

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 Nagorno-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