

1 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 104**

2 (By Delegates Walters, Ambler, Anderson, Arvon, Ashley, Barill,
3 Border, Canterbury, Cowles, Eldridge, Ellem, Evans, D., Ferns,
4 Hamilton, Hamrick, Hunt, Iaquinta, Marcum, McCuskey, Nelson, E.,
5 Pasdon, Raines, Shott, Smith, R., Storch, Stowers and Sumner)

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9
10 Recognizing the many contributions made by citizens of the Republic
11 of Azerbaijan and that it is in the best interest of the State
12 of West Virginia to promote relationships with the Azerbaijani
13 people.

14 WHEREAS, February 26, 2013, marks the twenty-first anniversary
15 of the Khojaly Massacre in Azerbaijan and the observance of this
16 somber date inspires reflection by individuals across the globe;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, On February 25 and February 26, 1992, Armenian armed
19 forces, accompanied by Russian military troops, occupied the town
20 of Khojaly as part of the bitter warfare that had been taking place
21 in the Nagorno-Karabakh region since 1988; and

22 WHEREAS, When a large group of Azerbaijani civilians attempted
23 to evacuate the area, they were fired on by the Armenian and
24 Russian soldiers, resulting in the largest massacre of that bloody

1 conflict; estimates of the exact number of people killed vary from
2 160 to as many as 1,000, with many women and children among the
3 dead; and

4 WHEREAS, The massacre was reported by major news organizations
5 and has been viewed by the Human Rights Watch as a violation of
6 customary law regarding the treatment of civilians in war zones and
7 numerous governments around the world have condemned the attack;
8 and

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

13 WHEREAS, The Republic of Azerbaijan and the United States of
14 America are long-standing allies, both dearly cherishing the
15 universal values of freedom, democracy and human rights; and

16 WHEREAS, The State of West Virginia and the Republic of
17 Azerbaijan enjoy a strong, vibrant and mutually beneficial economic
18 relationship with the prospect of further growth; and

19 WHEREAS, It is the custom of the State of West Virginia to
20 welcome all who come to our state especially those who come in the
21 interest of friendship and commerce; and

22 WHEREAS, It is the policy of the West Virginia Legislature to
23 recognize the contributions of our allies and the value of
24 maintaining beneficial relationships with the allies of the State

1 of West Virginia, such as the contributions made by the Republic of
2 Azerbaijan and the value of our positive relationship with this
3 ally; therefore, be it

4 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

5 That the Legislature of West Virginia recognizes the many
6 contributions made by the citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan
7 and that it is in the best interest of the State of West Virginia
8 to promote relationships with Azerbaijan; and, be it

9 *Further Resolved,* That upon its adoption, a copy of this
10 resolution be sent to the United States Speaker of the House of
11 Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, the
12 Secretary of State of the United States Department of State, the
13 West Virginia Congressional Delegation, and Richard L. Morningstar,
14 the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan.