

private entrepreneurship, attracting investment in non-oil sector, creating new jobs, evaluation of potential industries and markets, and development of infrastructure in the regions.

The last 16 years of independence has not been without challenges. In 1993 the UN Security Council adopted four resolutions demanding complete, unconditional, and immediate withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. NATO, OSCE, EU, and other international organizations also repeatedly called for the restoration of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity.

In January 2005 the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted a resolution clearly stating that "considerable parts of the territory of Azerbaijan are still occupied by Armenian forces and separatist forces are still in control of the Nagorno-Karabakh region" and urged the withdrawal of Armenian military forces from all Azerbaijani territories.

We, the United States, recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as a part of Azerbaijan. A State Department's 2005 Fact Sheet states: "The United States does not recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as an independent country, and its leadership is not recognized internationally or by the United States. The United States supports the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and holds that the future status of Nagorno-Karabakh is a matter of negotiation between the parties."

Let us today commend the Republic of Azerbaijan on their forthcoming 16th Anniversary celebrations. And, let us today commit ourselves to their continued development as a global partner against the war on terrorism, toward economic growth, diversification of energy resources, and strengthening stability and security in the region.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT BRIAN DEGENHARDT, OFFICER THOMAS BARKER, AND OFFICER JAMES CONLAN OF THE CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 17, 2007*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate members of the Chicago Police Department, including Sergeant Brian Degenhardt, Officer Thomas Barker, and Officer James Conlan, for receiving the "2007 Humane Law Enforcement Award" last week from The Humane Society of the United States and the National District Attorneys Association. This award was presented to Chicago's Police Department for the creation of its Animal Crimes Unit, which focuses on tackling illegal animal fighting in urban Chicago, where dogfighting has unfortunately flourished in recent years.

With its innovative focus on animal abuse prosecutions, the Animal Crimes Unit of the Chicago Police Department, overseen by Sergeant Degenhardt, now leads the way in combating dogfighting and serves as a model for tackling this insidious crime across the Nation. Although only one single officer in the city used to address crimes against animals in the past, there are now more than 8 specially-trained officers within the Animal Crimes Unit. In 2007 alone, officers Thomas Barker and

James Conlan logged more than 40 arrests related to dogfighting and animal abuse, and they recovered more than 100 abused dogs.

But the accomplishments of the Unit don't stop there. When Sergeant Degenhardt was making the case for the creation of the Animal Crimes Unit, he analyzed arrest records for the city between July 2001 and July 2004 and discovered that nearly 70 percent of the 300 individuals arrested for animal crimes were also arrested for other felonies. The methods used by the Animal Crimes Unit have also led to a reduction in other types of criminal activities, including human violence and drug dealing.

I am pleased to join The Humane Society of the United States and the National District Attorneys Association in congratulating these individuals in honor of their dedicated work on behalf of animals.

HONORING THE TUSKEGEE  
AIRMEN

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 17, 2007*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Army Air Corps' legendary Tuskegee Airmen. On March 29, 2007, in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda, the surviving Tuskegee Airmen were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the most prestigious recognition that federal lawmakers can bestow. Tuskegee Airmen, from Colorado, that received the Congressional Gold Medal include: James E. Harrison, James H. Harvey III, Samuel C. Hunter Jr., Franklin J. Macon, John W. Mosley, Fitzroy "Buck" Newsum, Marion R. Rodgers, David A. Smith, William A. Walters, and Randolph Edwards.

The first African-American airmen unit in the U.S. military trained in Tuskegee, Alabama. A total of 450 Tuskegee Airmen served overseas on various missions. During WWII, the Airmen flew missions over North Africa, Italy and Sicily. Collectively, they flew more than 15,000 combat sorties, shot down 111 German planes, and disabled 150 German planes on the ground. Thirty-three Airmen were shot down and held as pawns, and 66 of the Airmen were killed.

The Tuskegee Airmen got their start in 1941 after the NAACP filed a lawsuit. President Franklin Roosevelt started the Army Air Corps training program as the first African-American training program. The Airmen were segregated from other units and endured blatant racism and discrimination while helping win World War II and change our Nation for the better. Their achievements helped contribute to the eventual integration of African-Americans into the military and also helped lead the way for further desegregation throughout the Nation.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating James E. Harrison, James H. Harvey III, Samuel C. Hunter Jr., Franklin J. Macon, John W. Mosley, Fitzroy "Buck" Newsum, Marion R. Rodgers, David A. Smith, William A. Walters, and Randolph Edwards for their patriotism and service to the United States of America. Their triumph over racism and discrimination, along with their outstanding service, is inspirational, and they are a source of pride for America and for all of Colorado. I wish them continued health and happiness.

RECOGNIZING MARGARET M. (PEGGY) MULLAN'S OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF HOMES AND SERVICES FOR THE AGING

**HON. JOHN B. SHADEGG**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 17, 2007*

Mr. SHADEGG. Madam Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding leader in the field of long-term care and aging services. Margaret M. (Peggy) Mullan is the outgoing chair of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA), and I congratulate her on what has been accomplished during her 2-year term.

AAHSA members help millions of individuals and their families every day through mission-driven, not-for-profit organizations dedicated to providing the services that people need, when they need them, in the place they call home. Its 5,700 member organizations, many of which have served their communities for generations, offer the continuum of aging services: adult day services, home health, community services, senior housing, assisted living residences, continuing care retirement communities and nursing homes. AAHSA's commitment is to create the future of aging services through quality people can trust.

During the 2 years that Peggy Mullan led AAHSA, she worked tirelessly to transform aging services, and her leadership has moved the field forward in a number of ways. Under her stewardship, AAHSA has created the Long-Term Care Solutions Project, an innovative plan to revise the financing of aging services. In addition, she placed major emphasis on diversity as part of her leadership agenda, achieving substantive, enduring, and diverse leadership development among our members. She presided over the inauguration of the Advancing Excellence in Nursing Homes campaign, a coalition of long-term care providers, caregivers, medical and quality improvement experts, government agencies, consumers and other stakeholders dedicated to reinvigorating efforts to improve the quality of care and quality of life for those living or recuperating in America's nursing homes. She positioned AAHSA as a leader in achieving the goals of the National Commission for Quality Long-term Care, a non-partisan, independent body charged with improving long-term care in America. The commission is working to develop solutions to the challenges of better financing for long-term care, ensuring consumer choice, attracting and retaining qualified caregivers, and making useful information on long-term care options available to consumers.

Peggy Mullan is a true leader in the field of aging services. In addition to chairing AAHSA, she is the executive director of the not-for-profit Beatitudes Campus in Phoenix, where over 600 elders live in apartments, assisted living, and a skilled nursing center. Hundreds of other elders from the surrounding community receive rehabilitation and education at Beatitudes. At Beatitudes, she has been instrumental in developing a seamlessly integrated system of services to meet the changing needs of residents as they age, a model for the way aging services should be provided to