

members who fought and won this key battle, many laying down their lives in service to our nation. The Battle of Iwo Jima marked a decisive American victory and signaled the beginning of the end of the war in the Pacific.

On February 19, 1945, the United States Marines Corps began the invasion of the heavily fortified island of Iwo Jima. The ensuing battle for the strategic island would be one of the fiercest conflicts of the Second World War. Before the Battle of Iwo Jima ended, almost 7,000 American service members were killed, including three of the Marines that raised the American flag at Iwo Jima.

One day into the Battle for Iwo Jima, four Marine squads began their assault on Mount Suribachi, the 550-foot-high peak overlooking the island. After a three-day onslaught, our troops reached the top and defeated the last remaining Japanese defenders. At 10:20 a.m. on February 23, 1945, the 3rd Platoon, E Company, 2nd Battalion, 28th Regiment, 5th Marine Division were the first group of Americans during World War II to raise the American flag on Japanese soil. This was a defining moment of the Second World War.

Four hours after the first flag was raised, Corporal Harlon Block, Sergeant Michael Strank, Corporal Harold "Pie" Keller, Corporal Ira Hayes, Private First-Class Franklin Runyon Sausley, and Private First-Class Harold Schultz defiantly raised a second, larger American flag atop the mountain. Corporal Block guided the base of the pole into the volcanic ash while the others raised the flag upward. The iconic photograph of the Marines raising our flag at Iwo Jima is a testament to American strength and sacrifice.

I encourage my colleagues and all Americans to take a moment today to remember those who have sacrificed to protect our country and our way of life. We are all forever indebted to these brave service members, and on this day, we must reiterate our promise that we will never forget our nation's heroes.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF COLONEL WALTER P. BETLEY

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Mr. STIVERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's 15th Congressional District to recognize the life and legacy of Colonel Walter P. Betley, a true American hero.

Colonel Betley made a mark in our community in many ways, most notably, by committing twenty-eight years of service with the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Through tours of duty in World War II, the Korean and Vietnam Wars, Colonel Betley earned not one, but two, of our nation's highest honors: Bronze Stars, for his achievements.

Following his time in the Armed Forces, Colonel Betley continued his career of service, empowering the next generation by teaching vocational skills at the Eastland Career Center in Groveport, Ohio, where he worked for over two decades.

A man of many talents, Colonel Betley went on to found the Woodworkers of Central Ohio

and the Central Ohio Woodturners, and self-published his autobiography, *From Cold Water Flat to Colonel*.

But most importantly, Colonel Betley is known to many for going above and beyond his call of duty. His granddaughter remembers Colonel Betley as "truly one of the good guys." Let there be no doubt about his unwavering devotion to our nation and the positive impact he had on all whose lives he touched. Like a pebble dropped in a pond, the ripples created by Colonel Betley's life are far-reaching, but his legacy will live on in the memories of those who knew him and loved him.

Central Ohio is undeniably a better place because of Colonel Walter Betley and the tremendous life of service he lived, and I am honored to celebrate his legacy.

CONGRATULATING ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY DIRECTOR PAUL K. KEARNS ON BEING NAMED THE 2020 DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR BY THE FEDERAL LABORATORY CONSORTIUM

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Argonne National Laboratory's Paul K. Kearns on being named the 2020 Director of the Year by the Federal Laboratory Consortium. The Federal Laboratory Consortium Awards are prestigious honors awarded by a panel of experts from laboratories, industry, government, and academia.

Since becoming Argonne's lab director in November of 2017, Paul Kearns has maintained the laboratory's core values. Among the many accomplishments made during his tenure, the nickel-manganese-cobalt cathode has seen extraordinary success and is now used in many of today's electric vehicles. Argonne has also increased its partnerships with the entrepreneurial community and is aggressively expanding its collaboration initiatives. Throughout his tenure, Paul's passion for community outreach and building the next generation of STEM professionals has been clear.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Paul Kearns for his outstanding contributions to the science and technology industry and inspire the future generation of STEM professionals.

REMEMBERING THE KHOJALY MASSACRE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the tragic deaths of over 600 Azerbaijani civilians that took place in Khojaly on February 26, 1992. On that heinous day, Armenian and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) forces massacred 613 civilians. Innocent women, children and elderly men were brutally killed over the course of 22 hours.

Azerbaijan has been healing over the 28 years since this horrendous event, working hard to become a successful nation with a booming economy. They are a reliable friend and trade partner to the United States and our ally Israel in a geopolitical region rocked by turmoil and turbulence.

