

wind tunnel facility in Tullahoma, Tennessee.

SOCIETY OF THE DIVINE WORD
CENTENNIAL

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 1995

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, October 15, hundreds of religious men and women will gather to celebrate the centennial of the Society of the Divine Word.

It was on October 15, 1895, that Brother Wendelin Meyer arrived in North America to establish a religious order of Catholic priests and brothers. Settling in northern Illinois, Brother Meyer and other missionaries opened a technical school for boys. Successful in its efforts, the Society continued its growth in 1909 with the establishment of the Nation's first seminary dedicated to educating men for work in foreign missions. Encouraged by Pope Pius XI, the mission in 1920 opened St. Augustine's Seminary in Bay St. Louis, MS, to serve the special needs of African-American men who wanted to become priests. Its alumni include nine bishops and at least 40 percent of the African-American clergy ordained in the United States.

Vital, successful and, above all, faithful, the Society continues its mission among America's immigrant Hispanic and Vietnamese populations. Its priests and brothers work among the poor on four continents living and practicing the teachings of the Gospel. With such a record of achievement and a brilliant future to come, the Society may look forward to a second century of unbridled progress.

THE RETIREMENT OF ARCHBISHOP
IAKOVOS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my sad duty to inform our colleagues of the impending retirement of one of the more outstanding religious leaders of the 20th century.

Archbishop Iakovos, the leader of the Greek Orthodox Church in the Western Hemisphere since 1959, has recently announced that he will be stepping down from office next June 29, on what will be his 85th birthday.

Throughout his 37 year tenure, the archbishop earned the respect and admiration of individuals of all faiths. His message of brotherhood and peace is truly universal, and has been appreciated by all men and women of good will.

Archbishop Iakovos was born in the Turkish island of Imroz in 1911. As a child, the young man then known as Demetrios A. Concouzins worked hard in his father's general store after school, selling everything to his fellow islanders from food staples to religious icons. But from his youngest days, Demetrios had dreams of entering religious life.

At the age of 16, his dreams began to come true. He entered the Halki Theological School, having passed the necessary entrance exams

and having saved enough money from his own earnings to enable him to travel to the school. He graduated with high honors in 1934, and having been ordained as a deacon, was assigned to the Metropolitan of Derkon in Turkey. After 5 years in that position, he was assigned to the United States. In 1940, in Boston, MA, he achieved his life ambition by being ordained a priest.

Upon assuming the priesthood, by ancient Greek Orthodox custom, he dropped his given name and adopted a new name: "Iakovos," which is Greek for James.

After many years as a priest, a preacher, and a teacher at various well regarded theological colleges in Massachusetts, New York, and Missouri, Iakovos was appointed bishop of Malta in late 1954. Traveling back to Europe to assume this position, Iakovos took with him a reputation for intellectual integrity, heartfelt compassion, and a master's degree he had earned at Harvard Divinity School in his spare time.

On February 14, 1959, Iakovos was elected archbishop of North and South America by the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He returned to America on March 31, and was enthroned the following day at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York City.

Throughout his tenure, Archbishop Iakovos has made it clear to orthodox worshipers and non-orthodox alike the he is not a typical religious leader, and in fact blazed many trails for leaders of other faiths. He marched with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., during the 1960's to end racial segregation and prejudice in the United States. He received the "Man of the Year" award from B'nai B'rith in 1962, and was also presented with the national award from the National Council of Christians and Jews that same year. He received a Presidential Citation from President Nixon in 1970 as a Distinguished American in Voluntary Service, and was presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in our Nation, by President Carter in 1980.

Throughout his tenure as archbishop, this remarkable man, Iakovos, amazed his coreligionists and other citizens of the world alike for his holy and profound philanthropy, through his authorship of books and articles in Greek, French and German, as well as in English, and for his unyielding devotion to the Boston Red Sox. For a time, Archbishop Iakovos was President of St. Basil's Academy in Garrison, NY, directly across the Hudson River from my own 20th Congressional District.

Today, in the United States alone, the Greek Orthodox Church boasts over 1½ million adherents who belong to 555 congregations. These communicants of a church founded nearly a millennium ago had found a true spiritual leader in Archbishop Iakovos: A man who not only personified the creed of Greek Orthodoxy, but who earned for that church the admiration and respect of millions of persons who professed other creeds.

Mr. Speaker, while Archbishop Iakovos will be missed, none can dispute that his impending retirement is certainly well earned. I urge all of our colleagues to join with me in wishing this remarkable religious leader many productive, healthy, and happy years to come.

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN J. KRASNECK

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 1995

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kevin J. Krasneck for rescuing two brothers from a fire on August 1, 1994. Alae-Eldeen, 6, and Mohammed, 3, were unconscious in a bedroom of their family's one-story house after fire broke out in their living room. Kevin, an off-duty firefighter, was among the neighbors and others who responded to the scene and attempted a rescue. He entered the house through a window in the bedroom adjacent to the boys' room, and despite intense heat and dense smoke which precluded visibility, crawled into the boys' room. He found Alae-Eldeen, carried him to the window that he had entered, and handed him out to another man. Kevin then returned to the bedroom for Mohammed, whom he also took to the window. After handing Mohammed outside to safety, Kevin exited the house. Alae-Eldeen and Mohammed were hospitalized for treatment of smoke inhalation and burns. Kevin also received hospital treatment for smoke inhalation. Fortunately, all three recovered.

In honor of his extraordinary heroism, Kevin J. Krasneck was awarded the Carnegie Medal. This medal is given to civilians in the United States and Canada who risk their lives to an extraordinary degree while saving or attempting to save the lives of others. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Kevin for his bravery, and am sure that my colleagues would like to join me in acknowledging this heroic act.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER POLICE
SERGEANT DONALD OLSON

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 1995

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding public servant, Sgt. Donald Olson, who retired on September 30, 1995, after 32 years with the Minnetonka, Minnesota, Police Department.

Sergeant Olson has represented the highest standards in law enforcement for more than three decades. He started his career in 1963 as a patrol officer and was later assigned to the Investigative Division. Because of his highly commendable performance and well-deserved reputation for absolute integrity, Sergeant Olson was named Acting Chief of Police in 1983.

In 1989 Sergeant Olson was recognized for his many contributions to the law enforcement profession and was selected Minnetonka's Police Officer of the Year by the department staff.

Sergeant Olson was promoted to Sergeant in December 1990, and has been assigned to the Patrol Division for the past 5 years. His willingness to coach and guide other officers has made him an invaluable asset to the supervisory team.

Currently, Sergeant Olson serves as president of the Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Association, as well as first vice president of the Suburban Law Enforcement Association.