

JAMES J. HAGGERTY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of James J. Haggerty, known affectionately to many of us as "The Big Fella." He was the beloved husband to his cherished Cecelia and proud father of seven: Jeanie, Mauri, James Jr., Matthew, Cecelia, Daniel, and Katie. And he was the doting grandfather to 18.

Jim's life motto was "to those whom much is given, much is expected." He believed strongly in public service, through which he knew he could help people. When his close and dear friend, Bob Casey, became Governor of Pennsylvania, Jim served in his cabinet as Secretary of the Commonwealth and later as his General Counsel.

Jim's life was made full by his big family and many friends. He adored his wife, and he died just 11 days before their 45th wedding anniversary. He was strengthened by his abiding Catholic faith, loved his Irish heritage, and was a loyal Dunmorean.

Jim supported many worthy causes, serving as chairman of the board of the University of Scranton, a member of the board of Scranton Preparatory School, and a staunch champion of the United Way of Lackawanna County. His good works strengthened northeast Pennsylvania.

At his funeral mass, Monsignor Joseph Quinn said of Jim to an overflowing and loving crowd: "God used him to build many bridges along the way, bridges that connect lives."

His grandson, James, called him a man of courage and generosity, saying: "He has taught me the importance of giving back."

As the Scranton Times-Tribune reported, James Jr. said his father epitomized "honesty, integrity, and love" to his family. And he closed with a poem read by Robert F. Kennedy in Lackawanna County in 1964, about Irish freedom fighter Owen Roe O'Neill:

"We're sheep without a shepherd, when the snow shuts out the sky. Oh! Why did you leave us, Owen? Why did you die?"

My husband Paul and I were proud to call the Haggertys our friends for nearly 50 years, and are deeply saddened by Jim's passing. It is a source of great happiness to us that our children and grandchildren are loving friends.

Indeed, so many were proud to call Jim their friend: last Sunday, in Scranton, a line of those who had come to pay their respects to Jim stretched for blocks. As they waited in line for hours, they shared their stories of how Jim Haggerty helped them.

I hope it is a comfort to the Haggerty family, to Celia and to their children and grandchildren, that so many grieve their loss and are praying for them in this sad time.

CONGRATULATING KATHY
STEINHOFF

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kathy

Steinhoff, a math teacher at Jefferson Junior High School in Columbia for receiving the NEA Member Benefits Award for Teaching Excellence on February 11, 2011.

Ms. Steinhoff should be commended for her hard work and dedication to the students in her school district and her community. The NEA Member Benefits Award for Teaching Excellence is a prestigious award, and we are proud she is representing our great state of Missouri and the 9th district. Advancement in the fields of mathematics is integral to the development and competitiveness of America in the future, and I am honored to congratulate Ms. Steinhoff on her outstanding achievement.

Ms. Steinhoff was selected from five finalists to receive the NEA Member Benefits Award for Teaching Excellence. The award recognizes effective teaching skills and advocacy for the educational profession.

Steinhoff won the award for her unique teaching style and the use of technology in her lessons, such as interactive SMART Boards and clickers, to help her eighth- and ninth-grade students. She also uploads podcasts, which record her teaching difficult math problems, so that her students can revisit her lessons later to study. Her innovative teaching style has made her a favorite among students and a leader among her peers.

It is critical for the future of our country that students have access to a quality education. Without excellent teachers, our schools fail our students and communities. Ms. Steinhoff exemplifies what it means to be an excellent teacher, and her dedication to her students and community is worthy of high praise.

I ask that you join me in recognizing Kathy Steinhoff for her excellence in the field of education.

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF
THE KHOJALY TRAGEDY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize the estimated 1,000 civilians who on February 26, 1992 were indiscriminately scalped, tortured, and killed in the town of Khojaly, an Azerbaijani-populated town in Nagorno-Karabakh. Many of us know that post-Soviet conflicts in Eastern Europe and Central Asia led to brutal ethnic cleansing, but few have heard of the people of Khojaly, who were massacred by Armenian militants. The ethnic cleansing was successful, and the town no longer exists. Although the tragedy received widespread media coverage, since then it has largely been forgotten. I hope that now and every year after this atrocity, we can pray for the victims.

Azerbaijan's Muslim, Christian, and Jewish communities come together against ethnic cleansing at this time of the year, commemorating the lives of the Khojaly victims and calling on the international community to condemn the bloodshed. Their pleas do not fall on deaf ears.

