

people, and I am thankful for the hard work and tireless dedication they display for the men and women who protect us.

DR. CYNTHIA STEVENSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Dr. Cynthia Stevenson for her outstanding contribution to the Jefferson County School District and her induction into the Jefferson County Business Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame recognizes area businesses, individuals, organizations and civic leaders from past and present that significantly impacted and contributed to the Jefferson County community.

Cindy has been a part of Jefferson County schools most of her life as a student, a teacher, principal and superintendent.

As a result of her leadership, Jefferson County Schools thrived. Her dedication and commitment to providing the highest quality education to our kids will benefit our community for years to come. I am proud to call Cindy my friend and thankful for her public service.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Dr. Stevenson on her contributions and I am deeply grateful for the legacy of excellence she has given to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE EVENTS OF
FEBRUARY 26, 1996

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues and people all over the world in recognizing the tragedy which occurred on February 26, 1992 in the small Azerbaijani town of Khojaly. The attack resulted in the deaths of 613 Azerbaijani civilians and is one of the most devastating acts of violence in the South Caucasus in recent history. According to some accounts, the fate of 150 Khojaly inhabitants is still unknown, even after twenty-one years.

The numerous casualties in the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan underscore the need for a political-rather than a military-solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. A fair and comprehensive settlement is the most effective tool to encourage stability, prosperity, and a lasting peace in the region. As co-chair of the Minsk Group, the United States remains committed to working with both sides to that end. With that goal in mind, we remember and mourn the 613 victims of Khojaly and work together to safeguard the human rights of all.

HONORING JORDAN BENNETT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jordan Bennett.

Jordan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 444, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jordan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jordan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jordan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jordan built a planter and a bench in the vegetable garden at Harvesters Community Food Network, a local food bank in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jordan Bennett for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

ADDRESSING AFROPHOBIA IN
EUROPE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the European Parliament's February 20, 2014 public hearing on Afrophobia, as well as the critical importance of continuing to work with the European Union (EU) to address racism and discrimination against Black Europeans. It has been organized by the Green Party in collaboration with the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) and the European Coalition of Cities Against Racism (ECCAR).

An estimated seven to ten million individuals of African descent currently live in Europe, particularly in France, the United Kingdom, and The Netherlands. These populations form an influential part of the African Diaspora. From labor and scholarship to politics and civil rights, they have contributed greatly to European history and culture over the past several centuries. However, the story of Black Europeans remains widely untold, rendering many of their past and present contributions to the political and social life of Europe invisible or forgotten. Furthermore, similar to the experiences of many African Americans, they have increasingly become the targets of discrimination, pernicious racial profiling, and violent hate crimes impacting equal access to housing, employment, education, and justice.

I commend Members of the European Parliament Jean-Jacob Bicep, Jean Lambert, and Philippe Lamberts of the Greens/European Free Alliance (EFA) for building upon previous efforts and hosting a public hearing on Afrophobia in the EU. As the Ranking Democratic Member of the Helsinki Commission, I have long worked with European policymakers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and community leaders to help address inequality and discrimination facing persons of African descent.

In November 2013, the U.S. Helsinki Commission hosted an Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) delegation of Black European Rights Leaders representing 10 countries.

During a Commission briefing, entitled "Europeans of African Descent 'Black Europeans': Race, Rights, and Politics," members of the delegation shed light on the challenges encountered by many Black Europeans due to ongoing racism and discrimination, including barriers to greater political representation and leadership opportunities. Furthermore, they drew attention to the need for increased cooperation between Europe and the United States to combat racial discrimination and continuing racial disparities.

In conjunction with the Delegation's visit, I introduced H. Res. 421 "Recognizing People of African Descent and Black Europeans", which outlines concrete steps that the United States can take to help address racism and discrimination in Europe. It calls for the adoption of a Joint U.S.-European Union Action Plan to develop transatlantic solutions to combat racial discrimination and promote racial equality in Europe.

In addition, I sent a letter to President Obama on December 20, 2013 urging him to sign a Presidential Memorandum on "International Initiatives to Advance Human Rights, Social Inclusion, Equality, and Empowerment of Peoples of African Descent."

Mr. Speaker, Europe is currently grappling with complex questions at the intersection of national identity, decreasing birth rates, increasing immigration, security concerns, and a rise in extremist political parties. Cooperation between the United States and the EU is key to addressing the global challenges of racism and discrimination, and we should recognize the efforts made by the EU to address them.

HONORING CAPTAIN ERNEST T.
NORDMAN

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Ernest T. Nordman of Cape Girardeau, Missouri for his outstanding achievements and exemplary years of service to our Nation.

Captain Nordman is being awarded the prestigious Manion Award for Officer Logistician of the Year. The award is named after 1st Lieutenant Travis Manion, a Marine logistician who was killed by enemy sniper fire in Iraq in 2007. This award honors outstanding leadership skills, exemplary actions and overall conduct. I would like to congratulate Captain Nordman for this distinguished achievement and his honorable service. I am tremendously grateful for the dedicated men and women who have dutifully served our country, and among them leaders such as Captain Nordman who have risen as admirable leaders. It is my pleasure to recognize his achievements before the House of Representatives.