

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 Sousley, 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.