

From February 27–29, 1988, hundreds of Armenians living in Sumgait, Azerbaijan were targeted in violent, ethnically motivated attacks. Armenians were beaten, murdered, raped, burned alive, and driven out of their homes. Mass violence against Armenians continued in other Azerbaijani cities in the following years, including in Baku in 1990, and thousands of Armenians were displaced. At the time, Members of the U.S. Congress, both Democrat and Republican, urged Azerbaijan to stop these atrocious events and take steps to protect these Armenian communities.

Many believe that these pogroms occurred in response to peaceful protests led by ethnic Armenians in Artsakh, or Nagorno-Karabakh, who were demanding independence from Azerbaijan and calling for democracy. Throughout the dispute over Artsakh, anti-Armenian hatred and propaganda spread rapidly throughout Azerbaijan. It was this hatred and propaganda that fueled the Sumgait and Baku pogroms.

We must be vocal in rejecting hatred, violence, and discrimination—and work tirelessly to ensure that history does not repeat itself. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the memory of those lost in the Sumgait and Baku pogroms. And I will continue to work with the Congressional Armenian Issues Caucus to reaffirm our commitment to combatting human rights abuses around the world.

HONORING AMBASSADOR ROBERTO
R. ROMULO

HON. ROBERT C. “BOBBY” SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, as Co-Chair of the U.S.-Philippines Friendship Caucus, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Philippine statesman and friend to the United States, Ambassador Roberto “Bobby” R. Romulo, who passed away on January 23, 2022.

Ambassador Romulo graduated from Georgetown University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Ateneo de Manila University with a Bachelor of Law. He started his professional career as an IBM marketing trainee in New York City. During his IBM career, he held marketing and management positions in New York, Thailand, Burma, Bangladesh and the Philippines, where he was President and General Manager.

In 1989, he was appointed Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the Commission of the European Communities. He was then elevated to the top of the Philippines’s Department of Foreign Affairs in 1992. As a diplomat, he was decorated by the governments of Belgium, Thailand, Spain, Chile, France and the Philippines.

In 1995, Ambassador Romulo rejoined the private sector and was elected Chairman of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), and Vice-Chair of San Miguel International. He was Chairman of Interpharma Investments Ltd. (Zuellig Pharma) from 1997 to 2007 and was a board member of MIH (a subsidiary of NASPERS, a South African Company) from 2002 to 2013. From 2003 to 2010, he served as an independent director of Singapore Land and UIC. Most recently, Am-

bassador Romulo was the Chairman of various organizations including AIG Philippines Insurance, Inc., MediLink Network Inc. and Nationwide Development Corporation (NADECOR). He also held board memberships at various corporations including PLDT, Equicom Savings Bank, Robinsons Retail Holdings, Inc., Maxicare Healthcare Corporation, and McLarty Associates.

In 1996, Ambassador Romulo was the founding Chairman of the APEC Business Advisory Council and continued as Chairman of the Philippine representation of the Council until 2010. From 1999 to 2001, he was Chairman of the e-ASEAN Task Force. From January 2001 to January 2007, he served as pro-bono senior advisor on international competitiveness to Philippines President Gloria Arroyo. He was a Co-Founder and Trustee of the US-Philippines Society. He administered the Society’s “Carlos P. Romulo Awards” in recognition of the contributions of Filipinos and Americans who have strengthened Philippines-U.S. ties, a core mission of the Society.

He was also chairman of non-profit foundations: the Carlos P. Romulo Foundation for Peace and Development, which raises awareness of critical issues that significantly impact the peace and development of the Philippines and the region at large; the Zuellig Family Foundation, which focuses on improving health conditions in rural Filipino communities by providing training programs for local government health leaders; and the Asia-Europe Foundation of the Philippines, which brings together the peoples of Asia and Europe to address common global challenges.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to an extraordinary diplomat, statesman, and friend to the United States. Ambassador Romulo will be sorely missed by so many for his frankness, honesty, and dedication to deepening relations between our two countries.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC
SAFETY DIRECTOR GREGORY
LAURAIN

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Director Gregory Laurain on the occasion of his retirement from Van Buren Police Department after over 40 years of service to Van Buren Township, Michigan. His significant service to our community is worthy of commendation.

Director Laurain is a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command and the elite FBI National Academy. A well-rounded leader in public safety, he is also a graduate of the Van Buren Township Fire Academy. He began his career with the Van Buren Police Department in 1980, working as a reserve police officer. A member of the first full time class of police officers in the history of the township, he became a patrolman in 1981. Five years later he was promoted to Detective Sergeant. In 2006 he was promoted to the role of Patrol Captain, supervising seven units within the police depart-

ment. In 2013, he was appointed to serve as Public Safety Director for Van Buren Township and was tasked with leading the entire Public Safety department, including the united police and fire departments. Under his leadership, the police department was accredited through the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission making it one of only 43 agencies in the state to earn this honor.

As a leader known throughout Southeastern Michigan, Director Laurain’s work did not end at the Township border. He served as Commander of the Western Wayne County Special Operations Team, as a member of the Drug Enforcement Agency Airport Interdiction Team, and with the Michigan State Police Narcotic Interdiction Team. Known for his selflessness, integrity, and tireless work ethic, Director Laurain is an example among his peers. He was named President of the Wayne County Chiefs Association and Board President of the FBI National Academy Associates Michigan Chapter. Director Laurain is a member of the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police and the Southeastern Michigan Chiefs of Police. He resides in Michigan with his wife and is looking forward to spending more time with his two daughters and grandchildren in retirement.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Director Gregory Laurain for his over 40 years of exemplary service. He has effectively and selflessly served Van Buren Township and has been steadfastly dedicated to the safety of our community. I join with Director Laurain’s family, friends, and colleagues in extending my best wishes to him in retirement.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of 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 any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 3, 2022 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 7

6 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations
To receive a closed briefing on the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

SVC-217

MARCH 8

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine United States Strategic Command and United