

# 2021 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 607

*Celebrating the lives of victims of the Khojaly massacre.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 27, 2021

WHEREAS, in 1992, approximately 613 civilians were killed in the Nagorno-Karabakh territory of Azerbaijan during the First Nagorno-Karabakh War; and

WHEREAS, on February 26, 1992, Armenian armed forces, accompanied by Russian military troops, besieged the town of Khojaly as part of a campaign of aggression, intimidation, and ethnic cleansing in the Nagorno-Karabakh territory that had been ongoing since 1988; and

WHEREAS, when residents of Khojaly attempted to flee the area, they were fired upon by Armenian and Russian troops who subsequently occupied the town, with Human Rights Watch calling the massacre the largest such atrocity of the conflict; and

WHEREAS, among the civilians killed in the attack on Khojaly, it is estimated that more than 100 victims were women, at least 63 were children, and at least 70 were elderly members of the community; numerous children lost one or both parents in the massacre and several families were wiped out entirely; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the deaths resulting from the attack, hundreds of civilians were severely wounded or disabled, more than 1,200 people were taken hostage, and more than 100 people were never located in the aftermath; and

WHEREAS, the tragic deaths in the Khojaly massacre serve as a sobering reminder of the terrible damage that can be inflicted in wartime and the enduring need for greater understanding, communication, and tolerance among people all over the world; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates hereby note with great sadness the loss of the victims of the Khojaly massacre; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to representatives of the Azeri-American community as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for the memory of the victims of the Khojaly massacre.

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