



A House resolution

recognizing February 26, 2016, as the 24th Anniversary
of the Khojaly Massacre Commemoration Day

WHEREAS, February 26, 2016, marks the 24th anniversary of the Khojaly Massacre in Azerbaijan, and the observance of this tragic date inspires reflection by individuals across the globe; and

WHEREAS, on February 25 and 26, 1992, Armenian armed forces, supported and accompanied by armored vehicles of the Soviet/Russian 366th motorized rifle regiment, attacked and occupied the besieged town of Khojaly as part of the armed aggression and ethnic cleansing that had been taking place in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan since 1988; and

WHEREAS, when the residents of this town attempted to flee the area, they were ambushed and fired on by the Armenian and Russian troops, resulting in the largest civilian massacre and war crime in all of Europe at the time; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the genocidal act, of the approximately 6,000 inhabitants of the town, 613 civilians were killed (including 106 women, 83 children, and 70 elderly); 150 "missing" (presumed dead); 487 were wounded, including 76 children; and 1,270 civilians were taken hostage; and

WHEREAS, this tragic event, which was later called by experts and became known as "Azerbaijani Srebrenica," 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 the world over; and

WHEREAS, the UN Security Council Resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993), and 884 (1993), which call on Armenian forces to end the occupation of the territory of Azerbaijan, continue to be unfulfilled; the UN General Assembly, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the OSCE, the U.S. Azeris Network, as well as the U.S. State Department and the White House, supported the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan, including its Nagorno-Karabakh region;
NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Committee on Rules and Legislative Administration of the House of Representatives of the State of Minnesota that it recognizes February 26, 2016, as the 24th Anniversary of the Khojaly Massacre Commemoration Day.

Dated: March 24, 2016

Kurt Daudt, Speaker
Minnesota House of Representatives

Joyce Peppin, Chair
Rules and Legislative Administration

