

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO COMMEMORATE CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Citizens National Bank in southern Kentucky, an incredible milestone for a small business in rural America.

The first Citizens National Bank opened on Valentine's Day in 1920 in Somerset, Kentucky's public square. Over the last 100 years, this community bank has been recognized as a local leader, affording individuals and families the opportunity to achieve home ownership, loaning seed funds for entrepreneurial dreamers to start their own businesses, and providing a safe and secure way for families to grow their savings and retirement accounts.

Persevering through changes in technology, the bank converted to its first computer system in 1986, added full service automated teller machines (ATMs) in the 1990's, and ventured into mobile banking in 2011. Citizens National Bank was first granted trust powers in 1999 and was listed as a 5 Star Bank by the Bauer Financial Group in the same year, providing new opportunities for growth and progress.

Today, the bank's slogan is, "Moving Forward Together" and it is an honor to join the countless residents in our region in recognition of Citizens National Bank's centennial year of service spanning four counties. Congratulations to the long line of leaders who established and guided this community bank over the years, providing financial security and hope for local families.

THE SMALL BUSINESS SIZE STANDARD MANUFACTURING CLARIFICATION ACT

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, our Nation's small business manufacturers have an invaluable impact on our economy.

This past October, I introduced H.R. 4702, the Small Business Size Standard Manufacturing Clarification Act of 2019. This legislation will help thousands of defense and national security small businesses compete against much larger corporations when applying for federal contracts. It is near impossible for these small defense businesses to plan and secure larger contracts on a 12-month basis. This legislation expands the time from 12 months to up to 60 months. Defense-related small business manufacturers need that extra time to justify their small business designation

due to changes in technology and competition from much larger corporate contracts. Size standards for both revenue-based and employee-based small business manufacturers are not at a level that recognizes the changes in the current marketplace for defining small businesses that support the federal sector.

Recently, the House passed H.R. 5130, the Capturing All Small Businesses Act, which raises the standard to a 24-month basis. Still, it is not enough to properly support our small business manufacturers in the national security sector. In the defense industry, a small business that grows to over 1,600 employees has to compete in a market with companies of more than 25,000 employees.

I am committed to supporting our Nation's small businesses and fixing the issues addressed in the Small Business Standard Manufacturing Clarification Act. I urge the House to consider this legislation and join me in supporting our small business manufacturers.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAKU POGROMS

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to condemn the violence inflicted upon Armenians on the 30th anniversary of the Baku Pogroms in Azerbaijan. I believe that condemning these actions today will help prevent renewed aggression against citizens of Armenian descent who continue to live in Azerbaijan, while bringing attention to efforts to erase these atrocities from our collective memory. Further, I reaffirm our nation's commitment to an enduring, peaceful, and democratic resolution of the Artsakh conflict.

From 1988 to 1990, the Armenian population in Soviet Azerbaijan was the target of ethnically targeted pogroms in the cities of Sumgait, Kirovabad, and Baku. Beginning on February 27, 1988 in Sumgait, Armenian Christians were indiscriminately murdered, raped, and maimed by mobs of criminals and thugs. According to independent reporting, police in Baku allowed the pogroms to continue for 3 days, during which time hundreds are estimated to have been murdered in cold blood.

Despite vocal U.S. and international protests over the Sumgait pogroms, renewed anti-Armenian pogroms were launched in Kirovabad on November 21, 1988 that lasted for seven days. Fourteen months later in the capital, Baku, another pogrom was launched against its Armenian minority. These vicious attacks against unarmed civilians led to the displacement of thousands of Armenian families fleeing systematic violence as refugees.

Madam Speaker, on this 30th anniversary of the Baku pogroms, I want to emphasize the importance of remembering these crimes against humanity. I call on the Azerbaijani government to acknowledge that these atroc-

ities occurred, and that it seeks justice for the victims by prosecuting those who committed these horrific acts of violence. I also call upon the government of Azerbaijan to take all appropriate action to prevent further tragedies of this nature, and to do whatever is necessary to begin the healing process for the families of the victims. I call on the Azerbaijani government to respect the rights of all minorities living within its borders.

ANNIVERSARY OF ANTI-ARMENIAN POGROMS IN AZERBAIJAN

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, this year we honor the memory of hundreds of ethnic Armenians killed—and hundreds of thousands displaced—between 1988 and 1990 in brutal and violent pogroms in Azerbaijan. In the 1980s, citizens in Azerbaijan of Armenian heritage embarked on one of the first pro-democracy movements against the Soviet Empire, calling for self-determination, fair treatment, and an end to discrimination. This pro-democracy movement was met with extreme brutality in waves of pogroms and forced deportations of Armenians from Azerbaijan. Mobs violently attacked ethnic Armenians in the cities of Sumgait in late February 1988, Kirovabad in November 1988, and the capital, Baku, in January 1990.

For three days in February 1988, mobs murdered, raped, assaulted, and burned alive ethnic Armenians. This came as the result of years and decades of anti-Armenian rhetoric and policies engineered by the Azerbaijani government, contributing to a lethal climate of dehumanization, racism, and religious intolerance.

Despite an international outcry, including bipartisan resolutions, statements and letters from concerned members of Congress, the violence continued. Between 1988 and 1990, according to human rights organizations, an estimated 300,000 to 350,000 Armenians fled Azerbaijan under threat of violence or were deported. The failure of the government to legitimately address simple democratic demands, and the violent response to largely peaceful movements, fueled a spiral of reactionary intercommunal violence and prolonged armed conflict in the region. Today, I stand to remember and honor all of those killed, wounded and displaced in these anti-Armenian pogroms.

The lessons of the events of 1988 to 1990 are obviously acutely relevant as we look around the world today. Ethnic and religious hatred that foments violence is on the rise—the Rohingya in Burma have been slaughtered, Uighur Muslims in China are being put in concentration camps because of their religion, and tens of thousands of Jehovah's Witnesses have been declared extremists in Russia for following their peaceful religion.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.