

CELEBRATION MEETING
Chambers of the City Council
Thursday, March 21, 2019

CITY COUNCIL
Municipal Building
7:09 p.m.

PRESENT: Council President Morad, Councillors Abreu, Carney, Coelho, Giesta, Gomes, Lima, Lopes, Markey and Rebeiro.

LATE: No One

ABSENT: Councillor Dunn

Council President Linda M. Morad called the meeting to order and presided.

Councillor Markey led the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

COMMUNICATION, Council President Morad, to City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council Dennis W. Farias, calling SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL for THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2019, at 7:00 p.m., in CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, SECOND FLOOR OF CITY HALL, for the celebration and awarding of official City Council Citations and Resolutions.

Received and Placed on File. (#0518)

COMMUNICATION, Councillor Dunn, to Members of the City Council, notifying that he will be absent for the Special City Council Celebration Meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2019, due to a work conflict.

Received and Placed on File. (#0519)

CITATION, Councillor Giesta and Council President Morad, honoring DOROTHY BURGESS, in recognition of her 45 years of dedicated service to the residents of New Bedford as a member of the City's Assessor's Department and with sincere wishes that the Good Lord bestow continued health and happiness in her retirement years.

Adopted. (#0520)

CITATION, Councillor Lopes, honoring MEGHAN SILVIA, Standard-Times 2018 SouthCoast Teacher of the Year, in recognition of her being a great teacher who goes above and beyond her teaching duties to help support her students.

TABLED. (#0521)

CITATION, Councillor Gomes, honoring J. DOUGLAS MENDES, in recognition of his kindness, thoughtfulness and compassion for the less fortunate and the commitment to making a difference in the lives of others.

Adopted. (#0522)

CITATIONS, Councillors Abreu, Carney, Coelho, Dunn, Giesta, Gomes, Lima, Lopes, Markey, Council President Morad and Councillor Rebeiro, honoring JACK SPILLANE, PHIL DEVITT, PETER PEREIRA, JENNIFER DRISCOLL, BRENDAN KURIE, MIKE VALERI, New Bedford Standard-Times, in recognition of their placing first at the New England Newspaper and Press Association Convention.

Adopted. (#0523)

CITATION, Councillors Abreu, Carney, Coelho, Dunn, Giesta, Gomes, Lima, Lopes, Markey, Council President Morad and Councillor Rebeiro, honoring PETER PEREIRA, New Bedford Standard-Times, in recognition of his being named Photojournalist of the Year by his peers from the New England Newspaper and Press Association.

Adopted. (#0524)

CITATION, Councillor Rebeiro, honoring LARRY ROY, in recognition of his 41 years of dedicated volunteer service to the New Bedford Fire Museum in keeping history alive by educating children and adults from near and far about the Museum's great past.

Adopted. (#0525)

CITATIONS, Councillor Gomes, honoring NANCY C. CABRAL, OLIVIA MARIE CAMARA and SABRINA GRACE CAMARA, in recognition of their kind and thoughtful generosity in providing children and adults with gloves, hats and scarves during the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremonies across the City.

Adopted. (#0526)

CITATION, Councillor Gomes, honoring ROSEMARY NUNES, EMS, in recognition of her thirty-five years of commitment, dedication and service to the people of the City of New Bedford.

Adopted. (#0527)

CITATIONS, Councillor Gomes, honoring LORI ALMEIDA, KENZI CABRAL, EMILIANA BAGANHA, KARA CLEMENTINNO, CHERYL GUY, BETTY LOPES, SUZETTE MEDEIROS, ELVIRA PAULINO, ROSA SALICETI and MARIA SANTOS, School Lunch Angels, in recognition of their inspiring heartfelt acts of kindness on behalf of the students at Normandin Middle School.

Adopted. (#0528)

CITATION, Council President Morad and Councillor Lopes, honoring KATHLEEN SOUZA, in recognition of being her being named the M.O. L.I.F.E., Inc., 2019, Katie Brienzo Personal Achievement Award Recipient. (Adopted to be presented at a later date.)

Adopted, to be presented at a later date. (#0529)

CITATIONS, Councillor Gomes, honoring OFFICERS CARL MORIN, CHRISTOPHER DUPONT, CAPTAIN AMANCIO (AMOS) MELO, LIEUTENANT RICHARD NETINHO, SERGEANT PAMELA MELO and OFFICER DEBORAH DUPONT, in recognition of their retirement from the New Bedford Police Department after their distinguished careers and their dedication and commitment to the Citizens of New Bedford after many years of service. (Adopted, to be presented at a later date.)

