

working in our state and across the country for years.

# RECOGNIZING THE 29TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY MASSACRE

## HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, this past week marks the 29th anniversary of the massacre of hundreds of people in the town of Khojaly, Azerbaijan. This was the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians during the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. Khojaly, which is in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, was once home to 7,000 people. On February 26, 1992, Armenian armed forces massacred over 600 unarmed people—including 106 women and 83 children—and left less than 2,000 survivors. Hundreds more became disabled due to their injuries. More than 100 children lost a parent and 25 children lost both parents. At least 8 families were all killed. This is a devastating tragedy.

A cease-fire was negotiated in 1994, but the conflict remains unresolved. In the wake of the 2020 fighting between Azerbaijan and Armenia in the Nagorno-Karabakh, it is my hope that Armenia and Azerbaijan can finally come to the table and find peace. Long-term peace, security, and regional cooperation are in the best interests of the entire region of the South Caucasus and the world.

Azerbaijan has been a strong partner of the United States and its allies. This cooperation has included: playing a leadership role in non-proliferation issues; providing troops to serve shoulder-to-shoulder with U.S. forces in Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan; allowing transit of non-lethal equipment used by coalition forces through Azerbaijan to Afghanistan; construction of the Southern Gas Corridor from the Caspian Sea to Italy, thereby providing Europe with an alternative to Russian energy sources; and supplying 40 percent of Israel's oil. Azerbaijan also has a thriving Jewish community and has outstanding relations with Israel. As Azerbaijanis throughout the world commemorate the massacre and continue to grieve the loss of loved ones, I hope they can find peace amidst this tragedy.

# HONORING THE FAITHFUL SERVICE OF ARMY MAJOR GENERAL BRIAN E. WINSKI

## HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Army Major General Brian Winski for his distinguished and remarkable service to this nation. Major General Winski joined the Army in 1989 and was commissioned as an officer through the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's ROTC program.

His tenacious spirit and tireless work ethic propelled his swift rise through the ranks. Within a few short years, he saw duty as a Rifle Platoon Leader during Desert Storm, and

he served in Iraq as Chief of Operations for the famed 101st Airborne Division, Squadron Commander in the 61st Cavalry Regiment, and Brigade Combat Team Commander for the 1st Cavalry Division. Major General Winski proceeded to serve as Chief Legislative Liaison for the Office of the Secretary of the Army before assuming his duties as the Commanding General of the 101st Airborne Division and Fort Campbell.

Throughout his nearly four decades of service, Major General Winski has been a constant example of the Army's core principles of duty, honor, and courage. In 2006 he was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor for his gallant leadership under enemy fire in a fierce 90-minute firefight. When approaching his mission objective, a contingent of insurgents opened fire on his squad, crippling one of their vehicles. Major General Winski took decisive action and led the men under his command to dispatch 11 enemy combatants, driving the remaining insurgents to retreat.

Major General Winski's leadership extends far beyond the battlefield. Under his leadership, Fort Campbell has been a model Army base, earning the top ranking in the U.S. Army Installation Management Command for the most intergovernmental support agreements. Furthermore, Major General Winski was instrumental in facilitating the construction of a local middle school, which will serve the needs of the families stationed at Fort Campbell. Although Fort Campbell faced unprecedented challenges during the pandemic, Major General Winski's leadership ensured that the base was able to maintain readiness in uncertain circumstances. Under his guidance, Fort Campbell was able to provide critical medical assistance to cities stricken the hardest by the pandemic.

Without question, Major General Winski is a true patriot and has repeatedly gone above and beyond the call of duty. In his command of soldiers both stateside and across the world, he has led with honor and integrity. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude for his faithful service and commitment to the defense of our nation.

# HONORING MAYOR HAZELLE P. ROGERS

## HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished Hazelle P. Rogers. On the eve of 25 years of life in public service, Mrs. Rogers has demonstrated her commitment to her friends and family, her community, and the state of Florida. Along the way, she has made history. Mrs. Rogers' first election in 1996 made her the first person from the Caribbean American community to be elected to office in the southeastern United States. Furthermore, she became the first Jamaican to be elected to the Florida House of Representatives.

Mrs. Rogers has dedicated herself to the public and continues to give back to her community in the humblest of ways. In 2014, former Representative Rogers was a strong advocate for in-state tuition for undocumented students which earned her the Broward Col-

lege 2014 Award for support of the 'Florida Dreamers' Legislation. The communities Mrs. Rogers has led have always admired her leadership and commitment as she is also the recipient of honorable community awards such as the Florida Association of Counties' Champion Award; the Jamaican American Bar Association Legislative Award; and the Florida League of Cities' Legislative Appreciation Award for four consecutive years.

