

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly Massacre and  
2 honoring the life and memory of the victims of this horrific  
3 tragedy.

4 WHEREAS, February 26, 2013, marks the 21st anniversary of the  
5 Khojaly Massacre in Azerbaijan and the observance of this tragic  
6 date inspires reflection by individuals across the globe; and

7 WHEREAS, On February 25 and 26, 1992, Armenian armed forces,  
8 accompanied by Russian military troops, attacked and occupied  
9 the besieged town of Khojaly as part of the armed aggression and  
10 ethnic cleansing that had been taking place in the Nagorno-  
11 Karabakh region of Azerbaijan since 1988; and

12 WHEREAS, When the residents of the town attempted to flee the  
13 area, they were fired on by the Armenian and Russian troops,  
14 resulting in the largest massacre of the Nagorno-Karabakh  
15 conflict; and

16 WHEREAS, It is estimated that 613 civilians were killed, 150  
17 civilians went missing, 487 civilians were wounded and 1,270  
18 civilians were taken hostage; and

1       WHEREAS, The massacre was reported by major news  
2 organizations and has been viewed by the Human Rights  
3 Watch/Helsinki organization as a violation of customary law  
4 regarding the treatment of civilians in war zones; and

5       WHEREAS, This tragic event is a sobering reminder of the  
6 terrible carnage that can be inflicted in wartime and the  
7 enduring need for greater understanding, communication and  
8 tolerance among people; and

9       WHEREAS, The U.S. Azeris Network coordinates with  
10 Azerbaijani-American communities to educate others about  
11 important events in the history of Azerbaijan; and

12       WHEREAS, The U.S. Azeris Network plays a pivotal role in  
13 preserving the memory of this terrible tragedy and through its  
14 efforts, the legacy of those who died will never be forgotten;  
15 and

16       WHEREAS, It is fitting to honor the lives and memories of the  
17 victims of this horrific tragedy; therefore be it

18       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
19 21st anniversary of the Khojaly Massacre and honor the life and  
20 memory of the victims of this horrific tragedy.