took place in Khojaly, Azerbaijan, a town and townspeople that were destroyed on February 26, 1992.

This month we will mark the 21st anniversary of that devastating and heartbreaking day. Sadly, today there is little attention or interest paid to the plight of Khojaly outside of Azerbaijan. However, one of our greatest strengths as elected officials is the opportunity to bring to light truths that are little known and command recognition. As a friend of Azerbaijan, I am proud to remind my colleagues that we must never forget the tragedy that took place at Khojaly.

At the time, the Khojaly tragedy was widely documented by the international media, including the Boston Globe, Washington Post, New York Times, Financial Times, and many other European and Russian news agencies.

Khojaly, a town in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, now under the control of Armenian forces, was the site of the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians. With a population of approximately 7,000, Khojaly was one of the largest urban settlements of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

According to Human Rights Watch and other international observers the massacre was committed by the ethnic Armenian armed forces, reportedly with the help of the Russian 366th Motor Rifle Regiment. Human Rights Watch described the Khojaly Massacre as ''the largest massacre to date in the conflict'' over Nagorna-Karabakh. In a 1993 report, the watchdog group stated ''there are no exact figures for the number of Azeri civilians killed because Karabakh Armenian forces gained control of the area after the massacre'' and ''while it is widely accepted that 200 Azeris were murdered, as many as 500–1,000 may have died.''

Azerbaijan has been a strong strategic partner and friend of the United States. The tragedy of Khojaly was a crime against humanity and I urge my colleagues to join me in standing with Azerbaijanis as they commemorate this tragedy.

HONORING THE PECK SCHOOL IN MORRISTOWN

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2013

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Peck School in Morristown, New Jersey, which is celebrating its 120th Anniversary in 2013.

Originally created as a school for women, Peck School was opened on Franklin Street under the name Miss Sutphen's School for Young Ladies in 1893. After nearly 23 years, the school had become one of the most prestigious in Morris County with over 100 students and 9 teachers. However, in 1917, the school was purchased by Lorraine T. Peck and the name was changed to the Peck School in 1918. In 1920 the school was relocated to Elm Street where it would stay for another quarter of a century. By 1946 the school had assumed its current colors of white and blue and in 1948 moved into where it currently resides, on South Street in the Lindenwold Mansion and adjacent property.

Over the next decade, The Peck School saw rapid expansion and improvement. In 1950 the Mother's Association was created opening up the door to more programs including parent-teacher conferences, Parents Visiting Day, the Student Council, and the Alumni Association. Due to enrollment exceeding 200 students for the first time, the school constructed a new gymnasium/auditorium in order to accommodate the influx of young men and women. Moreover, in 1959 the school was split into two divisions. The first division would include Kindergarten to 4th graders and the second division would include 5th to 8th graders.

As the times changed, Peck School did the same by constantly adapting to the needs of its students, faculty, and parents. With the dawn of technology in the 1980s, Peck was able to add computers to the school, creating new facilities for technological related studies. These facilities included the addition of the ''Bridge'' and ''Fine Arts'' wings in 1984. These new sections of the school offered comprehensive group studies on computers, woodworking, and foreign languages. Additionally, the Mother's Association was renamed the Parents' Association to mirror the increased paternal involvement in student academic activities.

After celebrating its 100th Anniversary with the opening of the Deetjen Kindergarten Building in 1993, the school decided to embark on even further expansion. These ground-breaking improvements consisted of the Caspersen-Tomlinson Upper School in 1995 and the F.M. Kirby Lower School on 1998. With new space and resources, Peck integrated an All-School Technology Plan, establishing the school as a quintessential model for computer-based curriculum at the elementary and middle school levels. Finally, in 2006, Peck opened the massive 35,000 square foot Eckert Huff Building complimented by the new 32,000 square feet Athletic Center in 2007.

Today, over 330 students attend the Peck School and study a diverse set of curriculums comprising of communication arts, drama, English, library studies, math, music, physical education, reading, science, history, technology, family life, visual arts, woodworking, and foreign languages. The school also contains an Individual Development and Community Responsibility Program designed to teach character development and life skills. Additionally, Peck houses one of the most competitive private-school 5th to 8th grade athletic programs in Northern New Jersey.