In November, the city of Lauderdale Lakes elevated her to an outstanding victory with a 66 percent vote to the office of Mayor. As Mayor, economic empowerment and economic development for the underprivileged in her community are her passion and fortitude. Mayor Rogers continues to build consensus around issues and support programs that are lifting community members out of poverty and into financial stability.

Madam Speaker, I extend my best wishes and regards to not only Mayor Rogers, but also to Mrs. Rogers' husband, Mr. Clifton Rogers; and the rest of her family and friends for an outstanding and wonderful life in public service.

# NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE RESEARCH ACT

## HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the National Gun Violence Research Act.

As Chairwoman of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, I am committed to elevating the voice of science in the consequential deliberations taking place in this body. In our efforts to develop fair, effective, and sustainable policy solutions to the challenges facing the American people, we must ensure we are drawing from a strong base of evidence. My fellow Committee Members and I are dedicated to ensuring that the U.S. scientific enterprise is equipped with the resources it needs to derive that evidence. As the COVID-19 crisis has clearly demonstrated, there are enormous benefits to having a thriving research ecosystem in place that is poised to respond when called upon.

Gun violence is a threat to our national welfare. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a report reviewing the latest gun mortality data last month entitled A Public Health Crisis Decades in the Making. And the numbers are stark. For the past three years in a row, nearly 40,000 people were killed by guns in the United States. The vast majority of these deaths, 86 percent, were males. Tragically, one in ten were children and teens. Put another way, guns were the leading cause of deaths for Americans age 1 to 24. After years of slow, but steady decline, gun homicides are on the rise, accounting for one third of gun deaths in 2019. Black men are more than 20 times as likely as White men to be victims of firearm homicide. The majority of firearm deaths are suicides. The rate of suicide fatalities has steadily increased over the past decade, with white men more than twice as likely to die by firearm suicide than non-white men.

And the stressors associated with the COVID-19 crisis have not helped. Early research suggests that the rate of gun violence

has risen dramatically during the pandemic, with factors such as increased unemployment, increased alcohol consumption, and increased firearm purchases potentially playing a role.

The fact is that gun violence is rampant in our society and lives will continue to be lost unless we act decisively to stem this tide. I commend my colleagues in the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force for their leadership in advancing the policy discussions surrounding this issue. I was thrilled to see the appropriations committees approve \$25 million for the CDC and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to support gun violence research, finally putting an end to the de facto ban on federal funding for this important area of study.

We are heading in the right direction, but there is much more to be done. We must take a bold, comprehensive approach to grow the field of gun violence research. We need to attract more students to careers in gun violence research and support interdisciplinary collaboration to connect experts in public health with those in criminology and the social and behavioral sciences. We need to support the translation of research into effective policy interventions. We need better coordination among key agencies like the CDC, NIH, the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Standards and Technology, and the Department of Justice.

The National Gun Violence Research Act takes a whole-of-government approach to addressing the paucity of federal funding for research on gun violence by directing the President to establish a six-year National Gun Violence Research Program. To carry out the program, funding is authorized for the National Science Foundation (\$15 M), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (\$1 M), the Department of Health and Human Services (\$25 M), and the Department of Justice (\$3 M) to conduct or support gun violence research. In addition to awarding individual research grants, the National Science Foundation is directed to establish a much-needed national center for violence research to encourage multidisciplinary collaboration and train the next generation of gun violence researchers. Research enabled by this legislation will improve our understanding of gun violence so we can advance effective solutions and save lives.

#### REVISITING JANUARY 6TH

#### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 3, 2021*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, no one is defending the violent riot at the Capitol on January 6th and as more evidence is reviewed, I am grateful for the insight today by columnist Jack Devine in *The Aiken Standard*:

"My column four weeks ago—"The insurrection that wasn't"—argued that portraying the Jan. 6 assault on the U.S. Capitol as an armed insurrection is simply wrong, unsupported by the facts.

Not surprisingly, many disagree. The armed insurrection label has been repeated so often and by so many that it has become widely accepted as true.

But we've learned a great deal since then about what happened on Jan. 6 and what

didn't—and we've watched as the new Democratic leadership takes extreme and disturbing actions to slay the imaginary dragon that they created.

Let's take another look.

The Capitol insurgents—mainly rowdy protesters caught up in the moment—were not armed in any real sense. Their inventory of "dangerous and deadly weapons," as classified by DOJ investigators, consist of two baseball bats, a hockey stick, one pocket-sized extendable baton, a few cans of commercially available pepper spray and bear repellent, and other makeshift odds and ends. No knives and no guns. The infamous zip-ties, initially considered to be proof positive that the insurgents intended to take hostages, were later determined to have been carried into the building by police officers.

