

brave veterans? We probably would live in a country where we were not free at all. We couldn't go to school and get a good education for our futures. We couldn't go to the church we wanted or go to church at all. We probably couldn't choose our jobs or even our marriages!

"The brave veterans who risked their lives and health to fight to keep us free are perhaps some of the bravest people in our proud American history. They keep us and our rights safe and free from oppression, such as communism and tyranny.

"We have Veterans Day to honor the brave men and women who fought to keep us and our country free. We have two minutes of silence on Veterans Day called the 'Great Silence,' where we remember everybody who fought (and died) for our freedom. My Boy Scout troop marches in a parade for Veterans Day and throws candy to the parade watchers (and sometime we pick up candy on the road for ourselves!).

"On Veterans Day I feel proud to be living in America, where our noble veterans serve in the Armed forces to keep our country free. How do you feel on Veterans Day?"

Lauren Menges shared these thoughts: "Veterans Day is a day set aside to honor America's servicemen and women for their patriotism, love of their country, and willingness to sacrifice for our freedom. A veteran is anyone who has served in the armed forces, such as: Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, or Air Force.

"Veterans Day used to be called Armistice Day. It honored the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I on November 11, 1918. The end of the war took place on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918 with the German signing of the Armistice. It was declared a legal holiday on May 13, 1938, and was officially declared Veterans Day on November 11. Some people celebrate with a parade. Most schools have the day off. And other countries celebrate by observing two minutes of silence at 11:00.

"I have several family members who served in the military. My great uncle, Gordon Moniz, served in the Korean War, and my uncle, Bryan Menges, served during Operation Desert Storm. My first cousin, Joshua Menges, graduated last year from West Point and is now actively serving his country. I love that my family members served in the military. I am grateful for all the veterans and for their bravery.

"I would like to quote from a poem by Linda Ellis called 'Mommy, What is a Veteran?' 'How do you describe a veteran and the sacrifices they made so that you and your children's children could live free . . . and unafraid? How do you describe a veteran for a child's sake? You say: A veteran is a person to whom we owe every breath we take.'"

Also, we heard a statement from Maddie McCauley: "To many people, Veterans Day is special. Veterans Day all started on November 11, 1919, as Armistice Day. Armistice Day was to celebrate the first anniversary of World War I. Armistice Day was to honor all the brave soldiers who fought in World War I, keeping the United States safe. Now, Veterans Day is to honor all the brave souls who fought in all wars, who gave us our freedom, which many people elsewhere do not have.

"Veterans Day is celebrated with speeches, parades, special church services or cere-

monies, visiting graves, and having the Great Silence. Many people visit the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This tomb holds the body of a U.S. soldier who was killed in battle. Nobody knew who this fearless man was.

"Veterans Day to me is an important holiday. I do have a few veterans in my family. My Great-Grandpa Hal was a fighting ace in the Air Force for many years. My family and I hang our American flag from our house. We also wear red, white, and blue to honor America. I think of many soldiers who endured many tough days away from their family fighting. I think, 'Thank you for all you have suffered just to keep us free and safe.'"

Katy, Liam, Lauren, Maddie, and their classmates, even at their young age, understand the sacrifices made by our veterans. I was glad they were able to participate in the ceremony alongside other public officials, and the many veterans who were on hand.

Together, we all thanked the families of three St. Mary's County fallen heroes for their sons' service and sacrifice. SPC Raymond J. Faulstich Jr. and CPL Matthew Wallace gave their lives serving in Iraq, and SGT Ryan Patrick Baumann fell in combat in Afghanistan. We also applauded a recently returned wounded warrior, Thomas Caleb Getscher, who lost both legs and part of an arm in Afghanistan. Patuxent Habitat for Humanity will soon be helping to renovate his home to make it more accessible.

In their memory, and in honor of the veterans who returned home, we continue to recommit ourselves every Veterans Day to meeting our obligations to those who served our nation and put their lives on the line for the freedoms we hold dear.

#### A TRIBUTE TO CHARLENE PHILLIPS

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Charlene Phillips, a native New Yorker with a passion for helping others through non-profit means.

Ms. Phillips was educated in the New York City Public School system. She attended Long Island University where she received an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts and a Bachelor of Arts Degree. She graduated with Honors, *Suma Cum Laude*.

Ms. Phillips is the District Manager for Community Board 3, a position she has held since January 2006. She began working for the Community Board in December of 2004. Ms. Phillips has always enjoyed assisting people and felt that she would be able to live her passion through her position of helping at the Community Board. She has managed for the past 15 years to work in the field of service provider to the community through diverse non-profit organizations.

