

Quincy Jones on the Brothers Johnson debut album as well as tour with Boz Scaggs under the stage name of "Pepper Swinson." There would be many more bands that would come her way.

She returned to New York due to illness, however, after recuperating, she moved to Israel to sing. After working in the Givatim and Tel Aviv, Israel, she once again returned to New York, this time with a new skill. She had mastered the Hebrew language. Almost immediately after arriving in the United States, Genie's health took a turn for the worse. She began a battle with end stage renal disease, due to Systemic Lupus Erythematosis. This would mean 7 years of dialysis before a successful kidney transplant at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts.

While in New York, Genie decided to return to C.W. Post College to earn her undergraduate degree in modern languages with a minor in music. She studied Spanish, Hebrew and Arabic. After the transplant, Genie landed a job with the New York City Board of Education as a teacher of Spanish. She received her masters degree in multicultural education from the College of Mount Saint Vincent in Bronx, New York. She is currently a teacher at a Theatre Arts School in the Bronx and also gives private voice lessons in her home. Genie actively continues her studies in languages. Italian and Portuguese are her current passions. "It's my favorite pastime."

Not long after her transplant, she was approached by a representative from the New York Organ Donor Network and became a volunteer spokesperson for that organization. She appeared at several speaking and singing engagements on behalf of the Network. At several events she sang "Another Chance to Give" (La Vispera de Vida) in both English and Spanish in an effort to bring awareness to the need for organ and tissue donors.

It was her position as the official spokesperson for the Network that led her to an opportunity to sing the national anthem before games at both Yankee Stadium and Madison Square Garden for both professional teams. Today, Genie remains a strong advocate of organ and tissue transplantation.

Genie has modeled for Mode Magazine and continues to sing for Wilson Pickett's back up band, The Midnight Movers. Accompanied by jazz pianist Dr. Billy Taylor, she recently sang at a gala given by the Jazz Foundation of America which honored its co-founder Ann Ruckert.

"I am a collector of people," said Genie. "I have the same friends today that I had in the second grade. Naturally, I've added on to that distinctive group, but those friends are still an important part of my life. I like to spend time, reading, studying languages and spoiling my nieces, nephews and God's children. I'm honored to be a part of this distinctive group," added Genie.

Madam Speaker, I would like to honor Genie for sharing her beautiful talents with the rest of us. Through all of her adversity she continued to grace us with her gift of song.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Eugenia "Genie" Swinson.

## TRIBUTE TO 2007 JOHNSON COUNTY MOVERS AND SHAKERS AWARD WINNERS

### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to note an important event in the Third Congressional District of Kansas. On April 10, 2007, the Volunteer Center of Johnson County in Overland Park, KS, will honor outstanding youth volunteers. Eighty young people have been nominated by school personnel and nonprofit organizations for their dedication and service to the community. Youth volunteerism continues to grow and be a strong force in Johnson County. These 80 youth exemplify the true meaning of volunteerism and giving back to their community, and it is my honor to recognize each student volunteer and his/her school.

Alexander Abramovitz, Shawnee Mission North; Molly Allison-Gallimore, Homeschool; Sydney Ayers, Barstow; Ava Azad, Blue Valley; Lisa Barry, Olathe South; Lindsay Beardall, Shawnee Mission South; Alexandria Bieber, Mill Valley; Abbey Blick, Shawnee Mission East; Ashley Boots, Olathe Northwest; Sarah Briggs, Trailridge Middle; Kristina Buchanan, Trailridge Middle School; Kim Burnell, Olathe North; Amy Byarlay, Olathe South; Sarah Campbell, Blue Valley North; Kelsey Charles, Blue Valley West; Jenna Christensen, Shawnee Mission North; Becca Doran, Shawnee Mission West; Katherine Ebling, Blue Valley; and Marissa Erickson, Olathe South.

Evan Gage, Blue Valley Northwest; Jennifer Garren, Shawnee Mission West; Kathryn Garrett, Shawnee Mission West; Kevin Garrett, Shawnee Mission West; Michael Garrett, Westridge Middle; Lindsey Gerber, Olathe North; Jean Gianakon, Shawnee Mission North; Allison Golub, Blue Valley West; Kaley Hagemann, Olathe East; Jessica Hebenstreit, Pembroke Hill; Tess Hedrick, Shawnee Mission East; Logan Heley, Antioch Middle School; Lauren Hiatt, Olathe North; Spencer Hill, Shawnee Mission Northwest; Jing Jian, Olathe North; Janelle Johnston, Shawnee Mission West; Michele Kerns, Blue Valley West; Rachel Knapp, Westridge Middle; and Jessica Kruger, Olathe North.

Hailey Lapin, Blue Valley Northwest; K. Clemence Lawson, Olathe Northwest; Jake Ludemann, Shawnee Mission North; Sarah Martin, Shawnee Mission West; Magdalena May, Olathe North; Kaela McWherter, Blue Valley North; Courtney Miller, Blue Valley West; Rebecca Miller, Olathe North; Jovana Mirabile, St. Thomas Aquinas; Peri Montgomery, Shawnee Mission West; Megan Moomau, Olathe North; Alyssa Morrison, Mill Valley High School; Stephanie Nemer, Spring Hill High School; Evan Neuman, Trailridge Middle; Alexandra Olsen, Prairie Trail Junior High; Sam Parkinson; Sweta Patel, Olathe North; Meredith Pavicic, St. Teresa's Academy; and Lauren Peterson, Shawnee Mission Northwest.

Angela Podoll, Westridge Middle; Courtney Rathke, Olathe North; Kaytlin Renfro, Shawnee Mission East; Bryce Reynolds, Olathe Northwest; Kyle Reynolds, Olathe Northwest; Cassie Rhodes, Spring Hill High School; Kaitlyn Rittgers, Olathe Northwest; Alex Rorie, Mission Valley; Beth Russell, Olathe Northwest; Michael Shoykhet, Olathe North; