

He not only held positions in the judicial system for most of his life, Judge Leary utilized his expertise to educate the next generation of lawyers.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of the Honorable Paul K. Leary. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing his commitment to justice and the people of Massachusetts.

HONORING VICTIMS OF SUMGAI
POGROM

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 31st 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 belongings.

The pogroms came as a direct result of years of vicious, racist anti-Armenian propaganda by Azerbaijani authorities, dehumanizing the Armenian residents of Azerbaijan and laying the groundwork for mass violence. 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, racist propaganda against Armenia and Armenians is prevalent in Azerbaijan.

The hateful and dangerous Azerbaijani attacks on Armenians is also seen in a horrific crime which occurred 15 years ago last week. At a NATO sponsored training in Budapest, an Azerbaijani Army officer named Ramil Safarov snuck into the room of an Armenian lieutenant, Gurgen Margaryan, and hacked him to death with an axe as he slept.

For this brutal and despicable crime, Safarov was sentenced to life imprisonment in Hungary. Yet after a determined campaign by Azerbaijan's government, he was extradited to Baku in 2012 where he was greeted not as a criminal but as a hero, provided back pay, and promoted in rank. There is no more dramatic illustration of Azerbaijan's continued posture of hatred and aggression towards their Armenian neighbor than their celebration of a cold-blooded murderer.

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 millions more. The anniversary of Sumgait is a reminder of the consequences when aggression and hatred grow unchecked.

Madam Speaker, in two months we will mark the 104th 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. Madam Speaker, it is our moral obligation to

condemn crimes of hatred and to remember the victims, in hope that history will not be repeated.

RECOGNIZING NACDS RxIMPACT
DAY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the NACDS RxIMPACT Day on Capitol Hill that is coming up next week. This is a special day where we will have the chance to recognize the pharmacy industry's many contributions to the American healthcare system.

Organized by the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS), this event will take place on March 5–6, 2019. More than 400 individuals from all 50 states representing the pharmacy community—including practicing pharmacists, pharmacy school faculty and students, state pharmacy association representatives, and pharmacy company leaders—will be on Capitol Hill. They will visit every House and Senate office to share their views with us about the importance of supporting their access agenda—legislative priorities that will ensure that our constituents will continue to have access to more than 40,000 community and neighborhood pharmacies across the country and be better able to utilize pharmacists to improve healthcare quality while reducing the cost of care.

Local pharmacists are important community leaders, who are trusted by their patients to efficiently provide high quality, convenient healthcare services. And as demand for healthcare services continues to grow, pharmacists are stepping in to fill gaps in healthcare delivery by partnering with physicians, nurses, and other healthcare providers to address the unmet need. Moreover, pharmacists continually innovate to provide unique services that improve overall patient health and wellness.

Further, in many communities the local pharmacist is a patient's most direct healthcare access point. This is particularly true in rural areas. In fact, 91 percent of Americans live within five miles of a community pharmacy. These pharmacies bring value to their communities by providing care to those who need it most—older Americans and those who manage chronic conditions, particularly in rural and underserved areas. In addition, pharmacists frequently work with patients to navigate specific pharmacy benefits and the use of generic substitutions to identify strategies to save money. Pharmacists also ensure medications are administered appropriately, and offer other preventative services that help improve patients overall wellbeing and quality of life.

The pharmacy advocates attending NACDS RxIMPACT Day on Capitol Hill will be educating members on their access agenda. As we debate the future of healthcare, the pharmacy community wishes to work with us to help develop solutions that put pharmacy's value to work for patients and payers. Specifically, NACDS's advocates will be seeking our support for policies that will help address prescription drug affordability and transparency through much-needed reform to DIR fees, a

complicated fee structure imposed on pharmacies to participate in the Medicare Part D program. They will also highlight proposals designed to address the opioid epidemic.

I believe Congress should work with the 2019 NACDS RxIMPACT Day on Capitol Hill advocates to advance policies that support pharmacists in their effort to improve care, increase access, and lower costs.

RECOGNIZING DANNY RUSSELL

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Danny Russell, the morning show host on WMKR in Taylorville, Illinois, who is leaving the broadcasting industry after 40 years.

Local media is so important to our communities and Danny's service is a prime example of this.

Danny graduated from the radio-tv program at Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey and spent 17 years as the weekend weathercaster for WICS-TV Channel 20 in Springfield.

His career has included stints at several Springfield radio stations and in 2011, he joined the Miller Media Group to become the Morning Show host on WMKR Genuine Country 94.3.

Additionally, Danny has been the Miller Media Group production director, host of the Saturday Retro Request Show and the "Brown Bag Rewind" show. He has also broadcast live from countless events thru-out central Illinois over his nearly 8 years with Miller Media Group.

I congratulate Danny on 40 years of success in the broadcasting industry, and I wish him well on his next chapter.

SUPPORTING GUN VIOLENCE
PREVENTION LEGISLATION

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act and H.R. 1112, the Enhanced Background Checks Act. Both pieces of legislation would close deadly loopholes in federal law to increase public safety. I am proud to co-lead these important initiatives to reduce gun violence.

H.R. 8, which would require background checks on all firearm purchases, is a common sense measure that will help keep our children and communities safe. This is particularly important with the rise of internet and gun show sales, where prohibited purchasers can easily skirt the law to obtain deadly firearms. This bill would also reduce firearms trafficking through secondary sales and enhance law enforcement's ability to trace firearms used in a crime.

Similarly, H.R. 1112 would increase public safety by giving background check operators sufficient time to complete background checks.