I wish them the best today and for many more blessed years to come.

ON THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUMGAIT POGROMS

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the pogrom against the Armenian residents of the town of Sumgait, Azerbaijan. On February 27, 1988, and for three days following, Azerbaijani mobs assaulted and killed Armenians. The violence left hundreds of Armenian civilians dead and injured, women and girls were raped, and some victims were burned alive. Thousands were forced to flee their homes, leaving behind their belonging.

The pogroms came about as the result of years of vicious, racist anti-Armenian propaganda by Azerbaijani authorities, dehumanizing Armenians. Azerbaijani authorities made little effort to punish those responsible, instead attempting to cover up the atrocities in Sumgait to this day, and denying the government role in instigating the killings. Indeed, even today, racism against Armenians is prevalent in Azerbaijan.

The assault on ethnic Armenian civilians in Sumgait helped touch off what would become a direct conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan which took thousands of lives and displaced hundreds of thousands. The anniversary of Sumgait is a reminder of the consequences when aggression and hatred grow unchecked.

Mr. Speaker, this April we will mark the 103rd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, an event the Turkish government, Azerbaijan's closest ally, goes to great lengths to deny. We must not let such crimes against humanity go unrecognized, whether they occurred yesterday or 30 years ago or 100 years ago. Today, let us pause to remember the victims of the atrocities of the Sumgait pogroms. Mr. Speaker, it is our moral obligation to condemn crimes of hatred and to remember the victims, in hope that history will not be repeated.

IN RECOGNITION OF RONNIE AND RHONDA BROOKS

HON. MIKE ROGERS
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 50th wedding anniversary of Ronnie and Rhonda Brooks on August 10, 2018. Ronnie and Rhonda met on June 9, 1968 and were married that same year. Ronnie graduated from MacArthur Technical College and joined the Navy. He was assigned to a brand new Naval Boot Camp Facility in Orlando, Florida.

Rhonda Fore Brooks graduated in May of 1968 from Kinston High School in Kinston, Alabama. She had just moved back from Tacomna, Washington, where her father was stationed in the Air Force.

Their first child, Scotty, was born in the Great Lakes Naval Training Center on Mother's Day, May 11, 1969. Their second child, Sandra Elaine, was born on January 1, 1972, in Charleston, South Carolina, where Ronnie was stationed on the USS Howard W. Gilmore AS-16. She graduated from Troy State University in 1977 and the University of Alabama in 1982. He taught and was principal at Coosa Christian Elementary School in Gadsden, Alabama. Rhonda went to MacArthur Technical School.

In 1984, they moved to Piedmont, Alabama. Ronnie was Human Resources Manager for SCT Yarns, Inc. and Rhonda went to Jacksonville State University. They again moved to Opp, in 1991 and Ronnie became Personnel and Safety Manager with Opp & Nicolas Mills and Rhonda owned the Opp Christian Bookstore for the next 10 years before moving to Phenix City, Alabama, as part of Ronnie's job promotion.

Their children are married now: Scotty married Tammy Bryan and Sandy married James Manscill. Jr. They have four grandchildren: Justin Brooks (married to Anna Frederick), Hannah Brooks, Erika Manscill and Danielle Manscill.

Being retired now, Ronnie and Rhonda are still active in the community, active members of Epworth United Methodist Church and members of the International Gideon’s Association in the Russell County Camp. They both give the success of their marriage and family to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the 50th wedding anniversary of Ronnie and Rhonda Brooks.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and