

of his retirement from the United States Navy, I thank him, his wife, and their four children for their honorable service to our nation and wish them fair winds and following seas as Captain Harris concludes this portion of his distinguished legal career.

HONORING THE REVEREND MICHAEL L. COOPER-WHITE OF PENNSYLVANIA

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I honor my constituent, the Reverend Michael L. Cooper-White, upon the occasion of his retirement as the 12th president of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, and more than 40 years of service to the Church.

Rev. Cooper-White has served as President of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg since 2000, where he led efforts to: revise curriculum to strengthen an integrative approach to theological education; strengthen the seminary's fiscal health; and forge the pathway of the forthcoming consolidation with the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia to form the United Lutheran Seminary. Rev. Cooper-White also served in leadership positions with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries, the Washington Theological Consortium and myriad local boards. His ministry has spanned multiple continents and he's served the Church as pastor, teacher, author and engaged citizen.

Reverend Cooper-White's dedication has touched the lives of countless people and challenged all with whom he served to be the best. His legacy of service is commendable.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, I commend and congratulate Reverend Michael L. Cooper-White upon his retirement after many years of service to the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg and our community.

FIRST SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on March 3, 2017, I was grateful to present a Congressional Gold Medal to Joseph Moore of Lexington, South Carolina for his service with the First Special Service Force, a U.S.—Canadian unit of volunteers, who initiated the liberation of Europe at Anzio, Italy, in January 1944.

During the presentation with his family, he presented me with an extraordinary prayer which was read by Eugene Gutierrez at the 2015 Reunion of the First Special Service Force. The following prayer was found on the body of an American soldier killed in action on the beachhead at Anzio:

Look God, I have never spoken to you. But now I want to say, "How do you do?" You see, God, they told me you didn't exist. And like a fool, I believed all this.

Last night from a shell hole, I saw your sky And figured then they had told me a lie. Had I taken time to see things you made, I'd have known they weren't calling a spade a spade.

I wonder, God, if you'd shake my hand? Somehow, I feel you will understand. Funny, I had to come to see your face. Well, I guess there isn't much more to say. But, I'm sure glad, God, I met you today. I guess the zero hour will soon be here, But I'm not afraid since I know you are near. There's the signal . . . I've got to go. I like you lots, I want you to know. Look now, this will be a horrible fight. Who knows, I may come to your house tonight.

Though I wasn't friendly to you before, I wonder, God, if you'd wait at your door? Look, I'm crying . . . me, shedding tears. I wish I had known you these many years. Well, I have to go now, God, goodbye . . . Strange, since I met you, I'm not afraid to die.

RECOGNIZING THE 29TH ANNIVERSARY OF MASSACRES AGAINST ARMENIANS IN SUMGAIT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the twenty-ninth anniversary of the pogroms against people of Armenian descent in Sumgait, Azerbaijan.

In late February of 1988 the Armenian people of Nagorno Karabakh, more commonly known by its people and descendants as Artsakh, rose up in peaceful protest to demand their right to self-determination. This courageous call for equality and human dignity was met with murderous riots beginning on February 27, 1988 which lasted for three days. Scores of Armenians were killed, hundreds were wounded, and thousands were forced to leave their homes and livelihoods behind.

Undeterred by this oppression, the Armenian community and its dedication to democratic self-determination sparked a movement that finally helped bring an end to the dictatorship of the Soviet Union. The courage demonstrated by the people of Artsakh in demanding their rights even after all of the adversity is admirable and should never be forgotten.

Sadly however, authoritarian leaders in Azerbaijan continue to this day to aggravate efforts by the Organization for Security Co-operation in Europe Minsk Group to achieve lasting peace in Artsakh and the surrounding region. On February 25, 2017, just a few days ago, the ceasefire along the line of contact was breached resulting in several casualties. This aggression is completely unacceptable and further hurts efforts to achieve a peaceful resolution to this conflict.

On behalf of the thousands of Armenian Americans living in my congressional district I ask my colleagues to stand with the people of Artsakh in remembering the lives lost during this tragic conflict. May their memory serve as a reminder for each and every one of us to continue advocating for human rights and democratic freedoms around the world.

THE KHOJALY TRAGEDY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on February 25 and 26, 1992, twenty-five years ago, the Armenian military forces occupied the town of Khojaly and destroyed hundreds of innocent lives. Those that weren't killed were wounded or taken hostage while their city was under siege.

Khojaly was recognized as occupied territory from 1988 until 1994 when a ceasefire was signed. The aggression and occupation by Armenian forces has been condemned by the United Nations Security Council.

More than two decades have passed since those horrific events and little attention has been paid to those killed during the attacks and the struggles of displaced person.

According to Human Rights Watch and other international observers the massacre was committed by Armenian troops, reportedly with the help of the former Soviet 366th Motor Rifle Regiment. Human Rights Watch described the Khojaly Massacre as "the largest massacre to date in the conflict" over Nagorno-Karabakh. In a 1992 report, they stated that Armenian forces and the 366th "deliberately disregarded this customary law restraint on attacks."

Every year, more and more organizations and countries recognize the terrible tragedy perpetrated against Azerbaijani citizens in Khojaly that night. Each year, we need to recognize that without constant reminders and vigilance, violence can be perpetrated against innocent people. We need to stand up and remember that it is the right of all people to co-exist peacefully without fear of brutality.

Azerbaijan has been a strong strategic partner and friend of the United States. The tragedy of Khojaly was a war crime which cannot be ignored.

Let's stand with the people of Azerbaijan as they commemorate this tragedy and urge world leaders to help bring a peaceful solution to the occupation of these lands.

RECOGNIZING NACDS RxIMPACT DAY

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Ninth Annual NACDS RxIMPACT Day on Capitol Hill. This is a special day where we will have the chance to recognize pharmacy's many contributions to the American healthcare system.

Organized by the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS), this event will take place next week, on March 14–15, 2017. More than 400 individuals from the pharmacy community, including practicing pharmacists, pharmacy school faculty and students, state pharmacy association representatives and pharmacy company leaders, will visit us here on Capitol Hill. Advocates from 47 states will share their views with us about the importance of supporting their access agenda, legislative