There are still victims of the conflict in the region of Nagorno-Karabakh. Hundreds of thousands of people are displaced, and ethnic cleansing has continued even after 1992.

I have met victims of the Rwandan genocide, who are still healing to this day. I went

to Bosnia shortly after the war and saw the effect of ethnic cleansing there. I know what a detrimental effect this can have to a region, in this case even wiping a small town off the map. I recognize that even now, atrocities are occurring in Kashmir and Darfur, and innocent civilians are paying the price while we in the international community have more to do.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that Azerbaijan and Armenia can come to a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, and I hope that the civilians suffering right now will soon see an end to ethnic cleansing. The memories of the women, men, and children of Khojaly should propel us to condemn such practices.

RECOGNIZING THE DES MOINES
SOCIAL CLUB

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Des Moines Social Club, a not-for-profit venture formed in Iowa around the idea that art can be accessible to everyone.

Since its founding in 2008, the Des Moines Social Club has become a source for art and art education through the Instinct Art Gallery, showcasing local, national and international artists, many educational classes, and weekly programs. They have provided the staff and resources to host public events educating Iowans of all ages about music, dance, theater, and the visual arts.

The folks of the Des Moines Social Club have been strong supporters of projects that benefit the entire community. In the past year, they have expanded to provide just under 300 hours of classes for over 500 students. The fact that nearly 100 volunteers have put in close to 5,000 hours of service, is a true testament to the leadership of the organization and their dedication to fulfill their mission of using the arts as a catalyst for community engagement.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of what the Des Moines Social Club has done to further the arts. This group of leaders is making the State of Iowa a more vibrant and diverse community.

SUPPORT THE HUMAN RIGHTS
AND DEMOCRACY FUND

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose amendment #380, proposed by our colleagues Mr. REED and Mr. GRAVES, which eliminate the State Department Democracy Fund and the Human Rights and Democracy Fund (HRDF).

The Human Rights and Democracy Fund funded by the Democracy Fund appropriation, finances innovative projects across the world to support the long-standing bipartisan U.S. foreign policy goals of defending human rights and advancing democratic values. Continued HRDF programming is vital to U.S. national

security because democratic governance fosters more stable countries and regions, and free nations are more peaceful towards other democracies. Democracy promotion funding, started under President Reagan, has grown to its current consistent level of \$70 million. Sustained congressional support for HRDF is critical.

Promoting democracy and human rights is a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy goals and the advancement of our national interests because it is the most effective long-term way to strengthen international stability. By reducing regional conflicts, countering terrorism and terror-supporting extremism, and extending peace and prosperity, the U.S. protects liberty and justice and the non-negotiable demands of human dignity.

The Human Rights and Democracy Fund is the foundation for U.S. support for democracy and human rights across the globe. With HRDF, the U.S. addresses the most egregious of human rights abuses, open political space in struggling and nascent democracies and authoritarian regimes, promote religious freedom and tolerance, support civil society, protect at risk populations, and further global internet freedom and corporate social responsibility throughout the world. With HRDF, the United States was able to help counter extremism by supporting at risk populations in the Middle East, thereby reducing breeding grounds of future terrorists. DRL was able to provide thousands of Haitians with internet and radio access in the immediate aftermath of the Hurricane there.

The Human Rights and Democracy Fund is enabling the U.S. to implement innovative programs across Africa. In Morocco, the Democracy Fund supports justice sector institutions to develop alternatives to pre-trial detention of youth offenders that enable rehabilitation outside of prison. To stem gender-based violence (GBV) in the war-torn region of eastern Congo, the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) initiative provided legal assistance to victims of sexual violence. As a result, 296 GBV survivors received legal counseling and 212 survivors received psychological counseling; 98 criminal complaints were filed against suspected perpetrators; and an unprecedented 25 rape convictions were secured. In Sudan, in response to widespread violence against women in Darfur, DRL used Democracy Fund appropriations to provide critical services and community outreach to survivors of gender-based violence. Through the establishment of women centers, tens of thousands of women received an array of services, including literacy classes, health education, income-generating activities and treatment for sexual violence including medical, psychosocial, and case management services.

Without HRDF, victims will lose valuable avenues for recourse, civil society activists will become increasingly isolated, women will become more vulnerable, and truth-telling journalists will be quieted. DRL would not be able to support efforts to push the Chinese government to more actively disclose food and drug safety information that directly affects the well-being of the American public; foster critical advances in the rule law, including criminal justice reform; support the growth of the NGO sector and its advocacy on behalf of the marginalized in society; or widen space for religious freedom. Without HRDF, DRL would

not be able to help male civic and religious leaders be a powerful voice for the rights of women in Afghanistan.