We must stand by our allies and friends in condemning attacks like this—past, present and future. Atrocities such as this have no place in our world. I urge my colleagues to join me and all of our Azerbaijani friends in remembering the lives lost during the Khojaly massacre.

ANNIVERSARIES OF THE SUMGAIT POGROM AND KHOJALY MASSACRE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise to mark two painful anniversaries this week in the decades-long conflict over the territory of Nagorno Karabakh. Although separated by four years and 200 miles, the Sumgait Pogrom in 1988 and Khojaly Massacre in 1992 both demonstrated the heinous potential of inter-ethnic hatreds to tear apart communities and trample human dignity. The commemoration of these horrific events is an opportunity to reflect on the innocent lives lost in this ongoing conflict as well as a chance to affirm the need for urgent steps to heal these wounds and find peace for all those afflicted once and for all.

The Sumgait Pogrom occurred in the early days of the conflict between ethnic Armenians and Azeris over the semi-autonomous Soviet oblast of Nagorno Karabakh. At the time, the Armenian-majority region was self-governing but ensconced in the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic. In 1988, a mass Armenian political movement sought to capitalize on administrative reforms in the Soviet Union to unite the territory with the Armenian state. This self-determination campaign quickly unmasked mutual suspicions and interethnic resentments that degenerated into violence.

Azeri counter-protests emerged in Baku in early February 1988 as ethnic tensions in Nagorno Karabakh intensified. Later that month, the reported murder of ethnic Azeris in Nagorno Karabakh lit a tinderbox of tensions that had built up in the town of Sumgait, 20 miles northwest of Baku. Gangs broke off from an Azeri rally in town and began looting, beating, raping, and murdering ethnic Armenians. Ethnic Azeris killed approximately 26 Armenians and injured hundreds more in the violence. The trauma of the pogrom sparked fears of escalating violence and led to the first major wave of relocations that eventually resulted in the near complete displacement of ethnic Armenians out of Azerbaijan and Azeris from Armenia.

Reciprocal atrocities coinciding with the collapse of the Soviet Union caused the outbreak of all-out war in the early 1990s. The Khojaly Massacre on February 26, 1992 is the single greatest loss of life in the history of the conflict, which continues to this day under a shaky ceasefire agreed in 1994. In the early morning hours, advancing Armenian fighters opened fire on a stream of mostly civilian Azeris fleeing the town of Khojaly in the Nagorno Karabakh region.

Although estimates vary, Armenian militiamen killed several hundred Azeri civilians in the snow-covered woods of Nagorno Karabakh that morning. All told, the Nagorno Karabakh War claimed approximately 20,000 lives and displaced more than a million people in both directions.

Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, I am deeply familiar with the efforts that the United States, in partnership with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, has made over the past quarter-century to resolve this conflict. The United States is a co-chair alongside France and Russia in the trilateral Minsk Group process the OSCE established in the late 1990s to facilitate de-escalation and peace talks between the sides. This process has largely succeeded in keeping all-out war at bay for more than 20 years, but the Armenian and Azerbaijani sides bear responsibility for advancing the cause of peace, including by preparing their populations for a lasting resolution.

I am encouraged by the significant decrease in ceasefire violations over the past couple of years as well as the steady pace of high-level encounters between Armenian and Azerbaijani leaders during this period. Yet no meaningful progress has been made in these talks. Moreover, the Armenian Prime Minister and Azerbaijani President punctuate their private discussions with inflammatory public statements that often distort the historical record and damage the cause of peace.

Madam Speaker, I strongly encourage the political leadership in Yerevan and Baku to use these solemn commemorations of Sumgait and Khojaly this week to turn a new page in this terrible conflict. The most fitting way to honor the lives of those lost would be through words of reconciliation and steps toward peace. Together, the peoples of Armenia and Azerbaijan can ensure such atrocities are never repeated and that future generations will know a life of secure and prosperous coexistence.

HONORING THE LEMONT POLISH CLUB AND ST. JOHN PAUL II POLISH SCHOOL ON THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY AND THE POLANIE DANCE GROUP ON THEIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lemont Polish Club, St. John Paul II Polish School and the Polanie Dance Group from Lemont, Illinois. This year the Lemont Polish Club and Polish School will celebrate their 40th Anniversary, while the Polanie dance group will celebrate its 20th anniversary.

