

HONORING DR. ETHEL HALL DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2014

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Black History month and my commitment to honoring influential African Americans that have impacted the state of Alabama and this nation. Today, I have the pleasure of sharing the inspiring story of Dr. Ethel Harris Hall. Dr. Hall was the first African American to serve on the Alabama State Board of Education and she was also the first African American Vice President of the Board of Education. In Alabama, we remember this exemplary educator for her role in breaking barriers in education and for her lifelong commitment to excellence.

Dr. Hall was born on February 23, 1928 in Morgan County Alabama to Harry and Fannie Mae Harris. The Harris' sent their daughter to Birmingham to ensure that she received a quality education. She attended Ullman High School, A.H. Parker High School, and Council Training School. She was valedictorian of her class and went on to attend Alabama A&M University where she graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1948. She also obtained masters degrees from the University of Chicago and Atlanta University. She continued her studies at the University of Alabama where she obtained a doctorate in social work in 1979.

Throughout her tenure, this stellar educator taught in various schools systems throughout the state of Alabama including Hale County Schools, Birmingham City Schools, and Jefferson County Schools. Dr. Hall also taught at the collegiate level and was the first African American faculty member at the University of Montevallo. She later taught in the school of social work at The University of Alabama where she retired in 1999.

On January 19, 1987 Dr. Hall made history when she became the first black elected to serve on the Alabama State Board of Education. During her 24 year tenure, she served six terms and became vice chair in 1994. Dr. Hall served on the State Board of Education during many tumultuous battles over issues such as funding levels for schools, teacher testing, accountability standards for schools and academic standards for students. In making these tough decisions, she always remained a woman of principle-putting Alabama's children first.

In 2010, shortly before her death, Dr. Hall published her autobiography entitled "My Journey: A Memoir of the First African American to preside over the Alabama Board of Education." Dr. Hall stated that she felt it was important to share her story to inspire others to appreciate the opportunities they had been afforded. "I wrote the book because as I worked on the state board I found so many young people who took education for granted," Hall said. "They just assumed that everybody had the opportunity to go to school where they wanted to . . ." In telling her story, she hoped to not only share her experiences as a trailblazer, but to tell others about how she saw Alabama's education system evolve through the years.

While we honor Dr. Hall for breaking barriers, we must also salute this extraordinary

woman for her commitment to the students that she served. She led with grace and impeccable character that was defined by her passion for challenging students to be their very best. As a role model, she inspired her fellow educators to be servant leaders to their students and to their community. This beloved figure is also remembered for belief that all children deserved a quality education. Through her work she truly taught us to see education as the great equalizer.

During Black History month, simply saying thank you to Dr. Hall seems woefully inadequate but on behalf of a grateful nation we salute this pioneer and acknowledge her role not only in black history but American history. Her story is a perfect illustration of passionate leadership and selfless service to mankind. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Ethel Harris Hall, a phenomenal woman and a great American.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS M. HUNTER

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Appalachia's most dedicated allies, Thomas M. Hunter. Tom will retire after 20 years of esteemed service as Executive Director of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC).

Over the years, Tom has made a tremendous impact on eastern Kentucky's communities and local economies. The ARC has consistently worked to leverage their funding in order to spur private-sector investment in commercial and industrial development, as well as provide for improved water, sewer, gas, fiber, and road infrastructure projects where they had previously been sorely needed. Many of these investments have occurred in my District, where all 28 of the counties I represent are recognized as a part of the ARC. Specifically, Tom has had oversight of the 3,080-mile Appalachian Development Highway System; noted to be the cornerstone of the ARC's transportation efforts. The ADHS is a system of modern highways that connect with the interstate highway system. The ADHS recently achieved 85 percent completion, and has already proved to be a formidable economic stimulator for a region where roadways have traditionally been difficult to construct and often fall into disrepair. In my district, these vital corridors allow Kentuckians from even the most remote areas a chance to reach interstates with ease; thus opening up entire communities to travel and trade in a way that would have been impossible just a few decades ago.

All told, Tom Hunter has his fingerprints on hundreds of improvement projects in eastern Kentucky alone. Over the last 20 years, he has affected the lives of countless Kentuckians by overseeing the installation and repair of water lines, investments in small regional businesses via grant initiatives, and educational programs such as the Appalachian Higher Education Network—a group developed to work with high schools to increase the number of college-ready students in Appalachia. Tom has aided in tourism development with projects such as the Kentucky Artisan

Heritage Trails, and actively demonstrated his interest in improving the health of Appalachians with the creation of the Appalachian Health Policy Advisory Council. Tom has done so much for my district, and for Kentucky, that it becomes difficult to fathom how he has likely been an equally significant champion for the other 12 states included in the Appalachian Regional Commission's territory. The ARC has been an extraordinary federal agency due to the constant commitment they have shown in responding to the needs of people throughout Appalachia. There is no doubt that Tom's strategic leadership was a fundamental driver behind the ARC's steady success.

As he moves into retirement, Tom leaves behind a legacy of forthright demeanor, an attentive ear, and humility in service. His wisdom, care and passion for the region will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a true hero of the Appalachian region, Thomas M. Hunter. I wish him all the best in the years to come.

HONORING AUGUST "GUS" SCHAEFER ON A DISTINGUISHED 41-YEAR CAREER WITH UNDERWRITERS LABORATORIES

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to honor August "Gus" Schaefer for an extraordinary career—41 years of innovation and leadership in product and public safety at Underwriters Laboratories (UL) in the suburban Chicago district I represent. Under his watch, more than 25 billion products worldwide have earned the UL stamp of approval.

As UL's Public Safety Officer, Mr. Schaefer has pioneered and overseen countless major safety initiatives. His work and leadership have helped firefighters do their jobs better and safer. His commitment has guaranteed the safety of imports from around the world. And his dedication has helped teach fire, water, health, environmental, online and consumer safety to untold thousands of children each year.

Mr. Schaefer began his career with UL in 1973. Over the next 41 years, he built a reputation for excellent work and leadership, as well as for building partnerships and forging friendships. Mr. Schaefer successfully built teams and cultivated a team atmosphere.

His record, his experience and his work ethic earned him roles as the Director of Asian Operations and then U.S. and Canadian Operations before finally taking his position as Senior Vice President and Public Safety Officer.

Throughout his storied career, Mr. Schaefer maintained his commitment to excellence and team building. His accomplishments demonstrate the grand vision and discipline necessary to take ideas to action.

Mr. Schaefer's career has indeed been long and distinguished. I have no doubt his presence, guidance, friendship, leadership and vision will be sorely missed at UL, but his legacy and accomplishments will long be remembered and have set the foundation for years more success and safety.

RECOGNIZING JANA PAVLUS AS THE 2015 ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Jana Pavlus as the 2015 Escambia County, Florida Teacher of the Year. An outstanding educator, Ms. Pavlus has been an inspiration to her students, her colleagues, and her community, and I am proud to recognize her success and myriad of achievements.

Ms. Jana Pavlus graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Mobile in 2007 with a Bachelor of Science in Religion and Psychology. She began her teaching career in 2008 in Northwest Florida's Escambia County School District. After serving as a substitute teacher, as well as a Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) math tutor, Ms. Pavlus joined the faculty at Woodham Middle School, located in Pensacola, Florida, in 2010, where she currently serves as a seventh grade science teacher.

Ms. Pavlus not only believes that community involvement is critical in fostering a love and value of education in each student, but she understands and values the critical role she plays in the journey and professional development of her students. Throughout her teaching career, Ms. Pavlus has shown an unwavering commitment to inspiring her students and pushing them to their highest potential. In addition to helping students grasp difficult scientific theories, Ms. Pavlus also recognizes the importance of strong communications skills in improving critical thinking and is constantly challenging her students to understand why writing, analysis, and mathematics are important not only in other areas of study, but particularly in the study of science.

The dedication and commendable work Ms. Pavlus demonstrates as an educator has not gone unnoticed. She was awarded the Woodham Middle School Teacher of the Year for 2013–2014 and was one of a few teachers invited to attend a Capturing Kids' Hearts Workshop, which has influenced her teaching style and strengthened her connection with her students.

Mr. Speaker, Northwest Florida has been blessed with an abundance of exemplary educators who constantly strive to empower as well as teach their students, and it is a privilege to recognize Ms. Jana Pavlus as the 2015 Escambia County, Florida Teacher of the Year. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Ms. Pavlus and thanking her for her commitment to serving the students and families of the Northwest Florida community. We wish her all the best for continued success.

COMMEMORATION OF SUMGAI, KIROVABAD AND BAKU MASSACRES

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, today we commemorate the 26th Anniversary of the horrific

Sumgait Pogroms. On February 27, 1988 organized mobs of Azerbaijanis aimed at killing and driving Armenian Christians living in Sumgait from their homes. Armed with sticks, axes and iron rods, they attacked Armenian men, women and children by breaking into their homes and brutally beating and killing them just because of their ethnicity. Despite Sumgait's 30 minute proximity to Baku, police allowed the pogroms to go on for 3 days, during which Armenians were burned alive and thrown from windows.

