

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE TOM LANTOS. A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of my friend and colleague TOM LANTOS. Chairman LANTOS' passing is a devastating loss both for the United States Congress and for the Nation.

Chairman LANTOS was a man of unwavering principle and commitment who worked tirelessly to improve the lives of people here at home and around the world. He combined an intense knowledge of the world with an equally intense passion for the rights and security of individuals. TOM LANTOS' elegance and eloquence were examples to all of us of how to conduct ourselves as Members of Congress. In my years serving in House, I often looked to him as an example of how to treat our colleagues with courtesy. His respect for this institution was profound.

As the only Holocaust survivor ever to have served in Congress, he had an unflinching commitment to the promotion of human rights. Having survived one of the darkest chapters in the history of the world, he became a champion for oppressed people everywhere, in every corner of the globe. And as a fellow Jewish Member of Congress, I have been proud to work with Chairman LANTOS to defend Israel's right to exist and to join him in his lifelong fight against anti-Semitism.

One of my fondest memories of TOM was working with him to help Congregation Hakafa in Glencoe, Illinois transport their Torah to its original home in the Czech Republic in 2005. The citizens of Lostice, the small town that was the home of the Torah, gathered to celebrate the Torah's return when it was placed in the Ark for the first time since the late 1930s. It was a beautiful moment that connected Jews and non-Jews across continents and it would not have been possible without Chairman LANTOS' devoted work.

Chairman LANTOS was a proud public servant who selflessly served his constituents in California's 12th District for over 30 years, and I know his loss will be felt deeply in his district, in California, and throughout the world.

I would like to offer my deep condolences to TOM's wife of 58 years, Annette; to his two daughters, Annette and Katrina; and to his 18 grandchildren and his great-grandchildren, who were by his bedside when he passed. The Lantos family, I know, was to TOM his greatest accomplishment. While I know no words can take away the pain of his loss, I hope that the tributes that are pouring in from around the world provide some consolation in this difficult time.

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE EARL MCNEELY

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2008

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of George Earl McNeely of McGehee, Arkansas, who passed away February 8, 2008, at the age of 80.

I will forever remember George McNeely as a good friend, a devoted family man and someone who cared deeply about improving the quality of life in his community. As a natural born leader, he was an inspiration to all who knew him. After attending high school in McGehee and Tillar, he continued his education at the University of Arkansas. Mr. McNeely then honorably served his country in the United States Marine Corps during World War II.

After the war, George McNeely returned home to southeast Arkansas to pursue his true passion of agriculture. As one of the original founders of catfish farming in Arkansas, he was a true business pioneer and his contributions to aquaculture helped revolutionize the industry. In his spare time, he dearly loved the outdoors and the opportunity to share all of the recreational opportunities it offered with his friends and family. In addition to catfish farming, he devoted his time and energy to numerous other passions that included land clearing, demolition and ag-aviation.

Along with his tremendous leadership in the field of agriculture, George McNeely was active in numerous other worthwhile endeavors throughout his community. He was a long-standing member of the Freemasonry and the Shriner's of North America. Perhaps none of his work or involvement as a Shriner was more important than all the time he contributed helping disabled and burned children at the Shriner's Hospital for Children.

George McNeely will always be known for his outstanding service to our country and his community. Above all, he will sorely be missed as a friend. I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Mary Ann McNeely; his sons, David Earl McNeely of McGehee, Arkansas and James Allen McNeely of Magnolia, Arkansas; and to his numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and friends. George McNeely will be greatly missed in McGehee, Desha County, and throughout the state of Arkansas, and I am truly saddened by this loss.

HONORING THE LOWER SOUTHAMPTON FIRE DEPARTMENT ON ITS 77TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2008

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lower Southampton Fire Department on the occasion of its 77th anniversary. The Lower Southampton Fire Department has a long and commendable history of public service.

Since receiving its charter on July 31, 1931, the Lower Southampton Fire Department has supported and protected the residents of our

community dutifully and honorably. When called upon, the firefighters of the Lower Southampton Fire Department have not been daunted by even the most dangerous of challenges. Their daily efforts to ensure the safety of the people of Lower Southampton are inspiring, and that is why I am proud to recognize them on this important anniversary.

