Leah Chase for continuing to feed the soul of New Orleans and her guests and for her unwavering commitment to the recovery of Orleans and Jefferson Parishes.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. DAVID L. BRONSON

HON. STEVEN C. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Mr. LATOURETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize one of my constituents, Dr. David L. Bronson, chairman of the Medicine Institute of the Cleveland Clinic.

Dr. Bronson recently was elected as the 2010 Chairman of the Board of Directors of the American Medical Group Association, AMGA, located in Alexandria, VA. The group represents more than 360 medical groups, and more than 102,000 doctors nationwide are AMGA members. Dr. Bronson is an ideal fit for this position. As chair of the clinic's Medicine Institute, where he is also professor of Medicine and Chief of Clinical Integration, Dr. Bronson is responsible for leading the health system's efforts to improve the value of health care.

Dr. Bronson has been with Cleveland Clinic since 1992 and was chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine for four years. From 1995 until 2008 he developed and led an expansion of the clinic throughout the NE Ohio area and beyond, adding 350 new physicians at 17 sites including operations in Canada. Dr. Bronson has also served as a member of the Cleveland Clinic Board of Governors and Board of Trustees, and is currently chair of the Board of Directors of the Cleveland Clinic Community Physician Partnership.

Dr. Bronson received his undergraduate degree from the University of Maine, and his M.D. degree from the University of Vermont, and he completed a residency in internal medicine there and at the University of Wisconsin. Prior to joining Cleveland Clinic, he was vice chair of medicine at the University of Vermont.

He has been a principal or co-principal in several federal and foundation-funded research efforts, and has published and presented papers in a variety of fields. Dr. Bronson now serves on the Leadership Team and chairs the Clinical Advisory Committee of Better Health Greater Cleveland, a collaborative funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to improve the health of people with chronic disease.

Dr. Bronson is well prepared to lead his colleagues and guide AMGA and its members toward improving the delivery of health care in the years ahead.

Again, I want to congratulate Dr. Bronson and recognize his accomplishments.

DANIEL AUSTIN GOERING

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Daniel Austin Goering.

Daniel is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Heart of America Council Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Daniel has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the five years Daniel has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Daniel became a Brotherhood member in the Order of the Arrow and earned the rank of Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Daniel has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Daniel worked with the Platte County, Missouri, Parks and Recreation Department to install a Prairie Restoration sign and construct landscaping at the Prairie Creek Greenway.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Daniel Austin Goering for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

NATIONAL EATING DISORDER
AWARENESS WEEK

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition and support of National Eating Disorder Awareness Week.

Approximately five to ten million Americans, both women and men, suffer from anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge eating disorders. Not only do these mental illnesses have serious physical consequences, they also present substantive obstacles to students' educational achievement: 86% of affected individuals develop their eating disorders before age 20.

On behalf of my constituents who have been personally affected by these illnesses as well as struggling young women and men nationwide, I introduced H. Res. 7 on January 9, 2009. H. Res. 7 will raise public awareness of eating afflictions, expand research for treatment and cures to end the suffering of millions of Americans, broaden access to treatment, and promote healthful eating habits and healthy body image.

It is critical that we use this week as an opportunity to address this national tragedy. It's not just teenagers using whatever means necessary to achieve an ideal body image, it is a mental illness that requires treatment and compassion. I encourage my colleges to join me in recognizing the severity of eating disorders affecting millions of adolescent Americans, and beseech Congress to continue to expand funding for research and treatment as well as awareness of these diseases that plague the lives our young people.