

money from a law I authored—the Trafficking Victim's Protection Act of 2000—is working overtime to mitigate sex trafficking and has released anti-trafficking brochures to bus and train employees in New Jersey, as well as reached out to another major industry on the front lines of spotting traffickers and victims: the hotels.

We had with us yesterday the NGO End Child Prostitution and Trafficking, or ECPAT-USA, which has been conducting hotel training on behalf of the task force in the lead-up to the Super Bowl. Hyatt, Hilton, Wyndham, Carlson, and Accor hotels have been establishing a new industry standard to ensure that their properties are not used for human trafficking.

In addition to reaching out to transportation employees and hotels, the New Jersey Human Trafficking Task Force has increased print and electronic public service announcements and training programs for law enforcement officials, health care workers, lawyers, and others on the front lines of potential interactions with trafficking victims.

In December, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe OSCE, which comprises 57 countries from Europe and North America, endorsed my plan to make anti-trafficking training for airline employees, other public and commercial carriers, as well as hotel employees, a primary goal in the international strategy to combat human trafficking. In an earlier session, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly adopted my resolution to implement such training in each member country.

Any country that competes to host a major sporting event must be fully aware of the human trafficking vulnerabilities associated with such events and the best practices for protecting and rescuing the victims. In fact, the International Olympic Committee and the Fédération Internationale de Football Association, or FIFA, should take into consideration a country's anti-trafficking commitment and ability when awarding games. Standard anti-trafficking measures should be included along with the required security measures and stadium specifications.

Finally, the only standard that fits the crime of human trafficking—zero tolerance—must be rigorously and faithfully enforced by arrests of those engaged in this nefarious trade—modern-day slavery. And there can be no higher priority than the liberation and protection of the victims. Combating human trafficking must be continuously prioritized at all levels of government, the faith community, civil society and corporations, including the National Football League. All of us must do our part to protect the women and girls.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF BLACK
JANUARY

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences to the people of Azerbaijan who, on January 20, remember "Black January."

On January 19, 1990, the Soviet Union declared a "State of Emergency" in Baku and other parts of Azerbaijan, in an attempt to suppress further movements towards independ-

ence. In the middle of the night and into January 20, some 26,000 Soviet troops moved into Baku brutalizing and randomly killing the civilian population as they proceeded. Over one hundred Azeris were killed and up to 800 were injured. This brutality, far from crushing the Azerbaijani spirit, steered their resolve and on October 18, 1991, the Azerbaijan Parliament declared the country's independence, which it retains today.

Azerbaijan had always shown a special desire to be independent. With the fall of the Russian Empire in 1918, Azerbaijan declared its independence and granted voting rights for women, a full year before American women were enfranchised. Today, Azerbaijan is the only former Russian Republic which does not have foreign troops stationed on its soil.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the events of "Black January" and the Azeri determination that led to the independent Republic of Azerbaijan we know today.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF CONGRESSMAN VICENTE
"BEN" GARRIDO BLAZ

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of my good friend, the late Vicente "Ben" Tomas Garrido Blaz, a retired Brigadier General in the United States Marine Corps and former Member of Congress who represented the people of Guam. Congressman Blaz was a hero and leader who inspired generations on Guam. He passed away on January 8, 2014 at the age of 85.

Congressman Blaz was born on February 14, 1928 to Vicente Cruz Blaz and Rita Garrido Blaz from the village of Ordot, Guam, and he was the third of eight children. He married his late wife, Ann Evers Blaz, in 1953, and they had two sons, Thomas and Michael and five grandchildren. Congressman Blaz was predeceased by his wife and parents, and his siblings and in-laws: Rosario and Pedro Cruz, Maria Blaz, Emilia and Alfred Rios, Brigida Blaz, and Alfred Blaz. He is survived by his sons, Tom and Mike, and their spouses, Shelane and Barbara; his five grandchildren; and his siblings and in-laws: Joaquin Blaz, Patricia and Jose Borja, and Frank and Julie Blaz.

On December 8, 1941, Ben was 13 when Guam was invaded by enemy forces during World War II. He endured the hardships of the 32 months of enemy occupation, and was among those conscripted into forced labor. As a survivor of the occupation, General Blaz had a strong sense of patriotism and duty to our country. He never forgot these experiences and they helped to inspire him to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps and to continue a life of service as a Congressman.

After the war, Ben graduated from George Washington High School and was awarded an academic scholarship to attend the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. Ben was a patriot, and when war broke out in Korea, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and attended Officer Candidate School.

In 1951, Ben graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a Bachelor of Science degree and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He continued his professional education and earned a Master of Arts degree from the George Washington University in 1963 and graduated from the Naval War College in 1970. General Blaz was bestowed an honorary Doctors of Laws from the University of Guam in 1974; in 1988 he was recognized as a distinguished alumnus of the University of Notre Dame, where he was conferred the Rev. William Corby Award for his notable military service.

As an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, Brigadier General Blaz served our nation with honor and distinction. He served three overseas tours in Vietnam; Okinawa, Japan; and Osaka, Japan. He was appointed as the Commanding Officer of the 9th Marines, and had the honor of commanding one of the Marine Corps regiments which liberated Guam during World War II. In 1977, Ben was promoted to Brigadier General, becoming the first Chamorro to attain flag officer rank. He retired in 1980 after 30 years of distinguished service in the Marine Corps. During his service, his awards and decorations included the Legion of Merit (twice awarded); Bronze Star (with Combat V); Navy Commendation Medal (twice awarded); Combat Action Ribbon; and Vietnam Cross of Gallantry (Gold Star).

Following his military retirement, General Blaz ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 1982. He was successful in 1984 when he was elected to the 99th Congress, and he served in the House of Representatives for four terms from 1985 to 1993. At the start of his first term, Congressman Blaz was elected by his peers to serve as the president of his freshman class. Congressman Blaz worked to improve the relationship between the federal government and Guam. As a member of the Armed Services, Natural Resources, and Foreign Affairs Committees, he worked to address Guam's issues, national security issues and Asia-Pacific issues. He promoted improving Guam's political status, advocated for war reparations for Guam, worked to improve education and health programs, and sought the return of excess federal lands to the people of Guam.

Ben never truly retired from public service, and after he left Congress, he became Guam's senior statesman. He was an invaluable mentor to Congressman Robert Underwood and myself, and I would often look to him for counsel and support on issues important to Guam. During his time in Congress, Congressman Blaz often remarked of the territories, "We are equal in war but not in peace," recognizing the inequality between U.S. citizens residing in the territories and those living in the 50 states. During my time in Congress, I too have recognized the sentiment behind this profound statement, and I kept a plaque of Ben's quote on my desk when I first took office. Congressman Blaz was also a strong supporter of the events held in Washington to commemorate the Liberation of Guam. He faithfully attended the wreath laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery and the receptions on Capitol Hill that are held every year.

Throughout his life, Ben worked to promote and preserve the Chamorro culture, language, and history. He produced two television series *Nihi Ta Bisita* (Let Us Visit) which centered on