

GENERATIONS INVIGORATING VOLUNTEERISM AND EDUCATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1388) to reauthorize and reform the national service laws:

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 1388, the Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act, and I want to thank Representative MILLER and his staff for all their good work on this bill.

Among the bill's many provisions is one I helped to craft that will increase service opportunities for musicians and artists.

Specifically, it would create a Musicians and Artists Corps to train and deploy skilled musicians and artists to low-income communities, schools, healthcare and therapeutic settings, and other areas, where they will promote music and arts engagement programs.

As someone who has had music play an important role in my life, I know firsthand that music and the arts are about far more than just entertainment—they have the power to change lives.

Indeed, research has also backed this up. Music and arts education has been proven to contribute to lower crime rates among disadvantaged youth, and it improves graduation rates and academic performance in schools.

In the world of healthcare, we see even more benefits. Patients who have undergone trauma or are suffering from chronic illness, as well as those with emotional and mental health problems, all benefit from being engaged in art and music programs.

Clearly, there is a wide span of areas where music and the arts can play a key role, and there are hundreds of thousands of musicians and artists that have the talent and the skills to help their communities.

President Obama has called on us all to increase our service to our nation, and these musicians and artists are ready and eager to serve. The Musicians and Artists Corps will connect these volunteers with the settings where they can make a world of difference.

Our citizen service programs, like AmeriCorps, have done a great job of engaging Americans of all ages, from a variety of professions, in national service. It is time now that we bring more musicians and artists into this community.

Passage of the GIVE Act will go a long way toward increasing service in our country, and I am proud to support the measure.

A TRIBUTE TO YIN YIN HUANG

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Yin Yin Huang of Alhambra, California. Every March we celebrate Women's History Month in recognition of the con-

tributions and the sacrifices made by our Nation's women. Accordingly it is my privilege to highlight Mrs. Huang as a woman whose extraordinary efforts are vital to my district.

Now an acclaimed master piano instructor, Yin Yin was born in Taiwan and began her musical training at the age of ten. At sixteen years old, Yin Yin made her concert debut with the Chinese Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra and soon after with the Formosa Chamber Orchestra. She attained her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Chinese Culture, Taipei, and a Masters in Music from California State University, Los Angeles.

Today, Yin Yin has approximately thirty years of musical teaching experience, including courses taught in Taiwan before immigrating to the United States, and serves as a faculty member at California State University, Los Angeles. As an international concert pianist, she has worked with artists from all over the world such as the renowned baritone Dr. William Warfield. From East Asia to the Americas, Yin Yin's musical impact resonates around the world.

Yin Yin always wanted to realize her lifelong desire to make a meaningful difference in her community through music. Showing great compassion and a strong sense of civic duty, she organized a series of local charity concerts to raise money for the 1999 Taiwanese earthquake, the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Hurricane Katrina ravaged New Orleans musicians, and the 2004 South Asian tsunami relief effort.

Yin Yin and her husband have also conducted concerts at local retirement homes, annual midsummer events, and soloist and small ensemble recitals for the past twelve years. In 2005 she established the Acevedo Music & Art Education Foundation, a non-profit organization that enables youths to put their artistic talents to use for benevolent purposes.

In recognition of her charitable work, Yin Yin received the International Federation for World Peace's Ambassador of Peace Award in 2006 and the Pasadena Human Relations Commission's Model of Unity Award in 2008.

Yin Yin has truly surpassed her goal to use music as a tool of positive change in the world; her daily piano lessons inspire others to do so as well. Her steadfast dedication and selfless service are an invaluable addition to the legacy of Women's History Month. With gratitude and admiration, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Mrs. Yin Yin Huang.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MARY PETTYS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mary Pettys, a beloved member of the Western New York community who died tragically when Continental Flight 3407 crashed outside of Buffalo on February 12, 2009. This accident was a horrible and shocking tragedy for the Pettys family as well as for so many of us in Western New York.

Mary "Belle" Pettys was the third of ten children, and when her mother passed away in

2006, Mary nurtured and comforted the whole family, supporting her father and her nine siblings. She was a loving and selfless woman, devoted to her 38 nieces and nephews. Family was always Mary's priority. She was sister and aunt, godmother, confidant, matriarch, and companion—a rock for her family.