In its 120 years, Peck School has grown from an organization of 6 children to a nationally recognized institution focused on the development of young minds into successful adolescents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and your colleagues to join me in congratulating The Peck School as it celebrates its 120th Anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION OBSERVING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF CIVIL RIGHTS ICON ROSA PARKS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2013

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce this resolution observing the 100th birthday of civil rights icon Rosa Parks. Through her quiet courage, Mrs. Parks came to symbolize all that is vital about nonviolent protests, enduring threats, yet persisting as an advocate for the basic values of human rights and dignity. Her act of civil disobedience in refusing to give up her seat on a bus in Alabama is credited by historians with sparking the modern day civil rights movement, earning her the title ''mother of the freedom movement.''

After she left Alabama in 1957, she and her husband Raymond moved to Michigan. I was honored to have her play a significant role in my first election for Congress. Many of you know that Mrs. Parks went on to serve on my congressional staff for more than 20 years. Her presence in my office embodied a tireless spirit of commitment to public service and served as a constant reminder of the power of a single act of courage.

Though she led a more private life in Detroit, her commitment to public service remained strong. In 1987, along with her close associate Elaine Steele, she co-founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development, pursuing the mission of motivating and directing young people to achieve their highest potential. Grounded in her philosophy of quiet strength, the Institute continues to build upon the Parks legacy by sponsoring youth programs that teach life skills and promote a cross-cultural perspective.

For her role as the First Lady of Civil Rights, Rosa Parks was the recipient of numerous awards and accolades. This list includes the Congressional Gold Medal, the Spingarn Award for civil rights contributions, the highest honor of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which is the highest civilian honor in the United States. She was even named one of the 20 most influential and iconic figures of the 20th century. When she died in October 2005, the outpouring of grief and respect was worldwide. In recognition of her historic contributions, this Congress voted to allow Mrs. Parks to lie in honor in the Capitol rotunda so that the people of the United States could pay their last respects to a great American.

In this spirit of honoring her legacy, yesterday the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan, sponsored a program to highlight her contributions to the civil rights movement. The program was designed to reflect on the spirit of Mrs. Parks' commitment, calling for a National Day of Courage.

The day-long event, both virtual and on-site at the museum, featured nationally-recognized speakers, music and dramatic interpretations to commemorate her extraordinary life and accomplishments. I believe that this program will serve as an opportunity to reflect on the value of individual contributions to the struggle for equality and, through reflection on her example, inspire all Americans to stand up for freedom and the principles enshrined in the Constitution.

By refusing to give up her seat and standing for equal rights, Rosa Parks inspired a movement and became a legendary example of the value of a single courageous act. At a time when our nation faces challenges, both domestic and global, I believe that the example of Rosa Parks remains relevant every citizen. We should always use her birthday to reflect

on how each of us can contribute to our nation's promise of freedom and equality to ensure that the American dream remains within reach for all who believe.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MARIJUANA TAX EQUITY ACT OF 2013

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2013

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce the Marijuana Tax Equity Act of 2013, legislation to create a federal excise tax on marijuana sales and move this industry out of the shadows and into the daylight. Just over 106 million people live in a state or local jurisdiction that has decided that some aspect of marijuana use should be legally permitted. Eighteen states and the District of Columbia currently allow for medical marijuana and two states, Colorado and Washington, recently legalized the recreational use of small amounts of marijuana.

National trends reflect those state efforts. More than 40 percent of Americans over the age of 12 have tried marijuana at least once and public opinion research reveals half of the U.S. population supports legalization. Yet even as states and local governments have taken the lead in finding legal arrangements for marijuana, millions of people have been caught in the justice system for marijuana offenses and more than 660,000 people were arrested for marijuana possession in 2011. At the same time, the federal government spends approximately $5.5 billion per year on incarceration and enforcement associated with federal marijuana laws.

In addition, many marijuana businesses around the country—despite operating in compliance with state or local law—are not allowed to deduct their legitimate business expenses and often are unable to make deposits or maintain accounts as a result of federal banking laws.

It is time for Congress to end the federal prohibition on marijuana, remove it from the Controlled Substances Act, and create a tax and regulatory framework, similar to the frameworks in place for alcohol and tobacco. This represents a unique opportunity to save ruined lives, wasted enforcement and prison costs, while simultaneously helping to create a new industry, with new jobs and revenues that will improve the federal budget outlook.

The Marijuana Tax Equity Act creates a taxation framework similar to that in place for the tobacco and alcohol industries. It imposes an excise tax of 50 percent on the first sale by a producer, generally the grower, to the next stage of production, generally the processor creating the useable product. Along the supply chain it requires occupational taxes for those operating marijuana businesses. Those who do not comply with the taxation laws face civil or criminal penalties similar to those in place for the tobacco industry. The bill requires the IRS to produce periodic studies of the industry and make recommendations to Congress.

