

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.