Just recently, several of these firefighters once again displayed the courage and heroism that has been so characteristic of their department. While preparing for an Advanced Swift Water Class, the firefighters observed a man, alone and without a lifejacket, who had flipped his kayak and appeared to be in distress. Despite the rapid speed and low temperature of the water, the firefighters acted quickly, with little concern for their own safety, and performed a successful rescue.

The courageous members of the Lower Southampton Fire Department who were involved in this rescue included: Acting Chief Steven Krippel, Assistant Chief Stephen Brookes, Dive Team and Swift Water Manager Lt. James W. McGuire III, Lt. Christopher Hawraney, Firefighter/Rescue Diver Marc Kaman, Firefighter/Swift Water Operator Nick Owarzani, and Firefighter/Swift Water Operator Adam Noel. In addition, Firefighter/Swift Water Operator William Martin, of the Southampton Fire Company, participated in the rescue. Were it not for the efforts of each of these brave men, the victim would likely not have survived.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize the Lower Southampton Fire Department and all of its members for their consistently outstanding service and their heroic acts in the face of danger. These fine public servants are worthy of our commendation, and I am honored to serve as their Congressman.

REMEMBERING THE TRAGEDY OF KHOJALY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2008

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, while there has been considerable congressional attention to tragic events which took place in Somalia, Rwanda, Cambodia, Bosnia, Darfur, and elsewhere, very little light has shined on what happened in 1992, less than 20 years ago in the Caucasus.

Everything changed for the small, little known Azerbaijani town of Khojaly between February 25–26, 1992. Sixteen years later, for the people of Azerbaijan and the region, the word "Khojaly" stirs up memories of pain and sorrow.

In the middle of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, Armenian troops supported by a Russian infantry regiment razed Khojaly, brutally murdering 613 people, annihilating families, disabling some 1,000 civilians, capturing 1,275 persons and leaving 150 people unaccounted for.

This year, as in previous years, those residents of Khojaly, who survived the massacre, are appealing to hold Armenia responsible for this crime. "We appeal to the international community with pain and hope," says a statement by survivors of Khojaly.

Many human rights groups and media outlets at the time sought to draw attention to the events and solicit international condemnation.

Human Rights Watch called the tragedy at the time "the largest massacre to date in the conflict." The extent of the cruelty of this massacre against women, children and the elderly was unfathomable.

Memorial, a Russian human rights group, reported that "scores of the corpses bore traces of profanation. Doctors on a hospital train in Agdam noted no less than four corpses that had been scalped and one that had been beheaded . . . and one case of live scalping."

According to the British newspaper *The Independent* (February 29, 1992), "Elif Kaban, a Reuters correspondent in Agdam, reported that after a massacre, Azeris were burying scores of people who died when Armenians overran the town of Khojaly, the second-biggest Azeri settlement in the area. 'The world is turning its back on what's happening here. We are dying and you are just watching,' one mourner shouted at a group of journalists."

Nearly one month later, *TIME* magazine (March 16, 1992) wrote "While the details are argued, this much is plain: something grim and unconscionable happened in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly two weeks ago. So far, some 200 dead Azerbaijanis, many of them mutilated, have been transported out of the town tucked inside the Armenian-dominated enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh for burial in neighboring Azerbaijan. The total number of deaths—the Azerbaijanis claim 1,324 civilians have been slaughtered, most of them women and children—is unknown."

On November 29, 1993, *Newsweek* quoted a senior U.S. Government official describing the aftermath of Armenia's occupation, "What we see now is a systematic destruction of every village in their way. It's vandalism."

Even in far-away Australia, *The Age* (March 6, 1992) wrote "The exact number of victims is still unclear, but there can be little doubt that Azeri civilians were massacred by the Armenian Army in the snowy mountains of Nagorno Karabakh last week."

Every year religious leaders of Azerbaijan's Christian, Jewish, and Muslim communities issue appeals on the eve of the commemoration of the massacre of Khojaly. They urge the international community to condemn the February 26, 1992 bloodshed, facilitate liberation of the occupied territories and repatriation of the displaced communities.

Despite the efforts by many, regrettably, the international community's response has not been adequate. That is why I urge Congress to join all Azerbaijanis in commemorating the tragedy. The world should know about and remember Khojaly.

