

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