

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.