

# 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