Adopted to be presented at a later date. (#0530)

The following resolution was presented by Councillors Carney, Coelho, Giesta, Council President Morad and Councillor Rebeiro.

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

IN CITY COUNCIL

MARCH 21, 2019

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION OF
NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH - MARCH 2019**

WHEREAS, American women of every race, class and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways and have served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement in the United States; and

WHEREAS, American women have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural and social role in every sphere of the life of the Nation by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home; and

WHEREAS, American women have played a unique role throughout the history of the Nation by providing the majority of the nation's volunteer labor force; American women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic and cultural institutions in the United States; and

WHEREAS, American women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement and other movements, especially the peace movement, which created a more fair and just society for all; and

WHEREAS, When women sought to question inequalities in their own lives, they turned to history to understand that if a woman's role could be socially constructed within a specific historical context, rather than natural and universal, then women could argue that it was open to change; and

WHEREAS, Women's history is now far more embedded in the curriculum of higher education than half a century ago, the number of professors in women's history has increased and it remains important to promote research into women's history, both inside academia and in the wider community; and

WHEREAS, It is also important to educate our children about the place of women in history, it wasn't all that long ago that school history textbooks made almost no mention of women's contributions, things have changed in recent years, but not as significantly as they could have changed, *History of Art*, considered the gold standard of art history books, contains only 15 female artists in its 800 pages, according to an article in Artsy, and in Texas, the State Board of Education voted to eliminate Helen Keller and Hillary Clinton from history textbooks in the interest of saving time and memorization, reported *Dallas News*, while keeping Billy Graham and local members of the Texas Legislature in the texts; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1980, the National Women's History Project is a non-profit educational organization committed to recognizing and celebrating the diverse and significant historical accomplishments of women by providing information and educational materials and programs and led the drive to write women back into history by recognizing the achievements of women in all facets of life; and

WHEREAS, As the National Women's History Museum explained, the month of March has been declared National Women's History Month by each President since 1995, and by Congress since 1987, prior to that, it was merely a National Women's History Week, established by former President Jimmy Carter in 1980, as a result of a lobbying effort by the National Women's History Project; and

WHEREAS, The National Women's History Month 2019 Theme is "*Visionary Women: Champions of Peace and Nonviolence*", as the National Women's History Alliance website explained, "This year we honor women who have led efforts to end war, violence, and injustice and pioneered the use of nonviolence to change society," in keeping with their tradition, the Alliance has selected 15 living and deceased honorees this year, who will be acknowledged at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., on March 30, 2019, the women include Graciela Sanchez, co-founder of the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center; Deborah Tucker, president of the Board of Directors of the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence; Dr. E. Faye Williams, human rights activist and President/CEO of the National Congress of Black Women; Sarah Brady, the late gun control activist and champion of the Brady Bill and Peace Pilgrim, who logged thousands of miles in her cross-country marches for peace before her death in 1981; and

WHEREAS, Despite these contributions, the role of American women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued, in the literature, teaching and study of American History:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the New Bedford City Council hereby recognizes March as **NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**, thanks all the women locally and nationally who have made a mark on our City, State and Country's culture, government and society.

Adopted. (0531)

The following resolution was presented by Councillor Lima and Council President Morad.

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

IN CITY COUNCIL

MARCH 21, 2019

**RESOLUTION HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE LIGUE DES FRANCO-AMÉRICAINS**

WHEREAS, The *Ligue des Présidents* was established on February 11, 1919 with the objective of coordinating activities between New Bedford's many French and French-Canadian clubs and societies and promoting a closer union among them; and

WHEREAS, The Ligue's first slate of officers included leaders of the city's French and French-Canadian clubs and societies: President: Noé Léopold Nadeau, President of the *Chambre de Commerce Franco-Américaine*; First Vice-president: Odilon Rousseau, President of the Supreme Council of the French Sharpshooters; Second Vice-president: Joseph S. Trudeau, Justice of the Peace; Treasurer: Charles A. Poirier, Secretary of the New Bedford City Overseers of the Poor and Secretary of the *Chambre de Commerce Franco-Américaine*; and Secretary and Chaplain: Reverend Henry Joseph Mussely, Pastor of Holy Rosary Church; and

WHEREAS, On March 18, 2003, the group changed its name to *La Ligue des Franco-Américains* to enable it to better meet and coordinate goals and to promote activities of New Bedford's remaining Franco-American member organizations; and