Founded in 1980 by Father Edward Witusik, the Lemont Polish Club has upheld the traditions, customs, and language of our Polish heritage, and united the Polish community through our Catholic roots. Shortly after its creation, the Lemont Polish Club founded the St. John Paul II Polish School. The St. John Paul II Polish School serves the people of Polish heritage of Lemont by offering kindergarten

through high school students the opportunity to connect with and explore their Polish heritage. For forty years the school has excelled in teaching its students Polish language, history, and culture. Thousands of children have learned about Polish cultural heritage as well as the role Poles play in the United States and the world now and into the future. With its emphasis on civic responsibility, the school produces students dedicated to supporting and improving Chicago's communities, and I am proud to have it in my district.

The school has seen tremendous growth since its founding. Starting with just 41 students in 1980, enrollment in the Polish school has increased to over 800 students. As St. John Paul II Polish School has grown, they have been able offer more opportunities for their students to learn about and enjoy Polish culture. In 2000, the Polish School created the Polish Dance Group Polanie. The student dancers dress in traditional Polish costumes and perform traditional Polish dances at competitions and festivals across the United States and Europe.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Lemont Polish Club, St. John Paul II Polish School and the Polanie Dance Group on their anniversaries and congratulating them on their many accomplishments. May the Lemont Polish Club and Polish School continue their great work in the community, and I wish them the best as they continue to preserve their traditions for generations to come.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DEPUTY KEN MIZE

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Deputy Roger Kenneth "Ken" Mize for his over five decades of service to the people of northeast Georgia.

Deputy Mize of the Banks County Sheriff's Office retired on January 30, 2020, after serving in law enforcement for 52 years. Mr. Mize, who is best known for his integrity, his "servant heart" and the smile on his face, dedicated his career to protecting our communities and educating our students.

For over 26 years, Mr. Mize served as a role model and mentor for students in the Banks County School System. By working with the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) and Choosing Healthy Activities and Methods Promoting Safety (C.H.A.M.P.S) programs, Mr. Mize furthered safety awareness in over 30,000 fifth-grade students across Banks and Jackson counties.

Throughout the community, Mr. Mize was known as a role model who always had a calming effect as he walked the school halls, attended board of education meetings, and participated in other school events. His service inspired members of his community to become involved and work to change the lives of students.

From his work as a first responder to his dedication to students, Deputy Mize has committed his career to transforming lives and protecting our communities. I join the people of northeast Georgia in thanking him for his over

five decades of service, and I wish him and his beloved wife, Kathy, all the best in his next chapter of life.

IN HONOR OF MRS. IRENE MORGAN

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Irene Morgan who was among the first warriors on the frontline of the Civil Rights Movement. Although her valiant story is unknown to many, I applaud the Virginia Department of Historical Resources for issuing a new state historical marker for her in Gloucester County in my district.

Irene's incredible story highlights the social hardships that African Americans faced in the U.S. In 1944, while returning home to Baltimore on a bus after visiting her mother in Gloucester, the bus driver ordered her to relinquish her seat to a white passenger. She refused. Consequently, Middlesex County sheriffs arrested her, and the State convicted her. It was from this point that Irene took immediate action. With the help of the NAACP, her case was heard by the Supreme Court. Then, in 1946, defended by Thurgood Marshall and Spottswood W. Robinson, III; Irene won her Supreme Court case, *Morgan v. Virginia*. Her case made it unconstitutional to enforce segregation laws on interstate carriers. This landmark case set the stage for years of civil action against draconian laws that discriminated against our own citizens.

On behalf of Virginia's First District, it is my pleasure to honor Irene. All Virginians and those of Virginia's First District, should take the opportunity to learn about Irene and her act of courage.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in honoring Irene and her family for their contribution to our nation's history and the African American Community. I also want to thank the Virginia Department of Historical Resources for issuing a new marker for her, memorializing her story. On behalf of Virginia's First District we say thank you.

RECOGNIZING THE 28TH ANNIVERSARY OF KHOJALY TRAGEDY

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, today I rise to bring our attention to the 28th Anniversary of what is known as the Khojaly Tragedy. Years ago, as the Soviet Union fell under the weight of socialism, and the despair and malaise created by socialism finally became too much to bear, many of the former Soviet satellite regions went through regrowth and rebirth. Azerbaijan was one such country.

Azerbaijan, located in the Caucasus region, is an area of unlimited potential. The Azerbaijanis have carved out a remarkable society, a rich culture, and today have a stable government that has led the Azeri people into