Prior to coming to Community Board 3, she worked in the office of Attorney Kimberly L. Detherage, again providing service to those of our community. Ms. Phillips possesses a humble spirit and is rarely seen in the forefront. In the 1990s she worked for a church where she provided services to the congregants, often utilizing the services of the Community Board

and its former District Manager. Later, she worked for an organization, The Faith Center for Community Development, which specialized in capacity building for organizations within the faith-based community to enhance the communities around them through areas of housing, day care, and multi-service facilities.

In addition to her work at the Community Board, Ms. Phillips is very active in her church. Her activities include singing in the choir, teaching children in Sunday School, and she also worked with the Female Rites of Passage Program for young ladies between the ages of 12–18 for twelve years. She has recently become a Deacon in Brooklyn Community Church.

Ms. Phillips believes that God places you in diverse circumstances to allow you to fully understand exactly where you should be and what you should be doing.

Ms. Phillips' motto is: "If she can help someone as she passes along this way; then her living will truly not be in vain.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Charlene Phillips for her extraordinary ability to serve her fellow constituents with unwavering dedication.

GREATER NEW BEDFORD SALUTES  
THE VERY REV. CONSTANTINE S.  
BEBIS

#### HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2011*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on October 30th, one of the great leaders of Southeastern Massachusetts retired—not from our community, but in his official capacity as the Pastor of St. George Greek Orthodox Church. His retirement comes to some extent as a loss to our community, although after 58 years of superb service, no one can begrudge him that step. But we do not believe he will be retiring from the extraordinarily important role he has played in the life of the community at large.

Father Bebis was a man of great enthusiasm for life, deep learning and an example or religion in its very best sense. To be with him was to draw strength from him, to be inspired and cheered by him, and to feel lucky to be one of the countless people whom he treated as friends.

Mr. Speaker, in the New Bedford Standard Times, Saturday, October 29th, Linda Andrade Rodrigues wrote a very thoughtful piece that captures the spirit of Father Bebis and the love that people in our region have for him. I ask that this be printed here.

[From Southcoast Today, Oct. 29, 2011]

'HE HAS ILLUMINED OUR MINDS, DEEPEENED OUR SOULS, ENLARGED OUR HEARTS': THE VERY REV. CONSTANTINE S. BEBIS RETIRES AFTER 58 YEARS AS PASTOR

(By Linda Andrade Rodrigues)

DARTMOUTH, NH.— The Very Rev. Constantine S. Bebis, the beloved pastor of St. George Greek Orthodox Church for the past 58 years, will officially retire on Oct. 30, celebrating his last Sunday service as "proistamenos".

Born on the isle of Crete, Bebis never dreamed that he would someday come to America. As a young boy, he lived in Pireaus, Greece, with his widowed mother

who struggled to raise her three young children while working as a seamstress.

The family survived the German occupation from April 1941 to October 1944.

"Italy bombed us, Germany bombed us, and then the allies bombed us," he said. "Many of my neighbors got killed. How I survived was a miracle!"

Bebis said that during this difficult time, the Greeks longed for emancipation from the Americans and the British.

"I had no money, but I wanted to study English," he said. "I gave an English teacher part of my bread coupons. I denied myself food so I could buy books and learn English."

During a catechism class, the teacher asked if any of the students had considered the priesthood.

"I was the only one who raised a hand," he said. "I wanted to become a priest like my grandfather."

At the end of the class, the teacher asked him, "Do you want to go to America?"

"Of course," he answered.

A short time later an American bishop visited Greece, and Bebis was chosen as a seminarian. He arrived in the United States in 1947.

He received a full scholarship to study theology for the priesthood of the Greek Orthodox Church.

"This country has been wonderful to me," he said.

Bebis earned a master's degree in theology and was ordained on March 25, 1951.

The same year he wed Irene Vouris of Wauwatown.

"I married a wonderful woman," he said. "Irene was a beautiful lady, the redeeming feature in my life, and she gave me four marvelous, successful children: Stephen, George, Paul and Constance.

"I am also grateful for my 11 grandchildren and four great-children"

Bebis became the pastor of St. George Greek Orthodox Church in New Bedford on Oct. 1, 1953.

"When I came to New Bedford, some prominent people told me that this was a difficult parish in a difficult town, and they gave me six months," he said laughing. "I found the people extremely fine, and in every person I saw the image of Christ."

Bebis has always been involved in ecumenical activities, serving as a member of the Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford since 1954.

"I was very happy to associate myself with both my friends from the Inter-Church Council and the many Catholic priests," he said.

In May 1976, the ecumenical patriarchate of Constantinople awarded him the title of protopresbyter, the highest rank of a married priest in the Greek Orthodox Church.

Bebis reached out to the community as pastor; as founder of the antipoverty agency, the Agnes Braz and Hope Bean North End Community Center; and as president of On-board Legal Services for the Poor, among a host of other charitable work.

In May 2003, Metropolitan Methodios of Boston conferred upon Bebis the ancient office of archimandrite, the title given to priests who are eligible to become bishops.

