

2011-J3013

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION observing the 22nd Anniversary of Black January

WHEREAS, Each year on January 20th, Azerbaijani-Americans observe the Anniversary of Black January, the event which marked the beginning of the end of Soviet rule in Azerbaijan; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body joins the United States Azeris Network (USAN) in observing the 22nd Anniversary of Black January on Friday, January 20, 2012; and

WHEREAS, The brutality of the Black January tragedy was the biggest exercise in collective punishment by reactionary forces of the Communist Party; and

WHEREAS, On January 20, 1990, Azerbaijan was invaded by 26,000 Soviet troops who stormed the capital city of Baku with tanks and armored vehicles; and

WHEREAS, A courageous resistance by Azerbaijanis to the Soviet invasion continued into February; and

WHEREAS, According to Azerbaijani records, 130 Azerbaijanis were killed, five went missing, over 611 were wounded, and 841 were arrested; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet attack against innocent civilians in Azerbaijan followed massacres in other Soviet republics, including Kazakhstan (1986), Georgia (1989), and was tragically replicated one year later in Lithuania; and

WHEREAS, The Baku incursion was an atrocity, but it also gave birth to a hope which led to the consolidation of the rising independence movements throughout the country, and united the Azerbaijani nation in their quest for freedom; and

WHEREAS, The following year, on October 18, 1991, the Azerbaijan parliament restored the country's independence; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to observe the 22nd Anniversary of Black January.