

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, 1275 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.

The Khojaly massacre was not an isolated incident. In fact, the level of brutality and the atrocities committed at Khojaly set a pattern of destruction that Armenian troops would adhere to for the remainder of the Nagorno-Karabakh War.

No one has been prosecuted for the crimes committed in Khojaly and, unfortunately, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict still remains.

On January 21, 2008, Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov noted in the Wall Street Journal that it has been almost 14 years since the Armenia-Azerbaijan war ended in a Russian-mediated ceasefire, but Armenian troops remain on Azerbaijan's territory.

Minister Mammadyarov opined: "The so-called Minsk process, an OSCE-led effort to find a peaceful, negotiated settlement to this conflict, has been helpful in providing the framework for dialogue between Azerbaijan and Armenia. It also gives an international dimension to this conflict. But we need to urgently conclude this process. Maintaining the status quo is just too costly."

Foreign Minister Mammadyarov contends that diplomacy is Azerbaijan's preferred solution. The resolution of this issue would not only improve bilateral relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia, it could also improve Armenia's relationship with Turkey.

The resolution of the conflict would ensure regional security and economic growth. As Azerbaijan looks forward, it is also important to look back. While not forgetting the past, Azerbaijan is ready to resolve the conflict and move into the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2008

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, on February 25, 2008, I missed votes because my flight was delayed. Southwest Flight 1357, scheduled to depart BHM at 1:20 p.m. and arrive at BWI at 4:10 p.m., did not depart BHM until 3:15 p.m. and arrived at BWI at 6 p.m.

TRIBUTE TO MR. VERDERY ROBERSON

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2008

Mr. CRAMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual from my district, Mr. Verdery Roberson.

Mr. Roberson is a World War II Navy veteran and a graduate of Paine College. In 1988, he retired to Huntsville, Alabama, after thirty-eight years as a civilian Electronics Fire Control Specialist with the U.S. Army at the Augusta Arsenal in Augusta, Georgia, and the Anniston Army Depot.

Mr. Roberson is most well known for his lifelong membership and continuing commitment to the Boy Scouts of America. In 1944, four years after joining the Boy Scouts, he became the first African-American in the Georgia-Carolina Council of Boy Scouts to receive a Scout's highest rank, Eagle Scout.

Mr. Roberson has passed on his extensive scouting knowledge and beliefs to countless young men as an adult leader, mentor, and member of the Eagle Board of Review. He is the founder and former Cub Master for the Cub Scout Pack 314 at the Center Grove United Methodist Church, as well as a founding member of the Urban Emphasis Scout Leaders Council. The Council is an urban and rural Scout outreach, or Scout Reach, organization for the Huntsville-Madison County community.

For his lifetime of inspirational service and outreach with the Boy Scouts, Mr. Roberson was one of the first recipients from North Alabama to receive the Whitney Young Service Award. This award is presented nationally to those nominated by their local councils who have provided Scouting opportunities for young men from rural and low-income urban backgrounds.

On Friday, February 22, 2008, Mr. Roberson's family and friends celebrated his life, his contributions to the Boy Scouts, and his selfless devotion to the positive development of numerous young men. I rise to join them in their tribute and to thank Mr. Roberson for his many years of service to our community.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for

printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, February 26, 2008 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 27

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the current and future worldwide threats to the national security of the United States; with the possibility of a closed session in S-407 following the open session.

SD-106

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 2232, to direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a demonstration program to adapt the lessons of providing foreign aid to underdeveloped economies to the provision of Federal economic development assistance to certain similarly situated individuals.

SR-485

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to review veterans' disability compensation, focusing on expert work on post-traumatic stress disorder and other issues.

SH-216

9:45 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Stanley C. Suboleski, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Fossil Energy), and J. Gregory Copeland, of Texas, to be General Counsel, both of the Department of Energy.