The myth that Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick was murdered by the frenzied mob has evaporated completely. The *New York Times* has backed away from its bludgeoned-by-fire-extinguisher report; there was no evidence of blunt force trauma; it appears that Sicknick died of natural causes (probably a stroke) hours after returning to the station house under his own power.

Only one gun was fired during the four-hour assault—that by an unidentified police officer who shot and killed Ashli Babbitt, an unarmed female trespasser. While the FBI is still combing videos to find someone to charge for Sicknick's death, both they and the otherwise pit bull media seem remarkably incurious about Babbitt's killing.

None of the supposed targets of the Capitol assault—Democratic lawmakers and Vice President Pence—were harmed; and the 2020 election result was not derailed by the attack and was never in serious jeopardy.

Make no mistake. The Jan. 6 riot was reckless, angry and ultimately lethal. It cannot be condoned. But for a supposed overthrow of the U.S. government, it looks pretty lame—and more like the continuing wanton rioting that since mid-summer has taken dozens of lives, destroyed untold livelihoods and cost billions in damage to American cities.

A mindless mob bent on venting its anger? Yes. An armed insurrection? Not even close. And how are we dealing with this non-insurrection?

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is pushing for investigation by a "9/11-style commission"—implying that this bumbling fiasco was somehow comparable to the 2001 terrorist attack that murdered nearly 3,000 Americans.

The U.S. Capitol complex in Washington, D.C., has been turned into an armed camp. It was guarded during the inauguration by 25,000 National Guard troops, thousands of whom still remain. The barriers and checkpoints will be kept in place through September. So far, none of the feared domestic terrorists have reappeared.

The Justice Department has been conducting a nationwide manhunt for the Jan. 6 perpetrators and to date has arrested and charged over 300. Reportedly, dozens are being held without bail—a measure usually reserved for hardened criminals arrested for heinous crimes—in stark contrast to the revolving door treatment of thousands of violent rioters apprehended in recent months and quickly released (and provided bail money if needed by progressive organizations, as encouraged by Democratic leaders including Vice President Kamala Harris).

Prospective U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland promises to prosecute the Jan. 6 perpetrators to the full extent of the law. It would be far better to call that riot what it is, acknowledge the broader issue of escalating American violence and deal with it in an even-handed way.

In my column last month, I characterized our government's response to the supposed

insurrection as "performance art"—the art form that utilizes dramatic live performance to evoke an emotional response. It's an apt comparison. The net effect of the actions outlined above has been to cement in the public mind inordinate fear of the risk posed by domestic terrorism, particularly of the white supremacist variety.

Our leadership seems to think that if we're all terrified enough, we'll go along without objection to the politicized show-and-tell—Capitol Hill barricaded and patrolled by armed troops, perpetrators hunted and held without bond, suspension of due process, rampant censorship—America on a wartime footing, but without the war.

Any threat of terrorism, foreign or domestic, from left or right, deserves serious attention—not hyperbole and hysteria."

#### RETIREMENT OF LIFELONG COMMUNITY ADVOCATE LAURA MARTINEZ

#### HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 3, 2021*

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Laura Martinez, a public servant who has spent a lifetime helping her community, most recently as the Constituent Services Director for the Office of Congressman LUIS CORREA in Orange County, California.

Over her 30-year career in public service, Ms. Martinez has literally helped thousands of individuals and families resolve issues with local, state and federal agencies. Ms. Martinez devoted 20-years of her public service career with the Office of Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez.

Throughout her years of service, Ms. Martinez developed relationships with liaisons representing Social Security, the IRS, Medicare, Immigration and Customs, and other entities.

By using her expertise in navigating the complicated immigration system and overcoming bureaucratic roadblocks, she was able to reunite families during emergencies, obtaining citizenships, visas, and much more.

Born in the Boyle Heights area of Los Angeles, Ms. Martinez grew up witnessing many acts of racial injustice. Her dream and lifelong mission was to help those who did not have the capability to help themselves due to living in poverty, being a minority, and living in other challenging conditions.

She brought heartfelt passion to her work that included positions with such non-profits as the renowned City of Hope and The East Los Angeles Community Union, which helps empower communities and revitalize neighborhoods.

As a breast cancer survivor, along with her mother, she is a decades long participant in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Her team, Laura's Lifeline, has raised thousands of dollars to battle cancer.

Another passion was working with Latino Advocates for Education, an organization that pays tribute to WWII veterans. Her uncles were all veterans who served in WWII and the Korean and Vietnam wars. She was the only girl in a family of six boys, several of whom served in law enforcement.

Ms. Martinez was honored for her work with veterans by being invited to witness the unveiling of the WWII Memorial in our nation's capital.