

with impossible premium increases, but our work on this issue is far from done. More must be done to reign in FEMA, create more accountability in NFIP, and ensure the program is on sound footing. We must also demand more accountability from FEMA and NFIP and work to ensure that flood maps are accurate and not overly encompassing.

If NFIP has taught us anything, it is that Federal government should not be involved in the insurance industry. Many living in Missouri's Third Congressional District are in desperate need of relief, and NFIP is in desperate need of reform. Private insurance companies have a role to play, and the program should be changed to allow the private market to participate. I will continue to work to make the program sustainable, reliable and more functional than it is today, and hope that my colleagues will join me in the effort to increase the private sector role in flood insurance.

COMMEMORATING THE ANNIVERSARY OF POGROM AT SUMGAIT

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the anniversary of the pogrom that took place in Sumgait, Azerbaijan against people of Armenian descent. A pogrom is a violent riot aimed at massacre or persecution of an ethnic or religious group. On the evening of February 27, 1988 hundreds of Armenians were massacred in the seaside town of Sumgait in Soviet Azerbaijan. This violence against Armenians continued for three days and resulted in the reported killing of 32 people, with countless others that remain unaccounted for.

It is my hope that by speaking out publicly against atrocities suffered by our brethren around the world, we will help reaffirm America's commitment to an enduring, peaceful and democratic resolution.

I ask that my colleagues join me in solemnly commemorating the death of these innocent lives. My thoughts are with the Armenian community, especially those that lost loved ones during the pogrom at Sumgait 26 years ago.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR CHOKWE LUMUMBA

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Mayor Chokwe Lumumba of Jackson, Mississippi.

Mayor Chokwe Lumumba was born August 2, 1947, in Detroit, Michigan. He was the second of eight children born to Lucien and Priscilla Francis Taliaferro. Mayor Lumumba earned his Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Kalamazoo College in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He later finished first in his law school freshman class before graduating cum laude from Wayne State University Law School.

Mayor Lumumba was a nationally renowned attorney who was licensed in Mississippi, Michigan and U.S. Federal Courts. He has represented clients in over 16 jurisdictions, including Canada and the Choctaw Court. Mayor Lumumba has won settlements and/or judgments for victims of medical malpractice, employment discrimination, sexual harassment and police misconduct. He has worked in high profile cases such as the representation of the late Tupac Shakur. In 2011, he helped win the release of the Scott Sisters who had served 16 years of double life prison sentences for an \$11.00 (eleven-dollar) robbery. He successfully represented Lance Parker who was falsely accused of assault during the 1992 Los Angeles uprising which followed the brutal beating of Rodney King.

Since 1968, Mayor Lumumba has crisscrossed the globe to fight for "Human Rights for Human Beings." He supported the survivors of Katrina by serving on the Board of the People's Hurricane Relief Fund and organizing other activists to form the Mississippi Disaster Relief Coalition and co-organizing the Gulf Coast Survivors Assembly. Mayor Lumumba's work as a community activist has spanned over four decades. He has worked with organizations such as the Jackson Human Rights Coalition, which pressured the State to retry the person who murdered Medgar Evers. He has worked for over twenty years organizing, directing, coaching, and mentoring youth through programs such as the Jackson Panthers Basketball Organization. He was also a devout member of Word and Worship Christian Church.

Prior to his election as Mayor, Mr. Lumumba served as Jackson City Councilman for Ward 2. Widowed by his late wife Nubia Alake, Mayor Lumumba was a loving and devoted father to his three children, Kambon Mutope, Rukia Kai and Chokwe Antar Lumumba. He was also the proud grandfather of Qadir Lumumba-Benjamin.

Mr. Speaker, I take great pride in recognizing Mayor Chokwe Lumumba as a bright, caring, and humble individual. I commend his outstanding and historical contributions to the City of Jackson, the State of Mississippi, the Civil Rights Movement, and national politics.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, due to inclement weather on the morning of Tuesday, March 4, my flight was unable to leave for Washington, DC, from Lafayette, Louisiana. Therefore, I was unable to return in time for votes. Had I been present to vote, my voting record would reflect the following: H.R. 3370—"yea"; H. Res. 488—"yea."

I also offer the following statement in favor of the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act:

I support H.R. 3370, responsible legislation keeping thousands of Louisiana homeowners from facing dramatic increases in their flood insurance premiums.

The National Flood Insurance Program must be financially sustainable and it is irresponsible for it to carry a debt of \$24 billion.

However, we must find a balance between fiscal stability and punishing homeowners who followed the rules. This legislation brings fairness to homeowners and much-needed stability to the NFIP.

I am pleased this bill restores the grandfathering provision, the home improvement provision clause, and provides meaningful protection to Pre-Firm properties. I look forward to FEMA improving the flood mapping process to help inform the decision-makers in communities across America.

Local leaders must be vigilant in managing the growth of our neighborhoods in South Louisiana to ensure they are using the best available data to drive our zoning requirements, our building codes, and our insurance ratings.

Congress must remain engaged in its oversight of this program and its implementation in the years ahead. It must be committed to finding creative ways to further strengthen the NFIP without harming policy holders or the general public.

HONORING TORIN KOOS

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor an Olympic athlete from Washington State's 8th District, Mr. Torin Koos. Mr. Koos just returned from representing our nation in the XXII Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia. Mr. Koos is an incredible athlete who has reached the pinnacle of his sport and competed in the Men's Sprint Free Qualification.

I applaud both his achievement and the hard-work and perseverance that paid off during these games. Simply to attend the Olympics is to be among an elite group of people. I thank Mr. Koos for representing America so well, and I am proud to call him a constituent and a Washingtonian.

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY TRAGEDY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, Azerbaijan is a key strategic partner of the United States, and I am honored to be Co-Chairman of the House Azerbaijan Caucus. Azerbaijan has been a key ally in a post 9/11 era, emerging as one of the first countries to offer strong support and assistance to the United States.

I would like to take a moment to recognize the anniversary of the tragedy that took place in Khojaly, Azerbaijan, a town and townspeople that were destroyed on February 26, 1992.

We just marked the 22nd anniversary of that devastating and heartbreaking day. Sadly, today there is little attention or interest paid to the plight of Khojaly outside of Azerbaijan. However, one of our greatest strengths as elected officials is the opportunity to bring to light truths that are little known and command recognition. As a friend of Azerbaijan, I am proud to remind my colleagues that we must