

A RESOLUTION recognizing the 25th anniversary of the independence of Azerbaijan.

WHEREAS, on January 19-20, 1990, Soviet special troops stormed Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan; and

WHEREAS, this invasion was indiscriminate and brutal, killing 133 unarmed civilians and wounding 611 more; and

WHEREAS, this uprising became known as Black January. Following the massacre, an investigation conducted by Human Rights Watch found evidence that Soviet troops acted without justification against the citizens of Azerbaijan, firing on ambulances, using armored vehicles and weapons meant for high-tech warfare, and using expanding bullets prohibited by the 1899 Hague Convention to kill women, children, and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, in response to Black January, the people of Azerbaijan became dedicated to restoring their independence, which it accomplished in October 1991; and

WHEREAS, it is rightful that this honorable body observe the struggle for independence and liberty of our brothers and sisters around the world. In this spirit, the members of this chamber honor the 25th anniversary of the independence of Azerbaijan, and also take time to dutifully reflect upon the profound sacrifices of all those who died during Black January in 1990;

NOW, THEREFORE,

***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby acknowledge the sacrifices of those who died during Black January in 1990.

➔Section 2. The Senate recognizes the 25th anniversary of the independence of Azerbaijan.

➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this

Resolution to Senator Mike Wilson.