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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 109 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY READSHAW, D. COSTA, McNEILL, HARHART, HENNESSEY,  
V. BROWN, COHEN, HELM, DONATUCCI, WHEELAND, KIRKLAND, STURLA,  
CALTAGIRONE, DAVIS, THOMAS, MILLARD AND GINGRICH,  
FEBRUARY 24, 2015

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
FEBRUARY 24, 2015

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 23rd anniversary of the Khojaly Massacre and  
2 honoring the life and memory of the victims of this horrific  
3 tragedy.

4 WHEREAS, February 26, 2015, marks the 23rd 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

1 civilians were taken hostage; and

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

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

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

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

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

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
20 23rd anniversary of the Khojaly Massacre and honor the life and  
21 memory of the victims of this horrific tragedy; and be it  
22 further

23 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
24 the United States Department of State, the United States embassy  
25 in Azerbaijan and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.