

House Republican Press Release

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Klarides: Veterans' Medal Ceremony Successful



Over 600 Attend, Honoring Veterans from Derby, Orange and Woodbridge

WOODBIDGE – An award ceremony hosted by Deputy House Republican Leader Themis Klarides (R-Derby) honoring veterans of the armed services from Derby, Orange and Woodbridge brought out over 200 veterans along with nearly 400 of their friends, neighbors and family members. The event was organized by Klarides to issue the Connecticut Veterans Wartime Service Medal.

Representative Klarides was joined by Representatives Paul Davis (D-Orange) and Linda Gentile (D-Ansonia), as well as Orange First Selectman James Zeoli, Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Linda Schwartz, and Deputy Commissioner John Wiltse in honoring the veterans, and awarding the medals. A color guard was provided by members of the First Company Governor's Horse Guards out of Avon for the ceremony.

“Nothing gives me greater pride than to see so many of our beloved veterans here with their families from the three communities I represent in the legislature,” Klarides said in her remarks before the assembled crowd. “When our nation faced critical times of armed conflict the veterans we honor here today answered the call arms, defended our liberty and freedom, and made it their personal mission to preserve them for our future generations. I want to personally extend my gratitude and appreciation to all of you for being there when your communities and America needed you. The Connecticut Veterans Wartime Service Medal is a very small token of the great appreciation we all have for your defending this nation. I hope when each of you look on this medal, you will remember how much this state honors your service, and will never forget it.”

Klarides noted that she found the ceremony personally moving. “I was very deeply touched when the National Anthem played, and all of these veterans and their families began to sing it,” said Klarides. “It demonstrates the kind of patriotism and pride in America that these great people have, and I wish I could see more often. They are all great Americans and I am proud to represent them in the legislature.”