
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 136 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY READSHAW, MILLARD, COHEN, THOMAS, CALTAGIRONE,
ACOSTA, KINSEY, BISHOP, McNEILL, V. BROWN, HELM AND SACCONI,
MARCH 2, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 2, 2015

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 Assembly of the Friends of Azerbaijan (AFAZ)
11 coordinates with Azerbaijani-American communities to educate
12 others about important events in the history of Azerbaijan; and

13 WHEREAS, AFAZ plays a pivotal role in preserving the memory
14 of this terrible tragedy and through its efforts, the legacy of
15 those who died will never be forgotten; 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 23rd anniversary of the Khojaly Massacre and honor the life and
20 memory of the victims of this horrific tragedy; and be it
21 further

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