

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### REMEMBERING BLACK JANUARY

#### HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, as the Co-Chairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I want to honor the people of Azerbaijan by recognizing the tragic events of 1990 commonly referred to as "Black January."

Twenty-four years ago yesterday, approximately 26,000 heavily armored Soviet soldiers poured into Azerbaijan's capital city of Baku and, with total indifference to human life, launched an assault on a crowd of peaceful demonstrators. Ultimately 131 civilians were killed by the aggressing Soviets. In addition, over 600 were injured, 841 arrested, and 5 went missing.

The Human Rights Watch report "Black January in Azerbaijan" described the Soviet's approach as though they were attacking "an enemy position intended for military destruction." It states Soviet soldiers fired on clearly marked ambulances, crushed civilians with armored tanks, and used both automatic weapons and bayonets on the civilian population. Many believe that the destruction inflicted on Baku was a warning to other Republics of the Soviet Union in an attempt to stop the dissolution of Communist rule.

Ultimately, the atrocities of Black January united Azerbaijan like never before. The brutal show of force erased any residual hope for a reformed Soviet Union, such that Azerbaijan declared its independence twenty months later.

I thank the Azerbaijan people for their continued friendship with the United States and extend my deepest sympathies to the family and friends of those who lost their lives for the independence of Azerbaijan.

### HONORING THE SERVICE OF AIR FORCE CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT JAY A. WILSON

#### HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Chief Master Sergeant Jay A. Wilson, United States Air Force for his 26 years of service to our nation and to congratulate him on his announced retirement.

Chief Master Sergeant Wilson is the Mission Director in the Enterprise Operations Squadron, Enterprise Management Operations Center, National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) in Chantilly, Virginia. As the first enlisted member entrusted as a Mission Director, he leads 65 joint military, civilian and contractor teams and manages two separate 24 hour, 7 day a week operations centers that command and control a \$10 billion global network. Wilson also serves as the NRO Air Force Reserve Senior Enlisted Advisor and he mentors over 65 servicers in support of the NRO.

Chief Wilson began his Air Force career in May 1973 entering under the delayed enlistment program. He reported to Lackland AFB, TX for Basic Military Training in September 1973. After serving on Active Duty for nearly four years, he separated from the Air Force in June 1977. In July 1991 Chief Wilson returned to the Air Force, as a Communications/Computer Systems Controller joining the California Air National Guard's 234th Combat Communications Squadron, Hayward Calif. Four years later, a civilian job change brought Chief Wilson to the 231st CCSQ of the Washington D.C. Air National Guard. In May 1999, the 231st CCSQ was activated under Presidential orders for deployment to Bosnia. In November 1999, Chief Wilson transferred to the Air Force Reserve as an Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) with the Defense Information Services Agency as a Watch Officer in the newly formed Joint Task Force for Computer Network Defense (JTF-CND). In 2002, Chief Wilson transferred to the NRO as a Watch Commander, National Reconnaissance Operations Center (NROC) and in 2010 Chief Wilson became Mission Director in the Enterprise Operations Squadron.

During his service to our nation, Jay has received multiple awards and decorations including: Defense Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal with two devices, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 'M' device.

A model citizen-airman, Jay has actively volunteered and held positions in multiple military and veteran affiliated organizations. He served on and trained new recruits for the NRO Honor Guard. He has been an active member of the American Legion and was his local post's Sergeant at Arms and Color Guard lead. He has also served the American Legion at the District level. As a member of the American Legion's 16th District he has served as Sergeant at Arms and Honor Flight Committee Chair. He organizes and officiates for the Manassas Veteran's Day Parade. He served as the Sergeant at Arms for the Potomac Regional Veteran's Council, conducting ceremonies at Quantico. He has routinely taught flag etiquette to the eighth grade class at All Saints Catholic School. He has also been an active member and organizer in the 40 and 8 Society holding the position of the Guard de la Porte at the state and national level. Finally, he has served on the 40 and 8 Society's National Convention Planning Committee and has had the distinct honor of carrying the U.S. flag into and out of the Amphitheater during the Memorial Day Service at the National Cemetery at Arlington.

Chief Master Sergeant Wilson has excelled throughout his distinguished career and I am honored to pay tribute to this Airman. I thank Chief Master Sergeant Jay Wilson, his wife, Gail, and their daughters, Genevieve and

Catherine, for their service to our country. I wish them Godspeed, and continued happiness as they start a new chapter in their lives.

DR. POATE

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Dr. John M. Poate for his prominent career and service to energy conservation and environmental research. For over fifty years Dr. Poate has been active in research and development in the renewable energy sector. His personal research activities span several areas of solid state physics, materials science and engineering. He led a distinguished research career at Bell Labs where he headed the Silicon Processing Research Department. Since then he has served as Dean at New Jersey Institute of Technology, Chief Technology Officer of a semiconductor capital equipment company, and the vice president of Research and Technology Transfer at the Colorado School of Mines.

Dr. Poate has served on many advisory panels during his career such as NATO, NSF, NRC, DOE and International Universities. He continues his work on the Board of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and chairing the Director's Review Committee for the Physical and Life Sciences of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and Materials Research Society, MRS past-president, and the John Bardeen award winner of the TMS.

To say he is an accomplished research scientist is an understatement. Dr. Poate's dedication and enthusiasm for research is reflected in his authorship of over 300 publications in archival journals as well as 12 patents.

I extend my deepest thanks to Dr. Poate for his service to the science community. Thank you for your continuous dedication to research.

### RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S JANIS K. SIMMONS

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Northwest Florida's Janis K. Simmons upon the occasion of her retirement from the Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), Santa Rosa County Extension Office, after more than thirty-two years of dedicated service.

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