These acts were merely a continuation of the Azerbaijani authorities' unswerving policy of racism towards Armenians and ethnic cleansing of the Armenian population, with unpunished killings and deportations.

The Sumgait massacre is a black mark on history and sadly, this event sparked further violence as Armenians would be targeted less than 9 months later in Kirovabad and again in Baku in 1990.

The Azerbaijani Government has shamefully continued to undermine prospects for a lasting peace in the Southern Caucasus, recently in 2012, pardoning an Azerbaijani military officer Ramil Safarov who brutally murdered Armenian military officer Gurban Margaryan during a NATO-sponsored Partnership for Peace exercise in 2004. Safarov confessed and was convicted in Budapest for brutally axing Margaryan while he was sleeping. Safarov never showed remorse for the murder and stated that he wished he had killed more Armenians. Immediately after his pardon Safarov received a promotion in the Azerbaijani military, an apartment, and years of back pay for his time spent in prison.

For more than 20 years, the people of Nagorno Karabakh have fought and died for their independence. From the earliest days of its formation, the Republic's freely elected governmental bodies have helped build an open democratic society through transparent elections and it is critical that the United States support their independence and autonomy.

As we reflect on these horrific outbreaks of ethnic violence, I join with Armenians in Rhode Island, and across the world in remembering these victims and renewing our commitment to justice, independence and finding lasting peace.

I am proud to say Rhode Island was the first state in our nation to pass a resolution to recognize the Independence of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic and set an example for other legislatures to follow, like Massachusetts, Maine and Louisiana. The time has come for the United States Congress to do the same.

HONORING REV. ABRAHAM L. WOODS, JR. AND BISHOP CALVIN W. WOODS

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month, I rise today to continue my commitment to paying tribute to outstanding African-Americans who have made tremendous contributions to the political, economic and social fabric of Alabama and

this nation. Today, I am honored to recognize brothers Rev. Abraham Lincoln Woods, Jr. and Bishop Calvin W. Woods, Sr. for their incredible audacity and courage during the darkest days of the Civil Rights Movement.

Rev. Abraham Lincoln Woods, Jr. and Bishop Calvin W. Woods, Sr. were both born in Birmingham, Alabama to Maggie Rosa Lee Wallace Woods, a homemaker, and Rev. Abraham Lincoln Woods Sr., a plant worker and Baptist minister.

In the spring of 1963, Rev. Abraham Woods led Birmingham's first demonstration at a whites-only lunch counter in downtown Birmingham. In the days and weeks following the first sit-in, Rev. Abraham Woods was arrested along with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other civil rights leaders for confronting Bull Connor. Rev. Abraham Woods had become friends with Dr. King while they were students at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia and later joined him on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial for his "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963.

Rev. Abraham Woods received a bachelor's degree in theology from Birmingham Baptist College, a bachelor's in sociology from Miles College in Birmingham and a master's in American history from the University of Alabama. He co-founded the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights in 1956 with Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth and served as the director for the Miles College Voter Registration Project.

Thirty-four years after the bombing of Birmingham's 16th Street Baptist Church, Rev. Abraham Woods played a pivotal role in urging the federal government to re-investigate the bombing. The new investigation led to the conviction of two Klansmen. "Even the Klan, as bad as they are," he told the New York Times in a 1997 interview, "you didn't think they would go as far as to bomb a church on Sunday with little children in Sunday school."

While president of the Birmingham chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Rev. Abraham Woods led protests which were instrumental in integrating country clubs and golf courses in Alabama and across the nation. The P.G.A. had chosen a Birmingham country club as the site for its 1990 Championship. The protests that followed impelled major corporations to withdraw advertising from the tournament which led to the integration of the club.

Rev. Abraham Woods is also remembered as an exemplary educator. He was the first African American to teach American history at the University of Alabama. In 2002, Rev. Abraham Woods retired from Miles College after forty years on its faculty. Upon his retirement, Miles College conferred upon him the Doctorate of Humane Letters. He went on to retire as president of the Birmingham chapter of the SCLC in 2006. He served as pastor of St. Joseph's Baptist Church in Birmingham for thirty-seven years until his death on November 7, 2008 at the age of 80.

Rev. Abraham Woods had an incredible impact on the state of Alabama and this nation in his pursuit of justice. He taught all of us the importance of loving God and living for others.

In 2006, Bishop Calvin Woods succeeded his older brother as president of the Birmingham SCLC and became president of the New Era Baptist State Convention a year later.