I urge my colleagues to support democracy and human rights in the developing world by voting NO on the Reed/Graves amendment #380.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 1, the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011. This ill conceived bill imposes draconian spending cuts that harm working families and, if implemented, could cause 1 million Americans to lose their jobs. Even worse, this bill hampers our country's ability to compete with other rising world powers, like China and India, by imposing draconian cuts to education, research, and infrastructure investments.

At a time when education is critical to thriving in our global economy, the Republican led House is undermining America's future. Specifically, today's legislation would reduce the Pell Grants award by \$845, causing over 9.4 million college students to suffer from increased levels of educational debt. Additionally, 218,000 children will be immediately dropped from Head Start program and 7,000 special education teachers will lose their jobs. House Republicans also want to reduce job training programs by \$3.6 billion, cutting training for more the 200,000 Americans who lost their jobs in this "Great Recession."

H.R. 1 will cut \$740 million in WIC nutrition assistance and thus cause thousands of low-income children to lose access to nutritional foods and health coverage. During one of the coldest winters in memory, Republicans propose to cut \$400 million to the low-income Home Energy Assistance Program—literally leaving many of our fellow citizens out in the cold. They also would abolish Title X funding, thus cutting life-saving health services such as HIV testing, cancer screening, blood-pressure testing, and contraceptive services to more than five million low-income women, the majority of whom are uninsured. \$1.3 billion is cut from Community Health Centers, which would deny care to over 3.2 million Americans. Lastly, 75,000 homeless veterans would lose their housing vouchers under this bill.

With the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Democrats boldly showed that investing in America's infrastructure could put America to work, while laying the groundwork for future private sector investment. With this measure, Republicans would seek to undo that commitment and move our country backwards with billions in cuts to transportation funding. H.R. 1 would cut \$2.5 from high speed rail projects that have been

already awarded and eliminate funding for High Speed Rail Corridors. It would also eliminate 750 fewer wastewater and drinking water projects. 25,000 TIGER Surface Transportation Projects would be terminated.

During the Great Depression, conservatives advocated for reduced spending at a time when the government needed greater investments in job creation. This unfortunate decision prolonged that economic malaise and resulted in untold levels of human suffering by millions of Americans. With H.R. 1, today's conservatives are simply repeating these failed economic policies. We cannot allow this. Republican "No Jobs Agenda" to succeed. I encourage my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

TWENTY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF
THE SUMGAIT MASSACRE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, next week marks the twenty-third anniversary of the Sumgait massacre. I stand today to recognize the massacres in Sumgait, Azerbaijan, and the continued Turkish and Azeri aggression against the Armenian people.

In late February of 1988, during what was supposed to be a period of glasnost and perestroika within the Soviet Union, Armenians, who had been the target of genocide in the early part of the 20th century by the Ottoman government, were under assault by the Azeri authorities in the town of Sumgait in Azerbaijan. This three-day rampage left dozens dead and hundreds injured, many burned alive. Women and minors were abused, scores of apartments were robbed, shops and kiosks were demolished, and thousands of people became refugees.

The Sumgait massacre is but one example in a long line of Azerbaijan's aggression and hostility against the Armenian people. Just two years later, the disappearance of a 450,000 strong Armenian community in Azerbaijan was witnessed. While Azerbaijan claims that events in Baku were about the liberation of Azerbaijani people from the Soviet occupation, the truth is that Mikhail Gorbachev had to send Soviet troops to the Azerbaijani capital to stop the mass killings and deportations of Armenians organized by the Government of Azerbaijan. The unfortunate fact is that the Azerbaijani Government was successful in ethnic cleansing and the mass deportation of the entire Armenian population of Baku.

Despite the attempt by the Government of Azerbaijan to cover up the crimes of Sumgait and Baku, enough brave witnesses came forward to give an accurate account of the offenses. Having survived near annihilation at the hands of the Ottoman Turkish authorities, it is a testament to the indomitable spirit of the Armenian people that they were able to endure and overcome another genocide campaign during the pogroms that took place throughout Azerbaijan, including in its capital city of Baku.

Many Armenians have marked the anniversary of the Sumgait massacre by organizing a march here in Washington from the Embassy of Turkey to the Embassy of Azerbaijan in