IN OBSERVANCE OF THE 21th ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY MASSACRE

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2013, Azerbaijani-Americans observe the 21th anniversary of the Khojaly Massacre; and

WHEREAS, on the night of February 25-26, 1992, Armenian armed forces, supported by Russia's 366th motorized infantry regiment, attacked the town of Khojaly in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and opened an indiscriminate fire on its fleeing civilian residents; and

WHEREAS, during the attack on Khojaly, 613 Azerbaijani civilians, including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly, were brutally massacred; over 1,000 people received permanent health damage; 1,275 people were taken hostage; 8 families were fully destroyed and over 150 children lost one or both of their parents; and

WHEREAS, Human Rights Watch called the Khojaly Massacre a largest mass killing of civilians in the course of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and regarded it as a violation of the customary law on the treatment of civilians in war zones, thus amounting to a crime against humanity; and

WHEREAS, Armenia continues to formally deny any responsibility while its incumbent president depicted the genocidal acts committed in Khojaly as an act of revenge against Azerbaijanis; and

WHEREAS, the conflict left Armenian forces in control of the fifth of Azerbaijan proper, and the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly adopted several resolutions calling for the withdrawal of Armenian forces from occupied Azerbaijani territories; and

WHEREAS, the cruelty of atrocities committed by Armenian forces against the innocent men, women and children of Khojaly is unfathomable and should not be forgotten; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED that State of _____ offers sincere sympathies to the people of Azerbaijan, stands in solidarity with Azerbaijani-American Council (AAC) and Azerbaijan Society of America (ASA) in solemn observance of the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly Massacre