WHEREAS, For one century the Ligue has provided an additional forum for the elite leadership of New Bedford's French and French Canadian clubs and societies to promote the welfare of New Bedford's population of French or French-Canadian descent; and

WHEREAS, For one century the Ligue has annually celebrated the important occasion of the Feast of Saint John the Baptist, the patron saint of French Canadians, through activities to unite the city's residents, such early programs included religious observances, parades, clambakes, sporting events and prominent speakers, whereas recent programs include a mass, ceremonies to honor New Bedford veterans of French and French-Canadian descent, a banquet and an award ceremony; and

WHEREAS, Annually the Ligue honors residents of French or French-Canadian descent for their service and accomplishments, having recognized thirty-six of them in many different categories in the last ten years from 2009 to 2018; and

WHEREAS, Annually the Ligue bestows scholarships to graduating high school students of French or French-Canadian ancestry who are entering college to help defray their college expenses, to raise funds, in 1962, Rose Elizabeth Fitzgerald Kennedy, mother of the then President of the United States, John F. Kennedy, came to New Bedford to give an illustrated talk to benefit the Ligue's educational charities, moreover, in the last ten years from 2009 to 2018, at the Ligue banquets, financial aid was awarded to forty graduating seniors; and

WHEREAS, Its annual celebrations have repeatedly brought to the city representatives of the government of France and the Province of Quebec as speakers and at its 2018 banquet, a representative of the Quebec government presented its inaugural Recognition Award to Ligue President Normand E. Ouellette for his many contributions in promoting the French language in the United States; and

WHEREAS, On February 11, 2019, the *Ligue des Franco-Américains* celebrates the 100th anniversary of its founding:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the New Bedford City Council hereby sincerely thanks and honors **THE LIGUE DES FRANCO-AMÉRICAINS, ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY**, commends **THE LIGUE DES FRANCO-AMÉRICAINS** for its commitment, dedication and passion in its role as the leading Franco-American organization in New Bedford; and further, **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New Bedford City Council extends our warm and sincere wishes to **THE LIGUE DES FRANCO-AMÉRICAINS**.

Adopted, to be presented at a later date. (#0532)

The following resolution was presented by Councillor Lopes.

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

IN CITY COUNCIL

MARCH 21, 2019

**RESOLUTION HONORING THE NEW BEDFORD LIONS CLUB
ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 85TH ANNIVERSARY**

WHEREAS, The New Bedford Lions Club was chartered on December 18, 1934, by Lions Club International; and

WHEREAS, During the past 85 years, the New Bedford Lions Club has provided eyeglasses and hearing aids to those residents of New Bedford with limited or no income; and

WHEREAS, It has been estimated that the Club has provided over 1500 eyeglasses to the residents of New Bedford and over 200 hearing aids since the Lions International added hearing issues to its cause; and

WHEREAS, The New Bedford Lions Club has raised and donated almost \$100,000.00 dollars for Massachusetts Lions Eye Research (MLER) along with almost \$300,000 for the Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF), both organizations use the money to combat blindness and eye disease, conduct diabetes research and provides seed money to obtain grant funding necessary for research; and

WHEREAS, Several members of the New Bedford Lions Club have been elected to lead the District which New Bedford is a part of and the multiple Districts that comprise Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, A New Bedford resident has been elected to serve on the International Board and a New Bedford resident will lead the Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Foundation in the 2020 – 2021 Fiscal Year; and

WHEREAS, The New Bedford Lions Club has provided numerous charitable services to the visual and hearing-impaired citizens of New Bedford; and

WHEREAS, The New Bedford Lions Club have answered Helen Keller's request to be her Knights of the Blind and will meet on Saturday, April 06, 2019, at the Century House in Acushnet, Massachusetts, to celebrate their 85th anniversary and look forward to the next 85 years of service to the visual and hearing-impaired citizens of New Bedford:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the New Bedford City Council hereby honors **THE NEW BEDFORD LIONS CLUB ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 85TH ANNIVERSARY**, commends them for their long history of charitable public service, thanks them for continuing in the spirit of the generations that preceded them, and wishes them continued success in the future.

Adopted, to be presented at a later date. (#0533)

CITATIONS, Councillor Abreu, honoring MR. KEVIN AGRELLA and MR. IVAN BRODY, New Bedford Emergency Medical Services, in recognition of their life-saving measures in delivering a healthy baby girl in the back of their ambulance, en route to the hospital on Thursday, January 10, 2019.

TABLED – January 17, 2017.

Removed from the Table and ADOPTED. (#0133)

CITATION, Councillor Gomes, honoring DISTRICT CHIEF ROBERT FRATES, New Bedford Fire Department, in recognition of his distinguished career and his Dedication and Commitment to the Citizens of New Bedford after 39 Years of Service.

TABLED - January 17, 2017.

Removed from the Table and ADOPTED. (#0134)

CITATION, Councillor Gomes, honoring CAPTAIN RICHARD SHEA, New Bedford Fire Department, in recognition of his distinguished career and his Dedication and Commitment to the Citizens of New Bedford after 38 Years of Service.

TABLED – January 17, 2017.

Removed from the Table and ADOPTED. (#0135)

CITATION, Councillor Gomes, honoring FIREFIGHTER GARY VARGAS, New Bedford Fire Department, in recognition of his distinguished career and his Dedication and Commitment to the Citizens of New Bedford after 23 Years of Service.

Tabled – January 17, 2017.

Removed from the Table and ADOPTED.

(#0136)

The following resolution was presented by Councillor Carney.

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

IN CITY COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 15, 2018

**RESOLUTION HONORING US ARMY SPECIALIST CHRISTOPHER E. AZEVEDO
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RECEIVING THE
2018 SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS VETERAN OF THE YEAR AWARD**

WHEREAS, Christopher E. Azevedo, United States Army SPC, has been selected as the 2018 Southeastern Massachusetts Veteran of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Azevedo is the 23rd recipient of this award; and

WHEREAS, Christopher Azevedo the son of Zinada Eclleston and Antonio Azevedo, was born and raised in New Bedford, Massachusetts, graduated from Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School in 1988, and shortly thereafter left for active duty in the United States Navy, serving aboard the USS Vulcan; and

WHEREAS, Christopher E. Azevedo was deployed to Desert Storm, Active Navy, 1988-1991, Active Navy Reserve until 1993, and honorably discharged in 1994; and

WHEREAS, Christopher E. Azevedo became a Corrections Officer, working at Bay State Correctional, then the maximum security facility at Walpole, MCI Cedar Junction, where he ran the Plymouth 4 Gang Unit, he then served as a Firefighter with the City of New Bedford; and

WHEREAS, Following 9/11, Christopher E. Azevedo joined the Army National Guard from 2003-2006, as a Small Unit Operator in the elite 173rd Long-Range Surveillance Detachment and was on active duty with the 42nd Infantry Division which was deployed throughout Iraq during Operation Enduring Freedom; and

WHEREAS, While serving in Iraq, Christopher E. Azevedo ran full-spectrum Combat Operations and survived numerous attacks; and

WHEREAS, During his deployment, a direct hit to his vehicle left him with a traumatic brain injury, spine damage and multiple secondary medical issues; and

WHEREAS, After years of distinguished service, Christopher E. Azevedo was honorably discharged from the Army National Guard in 2008; and

WHEREAS, Upon his return home, Christopher E. Azevedo began to adjust to his combat-related medical issues and enrolled in college, graduating from Bristol Community College with two degrees, Health Sciences (with Honors) and obtaining a Math and Science transfer degree of General Studies (with Honors) and he is currently pursuing a Biology degree at Bristol Community College while working on a Psychology degree at UMASS Dartmouth, fulfilling Pre-Med requirements with hopes of becoming a doctor working with injured Veterans; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his education, Christopher E. Azevedo has decided to dedicate his life to serving the needs of his fellow Veterans and their families, mentoring them, providing them with support and counseling; and

WHEREAS, Christopher E. Azevedo will continue to be an advocate for Veterans, providing assistance, encouragement, educating Veterans on their rights and benefits; and

WHEREAS, On Thursday, November 08, 2018, Christopher E. Azevedo, Southeastern Massachusetts Veteran Of the Year, will be honored at a Luncheon at Rachel's Lakeside in Dartmouth, Massachusetts:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council wishes to acknowledge **US ARMY SPECIALIST CHRISTOPHER E. AZEVEDO'S** selection as **THE 2018 SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS VETERAN OF THE YEAR**, in addition to the many well-deserved accolades he has received during his life and wishes Christopher many years of continued success and happiness.

TABLED - November 15, 2018.

Removed from the Table and ADOPTED.

(#1879)

On a motion, the Council then adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

ATTEST:

DENNIS W. FARIAS, CITY CLERK/
CLERK OF THE CITY COUNCIL

