

valuable comments and suggestions that helped us produce a better bill. I want to thank everyone who took the time to assist us with this important effort.

Fundamentally, this bill is simple. Manufacturing is crucial to our economy and our middle class, to our national security, and to our ability to satisfy our domestic needs with domestically produced goods. It only makes sense that we have a sound plan for how the government can best help the private sector succeed. I believe that a National Manufacturing Strategy will help us accomplish that, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and doing the absolute best that we can to support manufacturing in America.

COMMEMORATING THE 117TH ANNIVERSARY OF PAYNE CHAPEL A.M.E. CHURCH IN WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 117th anniversary of the founding of Payne Chapel A.M.E. Church in West Palm Beach, Florida, an institution that is as old as the city itself.

The theme of this year's celebration is "Enhancing the dream; bright hope for tomorrow". Payne Chapel was the dream of Ed Walstine, Philip Akery, Bell Jones, Susan Gee Cook, Margaret Akery, D. Jones, and Haley Mickens, who were strongly determined to prepare the way for carrying out "The Great Commission" of preaching and witnessing for Christ. They founded their church, known as Bethel, in January of 1893. It was a pioneer era, and the first church was established in "The Styx", now Palm Beach. The first trustees were J.J. Gordon, D.J. Jones, and Philip Akery.

In 1894, under the pastorate of Rev. T.W. Wilson, the church's name was changed from Bethel to Payne Chapel in honor of Bishop Daniel A. Payne. Payne Chapel was built at Banyan and Tamarind Avenue, under the pastorate of Rev. A.S. Simms, 1894–1895. During the pastorate of Rev. M.T. Carey, 1910–1914, the church's parsonage was built. Rev. S.W. Adair organized the first rally for the new Payne Chapel A.M.E. Church between 1917 and 1920. It was Rev. E.J. Jackson who purchased the present site and laid the foundation between 1922 and 1923. In 1924, Rev. S.W. Adair was again appointed pastor and began work on the new church.

In 1928, a hurricane completely destroyed the old church on Banyan Street. The first Sunday in January 1929, services resumed in the basement of the "New Church on the Hill". Over the years, many additions were made to Payne Chapel under the pastorate of different reverends to complete the New Church. The main auditorium was dedicated in 1937, new pews were added in 1942, and the church was cleared of all indebtedness in 1948. During the pastorate of Rev. H. McNeal Harris, 1963–1966, the present parsonage was built, and under Rev. Stephen M. Peck, 1969–1981, the church was completely air conditioned.

Between 1981 and 1987, land was purchased for two parking areas, the church of-

fice, pastor's study, and Christian Education Office were erected in the lower auditorium, and the lounges were completely renovated.

In 1988, the New Genesis was instituted under the leadership of Shepherd W.J. Jackson. The church underwent a series of renovations and restoration, including new paint inside and out, safety guard doors, a new roof, pews, furniture, lighting, carpeting, state-of-the-art sound system, piano, organ, and tiling. Furthermore, the mortgage was liquidated and another parking area and additional property around the church were purchased.

In November 2002, Bishop John Hurst Adams assigned Rev. Samuel E. Sullivan to Payne Chapel. Under his pastorate, Payne Chapel underwent further renovation and debts on the roof and organ were liquidated. During the 2004–2005 hurricane season, the church and parsonage sustained major wind and water damage. Payne Chapel's keepers worked hard to restore it to its former magnificent grandeur. The church's interior was gutted and treated for mold and mildew, and carpeting, pews, and other furnishing and equipment were replaced.

On December 2, 2007, Bishop McKinley Young assigned Rev. Milton Broomfield to pastor Payne Chapel into the future. I am certain that Payne Chapel can look forward to great things under Rev. Broomfield's leadership.

Madam Speaker, from 1893 to 2008, 30 pastors, 24 presiding elders, 36 bishops, and three assistant pastors have served Payne Chapel A.M.E. Church. Payne Chapel is more than a building; it is a living testament to the community that built it. As we celebrate the 117th anniversary of its founding and remember the untold numbers of dedicated people who have contributed to making the church what it is today, tomorrow is indeed bright and hopeful.

COMMEMORATING THE 16TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY TRAGEDY

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 16th anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy, when on February 25–26, 1992, the town of Khojaly in the Nagorno Karabagh region of Azerbaijan was brutally attacked by Armenian forces. The town of Khojaly, which was home to 7,000 people, was completely destroyed; a total of 613 people were killed, of which 106 were women and 83 were children, and 56 of whom are purported to have been killed with extreme cruelty and torture. Additionally, 1,275 were taken hostage, 150 went missing; 487 people became disabled, 76 of whom are teenagers; 8 families were wiped out; 25 children lost both of their parents, and 130 children lost one of their parents.

Sadly, Khojaly, a town in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, now under the occupation of Armenian forces, was the site of the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians.

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.

As part of the population tried to escape the town of Khojaly, they encountered violent ambushes and were murdered. According to the Russian organization, Memorial, 200 Azerbaijani corpses were brought from Khojaly to Agdam within four days, and it was discovered that they were subjected to abuses, torture and mutilation. Human Rights Watch stated that "we place direct responsibility for the civilian deaths with Karabakh Armenian forces."

At the time, Newsweek Magazine reported: "Azerbaijan was a charnel house again last week: a place of mourning refugees and dozens of mangled corpses dragged to a makeshift morgue behind the mosque. They were ordinary Azerbaijani men, women and children of Khojaly, a small village in war-torn Nagorno-Karabakh overrun by Armenian forces on 25–26 February. Many were killed at close range while trying to flee; some had their faces mutilated, others were scalped."

Time Magazine stated "While the details are argued, this much is plain: something grim and unconscionable happened in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly 2 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."

Members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, PACE, from Albania, Azerbaijan, and the United Kingdom stated in May 2001 in Written Declaration No. 324 that the "Armenians massacred the whole population of Khojaly and fully destroyed the town."

Khojaly was the first significant Azerbaijani settlement overrun by Armenian forces in the region of Nagorno-Karabakh. The forces next overran the Nagorno-Karabakh districts of Zangilan, Gubadli, Fuzuli, Aghdam, and Kalbajar, as well as the towns of Shusha and Lachin. Altogether, the occupied territories represent roughly 20 percent of the territory of Azerbaijan. And, altogether roughly one million Azerbaijanis were evicted from their homes over the course of the Armenian-Azerbaijan war.

Madam Speaker, this is not the ringing condemnation that the survivors of Khojaly deserve but it is an important first step by an international community that has too long been silent on this issue. Congress should take the next step and I hope my colleagues will join me in standing with Azerbaijanis as they commemorate the tragedy of Khojaly. The world should know and remember.

INTRODUCTION OF IMPROVING COMPACT-IMPACT ASSISTANCE FOR EDUCATION

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 4695, a bill to expand the Federal Impact Aid program to reimburse schools for the costs of educating students