RECOGNIZING JAMES DRUMMOND
OF LADY LAKE, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2008

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who served with honor and distinction in World War II. Following his enlistment in the Army in 1940, Lieutenant Colonel Drummond was honored with the Purple Heart, Distinguished Service Medal and the Air Medal for his actions in battle. Serving in both the Army and

the Navy until 1972, Lieutenant Colonel Drummond is truly one of America's heroes.

At the end of 1944, Lieutenant Colonel Drummond entered the U.S. Navy, took basic training and was sent to Treasure Island, California. From there he went to Okinawa and Japan where he loaded a Marine expeditionary force of 1,800 Marines and left for China. Their mission was to evacuate Americans and Allied Nationals to areas where they could be transported to Guam and Hong Kong.

In 1949, Lieutenant Colonel Drummond re-joined the U.S. Army and took basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Upon completion of basic training he was awarded the grade of Corporal and assigned to the 41st Field Artillery. He and his fellow troops then received orders for assignment as part of the first American Division to arrive in support of South Korea.

During his service in Korea, Lieutenant Colonel Drummond was wounded three times by the enemy. Following his third injury, he returned to the U.S. and joined the U.S. Army Artillery School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. During the rest of his long and distinguished career, Lieutenant Colonel Drummond took command of Headquarters Battery 18th Airborne Corps Artillery, was assigned to the intelligence school staff in Ft. Holabird, Maryland, served as director of the Advanced Intelligence Department U.S. Army Intelligence Staff Officers Course, and had assignments with the Directorate of Staff Intelligence in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, U.S. Army, at the Pentagon.

In September 1972 James was medically retired with a total of 27 years of service in the U.S. Armed Forces. He is currently rated as 100% combat-related disabled and upon discharge moved to Federal, North Carolina. During his retirement Lieutenant Colonel Drummond was a charter member of the Lafayette Kiwanis Club and was elected president in 1978.

Lieutenant Colonel Drummond and his wife of 51 years currently live in the Villages in Lady Lake. They have one daughter, Brenda Gail, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Madam Speaker, veterans like James Drummond should be recognized for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. I am honored to present Mr. Drummond with his long overdue Purple Heart, Distinguished Service Medal and all the other medals he earned over his many years of service. All Floridians should know that we truly consider him one of America's heroes.

HONORING THE LAKE HIGHLANDS
EXCHANGE CLUB AND LAKE
HIGHLANDS MILITARY MOMS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2008

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize the Lake Highlands Exchange Club and Lake Highlands Military Moms for their dedication in honoring the men and women in uniform who defend our Nation.

Recently, the Lake Highlands Exchange Club and the Lake Highlands Military Moms

joined together to ensure that our service men and women are receiving the local recognition they deserve for their heroic efforts. The members of the Lake Highlands Exchange Club and Lake Highlands Military Moms created posters, similar to the posters for athletes, cheerleaders, and band members in area high schools, featuring photographs of 54 military men and women from Lake Highlands' community in training or serving our Nation in uniform. With already 250 posters on display in Lake Highlands area schools, churches, libraries, and businesses, the Exchange Club is trying to fulfill the high demand by printing additional copies.

I would like to specifically recognize two individuals that had a key role in this project: Bill Duhman, for designing the posters, and Rhonda Russell, the Exchange Club's publicity director and founder of Lake Highlands Military Moms. In 2005, Ms. Russell began collecting the names of military mothers and formed the support group known as Military Moms. Today, Military Moms meets once a month to exchange stories, updates and photographs of their children overseas. Ms. Russell's son, Lee Russell, returned from service in Iraq in 2005 and is currently working in military intelligence.

America owes our service men and women a huge debt of gratitude. It is through their sacrifice and patriotism that we have the security, prosperity and freedom that we enjoy today.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to be able to recognize the Lake Highlands Exchange Club and Lake Highlands Military Moms for their continued efforts in honoring the brave Americans that have gone into harm's way so that we could enjoy the blessings of liberty and prosperity. As President Calvin Coolidge once said, "the nation which forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten," and these groups are working hard to ensure that America's service men and women receive the honor and recognition they deserve.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2008

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following vote. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

February 14, 2008, Rollcall vote 61, on motion to suspend the rules and agree—H. Res. 966, Honoring African-American inventors, past and present, for their leadership, courage, and significant contributions to our national competitiveness—I would have voted "aye".

HONORING NATIONAL TRIO DAY

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2008

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of National TRIO Day, which was on February 23, 2008, and in support of this