

Proclamation

WHEREAS, February 26, 2021, marks the 29th anniversary of the Khojaly Massacre in Azerbaijan, and the observance of the 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, I, GEORGE VAN DUSEN, Mayor of the Village of Skokie, do hereby proclaim that it recognizes February 26, 2021 as the 29th Anniversary of the Khojaly Massacre Commemoration Day.

Dated this 16th day of February 2021



Pramod C. Shah
Village Clerk


George Van Dusen
Mayor