As I work with my colleagues and with our stakeholders to move forward with this legislation, I emphasize that there remain significant questions and challenges. In particular, in the context of legislation, significant changes will ripple through the marijuana industry, with new products created, new business relationships developed, new consumer standards demanded, and wide variations in state and local laws. As this process evolves, we hope to work with the industry to ensure that the tax rate and framework appropriately reflects federal concerns and the needs of this developing industry. I am committed to ensuring that the legislation's terms are adequately tailored to reflect the realities faced by marijuana businesses and consumers in an ever-shifting market.

In addition, the medical marijuana industry has distinct concerns about safe access and those should be adequately addressed in the federal framework. Together with my colleagues, I look forward to continuing our efforts on ensuring safe access for patients within the context of an administrable tax and regulatory regime.

It is important to note that states will remain free to make decisions about marijuana policy. Paired with Representative POLIS' ''Ending the Federal Marijuana Prohibition Act,'' this legislation establishes a starting point for laying out a federal regulatory and taxation framework for marijuana sales that are legal under state law.

CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2013

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the Family Medical Leave Act. Twenty years ago today, we took an important step to protecting workers that need to take time off to deal with a serious health or family issue. Since then, American workers have used FMLA leave more than 100 million times to address a serious health condition, including pregnancy; to care for a family member with a serious health condition; or to care for a newborn child, newly adopted child or a newly placed foster child. FMLA allows workers to take time from work to care for themselves or their loved ones without jeopardizing their jobs. FMLA does not a salary during the leave—an omission that needs to be corrected—but it does guarantee their job will be there when they return.

In recent years, President Obama has signed into law expansions of FMLA coverage to our brave women and men serving in our armed forces and airline employees. The National Defense Authorization Act of 2010 expanded FMLA leave for military families to include coverage of qualifying exigency leave to employees and families in the Regular Armed Forces, and coverage of military caregiver leave to employees who are a spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of certain veterans with a serious illness or injury. The Airline Flight Crew Technical Corrections Act makes more airline flight attendants and crew members eligible for FMLA leave.

Yet, despite those expansions, the United States lags behind other countries. A total of 137 countries mandate employers to offer paid leave, while 121 countries guarantee workers at least two weeks of paid leave each year. The absence of a paid leave requirement forces many Americans to choose between protecting their finances and taking time off to deal with a serious health or family crisis. Many of the employees who qualify for FMLA leave cannot financially afford to take leave without pay. 78 percent of employees who wanted to take FMLA leave, but did not, reported it was because they could not afford to lose those extra paychecks. Hardworking Americans—both men and woman—should be free to take the family and medical leave they need without fear of emptying their bank account.

The Family Medical Leave Act took an important step in ensuring workers that their jobs will be secure in the event that they need to take time off to deal with a serious health or family issue but we can and must do more. We must ensure that every job provides paid leave in times of sickness or family emergency.

HONORING BISHOP JAMES NEAUL HAYNES

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of Bishop James Neaul Haynes. Bishop Haynes is a valued leader and member of the Dallas community, who has dedicated his life to service, with a ministry spanning more than sixty years.

Bishop Haynes was born in Denton, Texas, and graduated as valedictorian from Fred Moore High School. He continued his education at the University of Denver in Colorado and North Texas State University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree. He was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Texas College in 1986.

Bishop Haynes began his ministry at the Open Door Church of God in Christ in Pampa, Texas in 1952. He later served congregations in Dennison, Texas and Wichita Falls, Texas. Since 1979, Bishop Haynes has served at Saintsville Sanctuary Church of God in Christ in Dallas, Texas.

Bishop Haynes was appointed Prelate of Texas Northeast Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction in 1978, after serving the Jurisdiction in multiple different capacities. He also served the Church of God in Christ on the national level in several roles, including as a member of the National Trustee Board, the Assistant General Secretary, the Secretary of the General Board, and the First Assistant Presiding Bishop. Bishop Haynes is now a lifetime member of the General Board with emeritus status.

In 1997, Bishop Neaul Haynes was chosen by over 200 pastors to serve as the Bishop of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction. As part of his responsibilities, he presided over more than 400 pastors and 45 districts. Holding this title allowed him to travel the world and appoint other Bishops both locally and internationally. It is very fitting to honor Bishop Haynes among his peers at the 2013 Annual Prayer Breakfast. For more than 6 decades, he has tirelessly served the north Texas community, as well as the Nation as a long-serving member on the General Board of the Church of God In Christ.