

## **Azerbaijan America Alliance Gala Dinner *A Night in Washington with Friends from Baku***

**Wednesday, November 14, 2012, 7:00 p.m.**

*Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest, Washington, D.C.*

The Alliance hosted a gala dinner on Wednesday, November 14, 2012, in Washington, D.C. for nearly 700 invited guests from the Obama Administration, Capital Hill, the Diplomatic Corps, and the think tank and academic communities. The event highlighted the growing relationship between the United States and Azerbaijan, while celebrating the ancient and rich culture of this key ally in the South Caucasus region.

Themed "A Night in Washington with Friends from Baku," the gala was hosted by Alliance founder Anar Mammadov under the honorary patronage of H.E. Ambassador Elin Suleymanov. The evening included Azerbaijani music and dance as well as a dinner of traditional Azerbaijani dishes.



### **Congressman Dan Burton Gave the Keynote Address**

Rep. Dan Burton, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe and Eurasia, delivered keynote remarks. He was joined by other Congressional leaders including Senator Saxby Chambliss, Senator Richard Burr and House Speaker John Boehner. Other dignitaries included Ambassadors and other senior diplomatic representatives from 40 embassies in DC.



In his remarks to attendees, Chairman Burton praised Azerbaijan and its people, noting that the country made a wonderful first impression and adding that "Baku is one of the most beautiful cities in the world." He urged his colleagues in Congress and attendees at the gala to visit Baku and get to know Azerbaijan. Chairman Burton also noted that "it is extremely important that we expand our relationship with Azerbaijan" and lauded the Alliance's work to build new ties.

### **Eurovision Pop Sensations Eil & Nikki, Natig Rhythm Performed**



Eil & Nikki, the 2011 winners of the pop Eurovision song contest, entertained the audience with their smash hit, "Running Scared". The eclectic drum group Natig Rhythm Group also impressed the crowd.

Other famous performers from Azerbaijan:

*Jangi Dance Ensemble*

*Mensum Ibrahimov, Mugham singer*

*Mirpasha Shukurov, Mugham singer*

*"This evening was a fantastic example of how music, food and cultural exchange can build bridges of friendship, mutual respect and understanding between two peoples from across the globe.*

*Anar Mammadov,  
Founder of the Alliance*



### **Speaker of the House John Boehner Attended**



## Media Coverage of the Event

**The Hill**, "Washington Has Friends in Baku" by Khayal Sharif-zadeh

<http://thehill.com/blogs/global-affairs/quest-commentary/265829-azerbaijan-america-alliance-chairman-khayal-sharif-zadeh-washington-has-friends-in-baku>

**Forbes.com**, "America, Meet Azerbaijan" by Hilary Kramer

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/hilarykramer/2012/11/07/america-meet-azerbaijan/>

**Forbes.com**, "Azerbaijan: A Metaphor for Sustainable Change" by Hilary Kramer

[http://www.forbes.com/sites/hilarykramer/2012/11/25/azerbaijan-a-metaphor-for-sustainable-change-2/?utm\\_source=dlvr.it&utm\\_medium=twitter](http://www.forbes.com/sites/hilarykramer/2012/11/25/azerbaijan-a-metaphor-for-sustainable-change-2/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter)

**Bloomberg**, "Scene in D.C.: Legislator Dance" by Stephanie Green

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-16/scene-in-d-c-russian-pepsi-arab-art-legislator-dance.html>

**Revamp**, "Speaker Boehner, Congressional Leaders, AMBs Reaffirm US/Azerbaijani Relationship at Dinner Gala" by Daniel Swartz

<http://www.revamp.com/story.php?StoryID=2127>

**News.Az**, "Extremely Important to Expand Relationship with Azerbaijan - US Congressman"

<http://www.news.az/articles/politics/72038>

## Azerbaijan America Alliance 2012-2013 Scholarship Awards



Alliance Founder Anar Mammadov awarded three recipients of the 2012-2013 Azerbaijan America Alliance Scholarship: Ismayil Huseynov, Turkhan Sadigov, and Jeannette Gerry. The university students were selected based on merit as well as financial need and will receive \$10,000 each to support their programs of study.



For more on the Azerbaijan America Alliance:  
Check out our website: [www.azerbaijanamericaalliance.org](http://www.azerbaijanamericaalliance.org)