What makes her loss all the more sorrowful is that Mary was engaged to be married this spring to William Adamski. William called his beloved fiancée a "woman of chance" who had a passion for playing slot machines and even made appearances on the "Price Is Right" and "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno". Although the two will never be able to celebrate their marriage, we are thankful for the years of love and happiness they shared.

Mary Pettys graduated from Canisius College with a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree, which she put to use in her long career in healthcare services. Mary was a devout parishioner of Queen of Heaven Church in West Seneca. Donations were made in her honor to the scholarship fund established in memory of Mary's mother at Mount Mercy Academy in South Buffalo.

We are grateful for the spirit, great strength and contributions that Mary shared with our community throughout the years. As was stated at the Memorial Mass held in Mary's honor, "Mary was the 'Soul' of the Pettys family. There is no more pain for her anymore, only for those of her loved ones left behind. We will soldier on knowing that Mary wouldn't want it any other way. Her indomitable spirit and smile will remain with us forever." It is my honor to pay tribute to Mary Pettys' life and legacy, a remarkable woman who will be missed beyond measure. Our hearts and prayers remain with Mary Pettys and her family, as with all of the victims of Flight 3407.

THE LADIES AUXILIARY OF CLAYTON FIRE COMPANY

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the Clayton Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary upon the celebration of their 50th anniversary in the State of Delaware.

The auxiliary's first meeting was on March 13, 1959, when members of both the Kent County Ladies Auxiliary and the Smyrna Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary were present to answer questions and explain the procedures behind founding an auxiliary. At this meeting, Jeri Hurlock was elected as the auxiliary's first president. It was then decided that Mrs. Hurlock, Mrs. Ethel Donaway, Mrs. Ann Dickerson, and Mrs. Julia Mast would meet and write the first constitution and by-laws. The next meeting, held on April 6, 1959, established a canteen committee to provide food and refreshment for the firemen while they were out fighting fires. With the appointment of this committee, the auxiliary began its now long-standing tradition of dedicating its time and effort in support of the Clayton Fire Company.

Through fundraisers such as fashion shows and concession stands, the women were able to repay the Clayton Fire Company, which had

provided the initial loan to establish the auxiliary. Over the past five decades, the auxiliary has successfully continued to raise funds to benefit both the fire company and the town of Clayton. A junior program for 16 to 18-year-olds was created in 1973, and today, membership in the Clayton Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary has grown to over 70 women, including 35 life members.

On this 50th Anniversary, I would like to recognize the unequalled devotion of the Clayton Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary. Since 1959, the women of the auxiliary have volunteered their time, their energy, and their hearts in support of the Clayton Fire Company and its surrounding community. I commend them for their tireless dedication and immeasurable contributions, and I wish them all the best on this momentous anniversary.

GENERATIONS INVIGORATING VOLUNTEERISM AND EDUCATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1388) to reauthorize and reform the national service laws:

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Chair, I rise to oppose H.R. 1388. The idea that it is legitimate for the federal government to take money from one group of citizens and use that money to bribe other citizens into performing "national service" violates the basic moral principles of individual liberty that this country was founded upon.

I would make three points to those of my colleagues who try to justify this bill by saying that participation in the programs are voluntary. First, participation in the program is not voluntary for the taxpayers. Second, nothing in the bill prevents federal taxpayer dollars from being used to support state and local programs that force children to perform "community service" as a condition of graduating from high school. Because an increasing number of schools across the nation are forcing children to provide "service" as a condition of graduating, it is quite likely that the funds authorized by this bill will be used to support mandatory service. Third, and most importantly, by legitimizing the idea that it is an appropriate role for the government to promote "service," legislation such as H.R. 1388 opens the door for mandatory national service. Today, influential voices in both major parties are calling for a national program of mandatory service as well as a resumption of the military draft. With the increased need for more troops for the administration's expanded military adventurism in Afghanistan, as well as the continuing movement to conscript young people not eligible for military service to serve the government at home, can anyone doubt that this bill is only the down payment on a much larger program of mandatory national service?

The moral case against national service was eloquently expressed by former President Ronald Reagan in the publication *Human Events* in 1979: ". . . it [national service and conscription] rests on the assumption that your

kids belong to the state. If we buy that assumption then it is for the state—not for parents, the community, the religious institutions or teachers—to decide who shall have what values and who shall do what work, when, where and how in our society. That assumption isn't a new one. The Nazis thought it was a great idea."