Bebis was honored by the City of New Bedford in 2004 for his more than 50 years of service to the community. His portrait by artist Deborah Macy is on display at the New Bedford Free Public Library.

A bench in front of the Math and Science building at Bristol Community College also pays tribute to the Greek immigrant who became the beloved father to his congregation, as well as friend and benefactor to the community at large.

Marking his amazing journey are these words carved in stone: "He has illumined our minds, clarified our vision, deepened our

souls, enlarged our hearts, broadened our compassion, enriched our spirit, and our humanity."

Bebis said that his mission was crowned when the congregation moved into their new church building on Cross Road in Dartmouth two years ago.

"It was an emotional thing for some of the parishioners to leave the old church," he said. "But the church is flourishing in our new facilities. I am amazed at the attendance."

A resident of New Bedford, Bebis said that he will remain a faithful and supportive member of the parish.

"I decided to retire, but a priest never retires," he said. "I will still be here as a member of the parish. As long as I live, I will serve the church."

#### CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YMCA OF DANE COUNTY

#### HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 125th anniversary of the YMCA of Dane County and to honor all those who make this institution such an influential part of our community.

As a component of the greater YMCA system, the Dane County Y exemplifies the values of the national organization. The YMCA of Dane County is committed to youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. These three areas of focus fuel the numerous programs and services the Y delivers to our community. In 2010, the YMCA of Dane County graciously spent more than \$572,000 in programs that benefit the public.

The YMCA is a place where more than 19,800 youth members cultivate skills and gain the self-confidence necessary to become successful and positive members of society. Programs like Fill the Gap help youth grow by targeting at-risk teens and engaging them in challenging and fun activities in safe environments. Furthermore, thirty licensed before and after school sites throughout the county care for 1,200 children each day. These sites provide the necessary environment to keep children learning, engaged, and safe.

Additionally, the Y's Healthy Living initiative is fighting the country's obesity epidemic by encouraging a more active lifestyle. Each year, the YMCA reaches over 60,000 people through their wellness programs and provides a safe and clean environment for exercise. Furthermore, various exercise classes and access to pools and gymnasiums help encourage our community to stay fit and healthy.

The YMCA of Dane County also works towards producing hard-working members of society with its social responsibility programs. The YMCA's mission strives to ensure that every person has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive, regardless of socio-economic status. One of the many ways the Dane County Y fulfills this mission is by providing support, educational, and training services to unemployed citizens, which are desperately needed in the tough economic times we face today. This clear and determined dedication to improving the lives of community members not only physically, but also emotionally, highlights the importance of the YMCA of Dane County.

The Lussier Family East, Northeast, and Lussier Family West branches of the YMCA of Dane County work in conjunction to better our community and provide valuable resources and support. Along with the three branches, the four youth centers and numerous child care locations create a strong network dedicated to improving the lives of the members of our community.

I admire the mission and efforts of the YMCA of Dane County and look forward to many more years of service to our community. I proudly join those across Dane County, the entire state of Wisconsin, and our great nation in celebrating the 125th anniversary of the YMCA of Dane County and in thanking the members, employees, volunteers, and donors for their exemplary service to our community.

#### A TRIBUTE TO IZORA NEAL

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Detective First Grade Izora Neal for her dedication to restoring law and order in my district, as well as for bridging the gap between the community and the police.

Detective First Grade Neal is currently assigned as the Community Affairs Officer of Police Service Area #2. She entered the New York City Police Department Academy in 1994. Upon her graduation, she was assigned to the PSA #2. Detective Neal excelled—engaging in numerous arrests while gaining experience on the force. Detective Neal was assigned to the Community Affairs position in October 1997. She entered the position with confidence and a genuine desire to have a positive impact for all New York City Housing Authority residents.

Detective Neal was ambitious about the prospects of becoming detective and made great strides towards accomplishing her goal. In July 1999, her perseverance was recognized as she was promoted to the rank of Detective Special Assignment. As a newly promoted Detective she continued in her present assignment and utilized her leadership and strong interpersonal skills, gaining the trust of all residents. In her continued pursuit for success, Detective Neal was promoted to the rank of Detective Second Grade in February 2003. Although pleased with her present rank and assignment, Detective Neal's desire for excellence compelled her to continue working hard. Her devotion for a better quality of life for all NYCHA residents proved to be very successful. In August 2006 she was promoted to the rank of Detective First Grade.

Currently, Detective Neal continues to make strides while assigned to Police Service Area #2, giving her the opportunity to display her leadership skills, and her dedication towards the community. As the Community Affairs Officer one must ensure a bond of trust and reliance between the police and community; one must be open-minded, unbiased and sensitive to the concerns and problems within the community, display empathy and compassion with sincerity, but not in a rehearsed manner. These ideas are a part of the partnership that allows Detective Neal to define herself as the Community Affairs Officer of Police Service Area #2.