SD-366

10 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-406

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 579, to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer, S. 1810, to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the provision of scientifically sound information and support services to patients receiving a positive test diagnosis for Down syndrome or other prenatal and postnatal diagnosed conditions, S. 999, to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve stroke prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation, S. 1760, to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Healthy Start Initiative, H.R. 20, to provide for research on, and services for individuals with, postpartum depression and psychosis, and S. 1042, to amend the Public Health Service Act to make the provision of technical services for medical imaging examinations and radiation therapy treatments safer, more accurate, and

- less costly, and any pending nominations.
SD-430
- Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine U.S. reliance on private security firms in overseas operations.
SD-342
- Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine S. 2041, to amend the False Claims Act, focusing on strengthening the government's most effective tool against fraud for the 21st century.
SD-226
- Rules and Administration
To hold hearings to examine protecting voters in the United States at the polls, focusing on limiting abusive robocalls and vote caging practices.
SR-301
- Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the Small Business Administration.
SR-428A
- 10:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the U.S. Army, Department of Defense.
SD-192
- Aging
To hold hearings to examine issues relative to surgeons, focusing on conflicts and consultant payments in the medical device industry.
SD-628
- 2 p.m.
Judiciary
Crime and Drugs Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine supporting the front line in the fight against crime, focusing on restoring federal funding for state and local law enforcement.
SD-226
- 2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine S. 2229, to withdraw certain Federal land in the Wyoming Range from leasing and provide an opportunity to retire certain leases in the Wyoming Range, S. 2379, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to cancel certain grazing leases on land in Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument that are voluntarily waived by the lessees, to provide for the exchange of certain Monument land in exchange for private land, to designate certain Monument land as wilderness, S. 832, to provide for the sale of approximately 25 acres of public land to the Turnabout Ranch, Escalante, Utah, at fair market value, S. 2508 and H.R. 903, bills to provide for a study of options for protecting the open space characteristics of certain lands in and adjacent to the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests in Colorado, S. 2601 and H.R. 1285, bills to require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to King and Kittitas Counties Fire District No. 51 a certain parcel of real property for use as a site for a new Snoqualmie Pass fire and rescue station, H.R. 523, to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain public land located wholly or partially within the boundaries of the Wells Hydroelectric Project of Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, Washington, to the utility district, and H.R. 838, to provide for the conveyance of the Bureau of Land Management parcels known as the White Acre and Gambel Oak properties and related real property to Park City, Utah.
SD-366
- Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Space, Aeronautics, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the National Space and Aeronautics Administration (NASA).
SR-253
- Intelligence
Closed business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
SH-219
- 3 p.m.
Armed Services
Personnel Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 for the Active component, Reserve component, civilian personnel programs, and the future years defense program.
SR-232A
- FEBRUARY 28
- 9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009, for the Department of the Navy, and the future years defense program; with the possibility of a closed session in SR-222 immediately following the open session.
SH-216
- Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 for Department of the Navy, and the future years defense program; with the possibility of a closed session in SR-222 immediately following the open session.
SH-216
- Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the impact of increased minimum wages on the economies of American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
SD-366
- Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the policy options of the United States in post-election Pakistan.
SD-419
- Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine the total economic costs of the war beyond the federal budget.
SD-106
- 10 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the semi-annual monetary policy report to the Congress.
SD-538
- Environment and Public Works
Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings to examine the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, focusing on the security of the nuclear power plants in the United States.
SD-406
- Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of Transportation.
SR-253
- Finance
To hold hearings to examine the real estate market, focusing on building a strong economy.
SD-215
- Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 2304, to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide grants for the improved mental health treatment and services provided to offenders with mental illnesses, S. 2449, to amend chapter 111 of title 28, United States Code, relating to protective orders, sealing of cases, disclosures of discovery information in civil actions, S. 352, to provide for media coverage of Federal court proceedings, S. 2136, to address the treatment of primary mortgages in bankruptcy, S. 2133, to authorize bankruptcy courts to take certain actions with respect to mortgage loans in bankruptcy, S. 2041, to amend the False Claims Act, and the nominations of Kevin J. O'Connor, of Connecticut, to be Associate Attorney General, and Gregory G. Katsas, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Attorney General, both of the Department of Justice, Brian Stacy Miller, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas, and James Randal Hall, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Georgia.
SD-226
- 2 p.m.
Appropriations
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the recent Hallmark/Westland meat recall.
SD-192
- Energy and Natural Resources
Water and Power Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine S. 177 and H.R. 2085, bills to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the McGee Creek Authority certain facilities of the McGee Creek Project, Oklahoma, S. 1473 and H.R. 1855, bills to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Madera Irrigation District for purposes of supporting the Madera Water Supply Enhancement Project, S. 1474 and H.R. 1139, bills to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to plan, design and construct facilities to provide water for irrigation, municipal, domestic, and other uses from the Bunker Hill Groundwater Basin, Santa Ana River, California, S. 1929, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, to conduct a feasibility study of water augmentation alternatives in the Sierra Vista Subwatershed, S. 2370, to clear title to certain real property in New Mexico associated with the Middle Rio Grande Project, and H.R. 2381, to promote Department of the Interior efforts to provide a scientific basis for the management of