Mr. Chair, millions of Americans including many young people, are already volunteering their time and talents to help their fellow citizens and better their communities without being bribed by the government. In fact, to suggest that the young Americans need a federal check as an incentive to volunteer is an insult to the American people. I hope all my colleagues to join me in standing up for individual liberty, the great American tradition of true volunteerism, and the Constitution by opposing H.R. 1388.

A TRIBUTE TO BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF PASADENA

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bethel Missionary Baptist Church of Pasadena, California. Bethel Missionary Baptist Church is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary with the theme "The Church—Moving Forward in the Power of the Holy Spirit."

Established in February 1959, under the leadership of Reverend Freeman S. Stevens with seventeen members, Bethel Missionary Baptist Church was formally recognized in June of that year as a constituted Baptist Church. For a few months, the church held services at the Pasadena Buddhist Church and with Dr. J. W. Coleman at Community Baptist Church in Pasadena. In December of 1959, Reverend Stevens and church members moved into a small frame house at 1972 N. Fair Oaks Avenue in Pasadena, and with the assistance of architect Luther Eskijian, constructed a new church at the site.

Continuing to grow, the church underwent many renovations over the years, including the purchase of the adjacent property in 1984 which allowed for expansion and a major renovation of the church in 2007 under the leadership of the current pastor, Pastor John T. McCall.

Since its inception, Bethel Missionary Baptist Church has provided spiritual guidance and tangible support to the Altadena and Pasadena community. Some of the church's many programs include the Youth Scholarship Fund instituted by the last Pastor Kurling C. Robinson and Wednesday Family Night, established by Pastor John T. McCall. Other services include a food pantry for the community, Project Fatherhood—a mentoring program for fathers, a youth summer program and a youth fellowship group. In addition, the church actively supports D'veal Family and Youth Services agency's programs such as the Alive and Free Violence Intervention and Prevention program.

I consider it a great privilege to recognize Bethel Missionary Baptist Church on its fiftieth anniversary and I ask all Members to join me in congratulating the congregation for their fifty years of service to the community.

SUPPORT OF A BILL TO AMEND THE RADIATION EXPOSURE COMPENSATION ACT TO INCLUDE THE TERRITORY OF GUAM IN THE LIST OF AFFECTED AREAS WITH RESPECT TO WHICH CLAIMS RELATING TO ATMOSPHERE NUCLEAR TESTING SHALL BE ALLOWED

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today I have reintroduced a bill that would amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, RECA, to include Guam in the list of affected areas for claims regarding and relating to atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons. My bill addresses a serious concern about the downwind affects of such testing that was conducted by the United States Government in the Marshall Islands from 1946 through 1962. This is an issue that concerns many of my constituents, and the bill I have reintroduced today would provide an avenue for redress and compensation for any illnesses that may have been contracted by individuals who resided on Guam during the testing period.

On April 27, 2005, a special committee of the Board of Radiation Effects Research of the National Research Council of the National Academies submitted a report to Congress entitled the "Assessment of the Scientific Information for the Radiation Exposure Screening and Education Program." The report, which was the result of a Congressional directive, stated, "As a result of its analysis, the committee concludes that Guam did receive measurable fallout from atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons in the Pacific. Residents of Guam during that period should be eligible for compensation under RECA in a way similar to that of persons considered to be downwinders." This is a critical finding.

The bill I have reintroduced today directly acts on this finding and would provide a process by which such residents of Guam who may have been affected by radiation fallout from the Pacific tests can file compensable claims under RECA with the Department of Justice. The bill conforms to the current process under RECA that is utilized for residents of certain counties in the Western United States mainland that were similarly affected and downwind of other atmospheric nuclear weapons testing conducted by the United States Government.

In reintroducing this legislation today I recognize the Pacific Association for Radiation Survivors, PARS, for their work and dedication to addressing this issue. Their support and continued efforts in raising public awareness about the legacy of United States testing of nuclear weapons in the Pacific is making a difference in our community and provides an informed basis from which we should take up our work in Congress to amend RECA.

I look forward to working with the Committee on the Judiciary in reviewing this legislation and the findings of the Committee to Assess the Scientific Information for the Radiation Exposure Screening and Education Program. I also look forward to this bill becoming law so that justice may be brought to those individuals who were adversely affected by the