

COMMEMORATING THE 22ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY TRAGEDY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 22nd anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy which took place on February 25–26, 1992, when the town of Khojaly in the Nagorno Karabakh region of Azerbaijan was attacked by Armenian forces. Khojaly, which was home to 7,000 people, was completely destroyed; a total of 613 people were killed.

As the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict still remains unresolved, the U.S. must increase its efforts to facilitate the resolution to the conflict in accordance with international law. Congress must also recognize that the current status quo is dangerous and a solution to the conflict is necessary to allow hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijani IDPs to return to their homes. There is no doubt that a settlement of this protracted conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan would let this region realize its huge potential and become prosperous.

Mr. Speaker, as Azerbaijan, a tested and proven strategic partner of the United States, commemorates the 22nd anniversary of the Khojaly massacre this year, I call on my colleagues in Congress to speak up on this tragedy and stand with the Azerbaijani people.

PROTECTING TAXPAYERS FROM INTRUSIVE IRS REQUESTS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the “Protecting Taxpayers from Intrusive IRS Requests Act”.

Many of my constituents in the 24th District of Texas—some of whom were unfairly targeted by the IRS—have lost confidence in the impartiality of the agency.

Due to the political targeting scandal, my constituents are deeply skeptical about the IRS and angry at how they have been treated.

I fully agree with their concerns: the IRS has been blatantly too intrusive on my constituents’ personal lives and of many other Americans around the country.

Americans should always be protected from unnecessary and intrusive questions about their political, religious, and social beliefs.

On behalf of my constituents, I respectfully urge members to help protect American taxpayers and vote for this bill.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MR. LANCELOT THOMPSON

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2014

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, during Black History month, I rise today to recognize Lan-

celot C.A. Thompson of Toledo, Ohio. Toledo Blade newspaper reporter Federico Martinez wrote about Dr. Thompson when a room at the University of Toledo was dedicated in his name recently.

A chemistry instructor, Dr. Thompson was the first African American professor hired by the University of Toledo, in 1958. He explained his initial reception to the reporter: while driving to work through what was considered a white neighborhood, “The police would pull me over and accuse me of failing to stop at the stop sign. ‘What are you doing over here?’ the police would ask me. When I told them I was faculty at the university, they would call me a liar and give me a ticket.” Arriving on campus the reception was no better. School security would try to stop him from entering the faculty parking lot. Sometimes they would threaten him; other times they would mock him for claiming that he, a black man, was a professor. “They tried to stop me from parking in the lot,” Dr. Thompson said. “But I did anyways.”

Dr. Thompson retired from the University of Toledo in 1998 after 40 years of teaching. He recently returned to campus for a special honor: the unveiling of the Lancelot C.A. Thompson Meeting Room in the University of Toledo’s Student Union. At the ceremony, University of Toledo Athletic Director Mike O’Brien noted, “Over the years, Lance has been an adviser, a mentor, and most of all, a friend to many of our student-athletes.” Among the over one hundred attendees was Dr. Thompson’s longtime friend John C. Moore who said the recognition was both overdue and well-deserved. He explained that Dr. Thompson was a pioneer who paved the way for other African American professionals at the university. “He is such an intelligent gentleman who is really concerned about the fate of his fellow man. He’s very educated and still wants to learn something new every day. He’s fearless, and he makes it look so easy.”

Lancelot Thompson was born and raised in Jamaica. His parents were teachers. He was an accomplished athlete who competed in the broad jump and 400-sprint relay during the 1946 Pan American Games held in Barranquilla, Colombia, and again during the games held in Guatemala. Both times he took second-place honors in the competition. He was a 24-year-old high school teacher when he received track scholarship offers from Morgan State University in Maryland and Tennessee State University. He recalled, “Many people in Jamaica, they told me, go to Morgan State; they will lynch you in Tennessee.”

So he boarded a plane for Morgan State University and it didn’t take long for Dr. Thompson to be introduced to American racism and discrimination. “Jamaica is a biracial country, so we didn’t have those problems,” he said. “In Jamaica, it’s more about class issues. The first time I got to an airport I saw no black people, so I started to look for a place to sit down. A black janitor came over and told me I wasn’t allowed to sit in that section. He sent me to another part of the airport where other black people were. That was my first experience in America.”

The airport experience was just the beginning of more to come. The reporter writes that upon boarding a train to Baltimore he was dragged and deposited in the “black coach” section of the train. “Everybody in there were black southerners,” Dr. Thompson said. “I didn’t understand a single word they said.”

In spite of the racism, Lancelot Thompson earned a bachelor of science degree in chemistry from Morgan State in 1952 and a doctorate in physics and inorganic chemistry from Wayne State University in 1955. He went home to Jamaica with the goal of “trying to revolutionize the way we were teaching chemistry. The school books in Jamaica were old and outdated, and it was difficult to get the ‘powers-that-be’ to understand how much chemistry had changed over the years.”

In 1957 Dr. Thompson attended a job fair in New York. He explained to the reporter that he applied for and received numerous interview requests. He soon realized that was because potential employers didn’t know he was black. “A guy from Alabama, when he saw me, he turned so red I thought he was going to have a heart attack. ‘You know where Alabama is, don’t you?’ the man asked me. ‘Yes sir,’ I told him. ‘You know we probably don’t want you,’ he said. ‘I probably don’t want to go,’ I said.”

When Dr. Thompson applied for the University of Toledo job, he included a photo so there would be no surprises. The person who interviewed and hired him, Jerome Kloucek, dean of the arts college, never mentioned race, Dr. Thompson recalled in the newspaper feature. “Some of the faculty was a little uncomfortable, but I was comfortable. I was used to being around white people.”

In addition to teaching chemistry, Dr. Thompson created the university’s first track team. More importantly, he started the annual Aspiring Minorities Youth Conference. He served as assistant dean for undergraduate study in the college of arts and sciences from 1964–66, becoming the dean of student services from 1966–68. He was then promoted to vice president of student affairs, from which he retired in 1988. He retired as a teacher in 1998. Along the way, in 1964, Dr. Thompson was voted the school’s Outstanding Teacher.

It was always important to Dr. Thompson to mentor young people, especially African American young people. He explained, “Being the only black faculty at the university for four years, I had to be a mentor. There was nobody else for them. It didn’t matter if it was a black, white, Hispanic, or Asian student, my job was to teach and mentor all students.” Explaining he was even harder on African American students Dr. Thompson said, “Oh yes, I was hard on them. I made sure they did the work. I was harder on them than the other students because I knew they had to be a little better than the whites to get the job. You had to be prepared.”

Lancelot Thompson’s legacy is carried on in those students and all those he taught. His footprint on the school carries forth through today. We salute his spirit, his tenacity and his courage even as we offer thanks for all he has given to decades of University of Toledo students and our community. Thank you always, Dr. Lancelot Thompson.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. BARBARA FEATHERSON

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2014

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly outstanding North Carolinian, Mrs. Barbara Featherston, who has