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| <p>sediment and nutrient loss in the Upper Mississippi River Basin.</p> | <p>SD-366</p> | <p>operational procedures and ship designs.</p> | <p>SR-253</p> | <p>the Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice.</p> | <p>SD-226</p> |
| <p>2:30 p.m.</p> | | | | | |
| <p>Foreign Relations International Development and Foreign Assistance, Economic Affairs and International Environmental Protection Subcommittee</p> | | <p>MARCH 5</p> | | <p>MARCH 12</p> | |
| <p>To hold hearings to examine international deforestation and climate change adaptation.</p> | <p>SD-419</p> | <p>9:30 a.m. Armed Services To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009, for the Department of the Air Force, and the future years defense program.</p> | <p>SH-216</p> | <p>9:30 a.m. Armed Services Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee To receive a briefing on the current readiness of the armed forces of the United States.</p> | <p>SH-219</p> |
| <p>Judiciary To hold hearings to examine weaknesses in the visa waiver program, focusing on possible safeguards needed to protect the United States of America.</p> | <p>SD-226</p> | <p>10 a.m. Judiciary To continue oversight hearings to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation.</p> | <p>SD-226</p> | <p>10 a.m. Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development and conduct oversight.</p> | <p>SD-538</p> |
| <p>Intelligence To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.</p> | <p>SH-219</p> | | | | |
| | <p>FEBRUARY 29</p> | <p>MARCH 6</p> | | <p>2:30 p.m. Armed Services Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine technologies to combat weapons of mass destruction.</p> | <p>SD-106</p> |
| <p>10 a.m. Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine government-wide intelligence community management reforms, focusing on ensuring effective Congressional oversight and the role of the Government Accountability Office.</p> | <p>SD-342</p> | <p>9:30 a.m. Armed Services To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 for the U.S. Southern and Northern Command, and the future years defense program.</p> | <p>SH-216</p> | | |
| | | <p>10 a.m. Commerce, Science, and Transportation Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the U.S. Coast Guard and conduct oversight.</p> | <p>SR-253</p> | | |
| | <p>MARCH 4</p> | <p>MARCH 11</p> | | <p>MARCH 13</p> | |
| <p>9:30 a.m. Armed Services To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 for the United States Central Command and the United States Special Operations Command, and the future years defense program; with the possibility of a closed session in S-407 immediately following the open session.</p> | <p>SD-106</p> | <p>9:30 a.m. Armed Services To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 for U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Forces in Korea, and the future years defense program.</p> | <p>SH-216</p> | <p>9:30 a.m. Armed Services To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 for the United States European Command and the United States African Command, and the future years defense program.</p> | <p>SH-216</p> |
| <p>10 a.m. Commerce, Science, and Transportation To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for Transportation Security Administration, Department of Transportation.</p> | <p>SR-253</p> | <p>10 a.m. Environment and Public Works To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Program, and the implementation of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2007 (Public Law 110-114).</p> | <p>SD-406</p> | <p>2 p.m. Armed Services Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 for the current readiness of the armed forces, and the future years defense program.</p> | <p>SR-232A</p> |
| <p>Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of Homeland Security.</p> | <p>SD-192</p> | <p>Commerce, Science, and Transportation Science, Technology, and Innovation Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 to support U.S. basic research.</p> | <p>SR-253</p> | <p>2:30 p.m. Armed Services Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 for the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program and the Proliferation Security Initiative at the Department of Defense, and nuclear nonproliferation programs at the National Security Administration, and the future years defense program.</p> | <p>SR-222</p> |
| <p>2:30 p.m. Commerce, Science, and Transportation Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine protecting seashores from oil spills, focusing on</p> | | <p>2:30 p.m. Judiciary To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Grace C. Becker, of New York, to be Assistant Attorney General for</p> | | | |