

relative prosperity. Its petroleum resources are world renown, as is its hard-working citizens.

The re-birth of this nation was not without its struggle. As the existing Soviet political regime broke down in 1991, ethnic and historical rivalries surfaced. Problems with neighboring Armenia resulted in conflict and death, and the Nagomo-Karabakh conflict erupted.

Out of that conflict, one notable tragic incident occurred 26 years ago, where the Azeris were subjected to reported indiscriminate shelling and targeting of the people of Khojaly at the hands of Karabakh Armenian and Armenian forces. It has been reported that up to 613 civilians died on February 26, 1992 as a result of the attack.

We cannot change what happened, but we can remember the victims and remind the world that the targeting of civilians is never acceptable.

The United States is proud to serve as a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group and we will continue to push for a peaceful resolution to this conflict, one that will honor the memory of the Khojaly people so that their families and countrymen may never suffer the same fate, nor anyone else in the world.

We in the United States cherish our strong bilateral relationship with Azerbaijan. I am very optimistic about what our countries can achieve not just for the Azeris and my fellow countrymen, but for the development of the Caucasus as a whole, allowing the world to understand its potential alongside its rich culture and history.

I am honored to recognize the Khojaly victims, and we will continue to keep them in our hearts and minds as we foster a strong working relationship between our two countries and promote a peaceful and fair resolution to this conflict. For Azerbaijan, and for Armenia, peaceful and neighborly relations will result in better prosperity for all of us.

HONORING KERRY THOMAS

HON. LUCY McBATH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Mrs. McBATH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Kerry Thomas, Chief of Police for the city of Chamblee. A self-described “forward thinker,” Chief Thomas has served as Chief of Police now for a little over three months. This weekend, citizens in Chamblee will honor Chief Thomas for his service as the city’s first African American police chief.

Chief Thomas joined the Chamblee Police Department last November after over 30 years of service to the Savannah Police Department. During his career in Savannah, his work experience spanned from a Patrol Officer, Forensic Examiner, Captain, and Assistant Chief of Police. His appointment as Chief was recommended by Chamblee City Manager Jon Walker and confirmed by Mayor Eric Clarkson and the Chamblee City Council. He was selected out of an application pool of 48 candidates from across Georgia and beyond. According to Mr. Walker, Chief Thomas “expressed a great depth of knowledge and offered a methodical and results oriented approach to policing.”

Prior to his service in the police force, Chief Thomas proudly served in the United States

Army as an Armor Crewman Specialist from 1984 until 1987. During his time in the Army, Chief Thomas deployed to Germany. Upon his honorable discharge, he transitioned into the Georgia Army National Guard, where he served another three years.

It is my honor to recognize Chief Thomas for his service, his sacrifice, and his dedication to keeping the city of Chamblee safe. As we approach the end of Black History Month, may we be reminded of the enormous contributions that black men and women make to the United States every day. On behalf of myself, the Sixth Congressional District of Georgia, and the United States House of Representatives, I am proud to join the city of Chamblee in honoring Chief Kerry Thomas.

KLINK FAMILY CONTINUES TO ADVOCATE FOR WOMEN CANCER PATIENTS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize sisters Sasha and Francesca Klink and their mother Irma Klink, for their tremendous effort to help women going through cancer treatment feel their best.

Cancer is a disease that affects people of all walks of life, regardless of race or economic status. Sasha and her mother Irma are both breast cancer survivors. The Klinks opened their Sugar Land, TX beauty boutique, Cure & Co., and spa Pop & Pigment in 2013 to bring positive distractions to other women going through cancer treatment.

By providing beauty products, wigs, head coverings and spa treatments to cancer patients, the Klinks have helped many women feel beautiful and confident during their journeys to wellness.

Sasha, Francesca and Irma all understand the toll that cancer affects patients and their families, as well as the fear, uncertainty and frustration it brings. Their valuable work eases the pain of patients, helps heal the hurt of their families and inspires others to assist those in need.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I thank Francesca, Sasha and Irma for their dedication to helping the women of TX-22 on their journey to beat breast cancer.

REMEMBERING MEMPHIS LAWYER JAMES S. GILLILAND

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Memphis lawyer, public citizen and community leader James S. Gilliland, who passed away Monday at 86. Jim was one of the great lawyers of Memphis with a sterling national reputation, having received every award for his phenomenal professionalism and active role in community affairs throughout his career. That included the 2018 “Pillars of Excellence” Award from the Univer-

sity of Memphis School of Law. Well respected in his hometown, Jim’s service in Washington, as general counsel to the Department of Agriculture during the Clinton Administration, added to his prestige.

Jim was born in Memphis and graduated from my alma mater, Vanderbilt University, and its law school, being named the Most Outstanding of the Law Class of 1957. After passing the bar, he served as a full-time prosecutor in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific and Far East, after which he returned home to join the then seven-lawyer firm now known as Glankler Brown PLLC. He became a partner and remained with the firm for 30 years. By 1964, he had met and married Lucia Flowers and the couple had three fine children—Katherine, Elizabeth and James Jr.—who continue to reflect their parents’ spirit of community involvement.

Jim’s civic commitment was seen in his service chairing the Liberty Bowl, the Memphis Cotton Carnival, the Memphis Arts Council and LeMoyné-Owen College boards of directors. Jim also oversaw the Memphis Mayoral Transition Team for our city’s first African American Mayor, Willie Herenton. He received the Memphis Bar’s Sam A. Myar, Jr. Award as the most outstanding young lawyer in 1972. In 1995, baseball champion Hank Aaron presented him with the United Negro College Fund’s “Beacon of Hope” Award for his work supporting minority education. He was a close friend and counsel to Al Gore throughout his political career.

In 1993, President Clinton nominated Jim for the general counsel post at the Department of Agriculture and he was confirmed by the Senate. There he managed a legal staff of 200 lawyers in 23 regional offices around the country, dealing with the legal issues involved in agricultural production, international trade, food policy, the interests of the forestry industry and rural small towns.

Returning to Memphis after his federal service, Jim became involved in local and national boards, including serving as chair of the American Battlefield Trust, the private partner of the National Park Service focused on preserving American battlefields. Jim was always supportive of me and other public servants and he and Lucia helped make Memphis a more tolerant and inclusive community.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to Lucia, his wife of 55 years, and his children, his grandchildren, his colleagues and his many friends. His was a life well-lived.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the one hundredth anniversary of the national American Legion Auxiliary and the special one hundredth anniversary celebration being held by the Corning American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 746.

The Auxiliary was founded shortly after the American Legion was chartered after World War I. It was decided that a new women’s organization should be founded that was closely