

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE VICTIMS OF SUMGAIT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the pogrom against people of Armenian descent in the town of Sumgait, Azerbaijan. The three-day massacre in the winter of 1988 resulted in the deaths of scores of Armenians, many of whom were burnt to death after being brutally beaten and tortured. Hundreds of others were wounded. Women and girls were brutally raped. The carnage created thousands of ethnic Armenian refugees, who had to leave everything behind to be looted or destroyed, including their homes, cars and businesses.

These crimes, which were proceeded by a wave of anti-Armenian rallies throughout Azerbaijan, were never adequately prosecuted by Azerbaijan authorities. Many who organized or participated in the bloodshed have gone on to serve in high positions on the Azeri government. For example, in the days leading up to the massacre, a leader of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, Hidayat Orujev, warned Armenians in Sumgait: "If you do not stop campaigning for the unification of Nagorno Karabakh with Armenia, if you don't sober up, 100,000 Azeris from neighboring districts will break into your houses, torch your apartments, rape your women, and kill your children." In a cruel twist, Orujev went on to serve as Azerbaijan's State Advisor for Ethnic Policy and later as head of State Committee for Work with Religious Organizations.

The Sumgait massacres led to wider reprisals against Azerbaijan's ethnic minority, resulting in the virtual disappearance of Azerbaijan's 450,000-strong Armenian community, and culminating in the war launched against the people of Nagorno Karabakh. That war resulted in almost 30,000 dead on both sides and created more than one million refugees in both Armenia and Azerbaijan.

In the years since the fighting ended, the people of Artsakh, the region's ancestral name, have struggled to build a functioning democratic state in the midst of unrelenting hostility and threats from Azerbaijan, as well as sniper fire and other incursions across the Line of Contact between the two sides. Hatred towards Armenians is both inculcated and celebrated in Azeri youth, as exemplified by the case of Ramil Safarov, an Azerbaijani army captain who had confessed to the savage 2004 axe murder of Armenian army lieutenant Gurgen Margaryan, while the latter slept. At the time, the two were participating in a NATO Partnership for Peace exercise in Budapest, Hungary. After the murder, Safarov was sentenced to life in prison by a Hungarian court and imprisoned in Hungary.

Last August Safarov was sent home to Azerbaijan, purportedly to serve out the remainder of his sentence. Instead of prison, he

was greeted as a hero by the Azeri government and promenaded through the streets of Baku carrying a bouquet of roses. President Ilham Aliyev immediately pardoned Safarov and he was promoted to the rank of major and given a new apartment and eight years of back pay.

In recent weeks, 75-year-old Akram Aylisli, one of Azerbaijan's most celebrated writers, has been subjected to a campaign of hatred. According to a report in the BBC, "[h]is books have been publicly burnt. He has been stripped of his national literary awards. And a high-ranking Azeri politician has offered \$13,000 as a bounty for anyone who will cut off his ear. Aylisli's 'crime?'—in his short novel *Stone Dreams*, he dared to look at the conflict between Azeris and Armenians from the Armenian perspective.

With these disgusting acts, the Azeri state reminded the whole world why the people of Artsakh must be allowed to determine their own future and cannot be allowed to slip into Aliyev's clutches, lest the carnage of Sumgait a quarter century ago serve as a foreshadowing of a greater slaughter.

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY, MRS.
BETTY HECHLINSKI

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in honor of my aunt, Mrs. Betty Hechliniski of South Bend, Indiana who turns 80 years old today. A lifelong Hoosier resident, Aunt Betty was the oldest of three children and attended school in her hometown of South Bend, graduating from St. Adalbert Elementary School and Washington High School.

Aunt Betty has always assumed a natural leadership role in the Walorski family, particularly to my father, the late Ray Walorski. The proud mother of three children and five grandchildren, Aunt Betty continues to stay busy in the community, attending church and blessing us all with her wonderful cooking at family gatherings. As the matriarch of the Walorski family, she continues to remind us of the power of generosity and kindness. I am honored to join our family and friends in wishing Aunt Betty a Happy Birthday, with many more years of continued health and joyful memories.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM P.
GALLIGAN'S 43 YEARS OF SERVICE
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to William (Bill) P. Galligan, for

his exceptional dedication to duty and service to the Department of Defense, spanning over a 43-year career, in honor of his retirement at the end of September 2012.

Mr. Galligan enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in February 1969 and served on Active Duty until February 1993. His uniformed service included two combat tours in Vietnam, assignments at bases in Germany and stateside, and 11 years as administrative assistant and Congressional courier on the Comptroller's staff at the Pentagon. With his retirement from the Air Force, he transitioned to a civilian role and continued to serve the Comptroller organization for another 19 years.

In his capacity, including three decades in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) office, serving 15 Congresses from the 98th to the 112th, Mr. Galligan delivered key documents to our Committee from the Department of Defense. We could always count on a story that ended with a chuckle from Bill. Many staff over the years has become fond of Bill and it won't be the same not seeing his face around Capitol Hill anymore.

We wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement. I'm sure he will be enjoying more time with his grandchildren.

TRIBUTE TO SARAH COLLINS-RUDOLPH
IN RECOGNITION OF HER SACRIFICES AS A SURVIVOR OF
THE 1963 BOMBING OF SIXTEENTH
STREET BAPTIST CHURCH IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Sarah Collins-Rudolph, a little known American hero whose life was forever changed on the morning of Sunday, September 15, 1963. On that tragic day, Sarah's sister Addie was one of four little girls killed in the noted bombing of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. While her name isn't engraved in memorials or printed in history books, to many in the Birmingham community, Sarah is known as "the fifth little girl." As we remember the 50th anniversary of this tragic event in our nation's history, we pay tribute to the four lives that were lost. But, we must also remember those that survived this horrible tragedy. Sarah Collins-Rudolph is one of those survivors. Sarah is the last of eight children born to Alice and Oscar Collins of Birmingham, AL. The day of the bombing, she was just 12 years old. Sarah and Addie Mae were one year apart and formed a unique closeness due to their closest in age.

On the morning of the bombing, Sarah was in the bathroom of the church's basement with the four victims including Addie Mae, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson and Cynthia Wesley. Sarah was the only girl in the bathroom

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