A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly Massacre and
2 honoring the life and memory of the victims of this horrific tragedy.
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4 WHEREAS, February 26, 2013, marked the 21st anniversary of
5 the Khojaly Massacre in Azerbaijan and the observance of this
6 tragic date inspires reflection by individuals across the globe; and
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8 WHEREAS, On February 25 and 26, 1992, Armenian armed forces,
9 accompanied by Russian military troops, attacked and occupied
10 the besieged town of Khojaly as part of the armed aggression and
11 ethnic cleansing that had been taking place in the Nagorno-
12 Karabakh region of Azerbaijan since 1988; and
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14 WHEREAS, When the residents of the town attempted to flee the
15 area, they were fired on by the Armenian and Russian troops,
16 resulting in the largest massacre of the Nagorno-Karabakh
17 conflict; and
18
19 WHEREAS, It is estimated that 613 civilians were killed, 150
civilians went missing, 487 civilians were wounded and 1,270

civilians were taken hostage; and

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

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

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

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

and

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

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
21st anniversary of the Khojaly Massacre and honor the life and
memory of the victims of this horrific tragedy; and be it

further

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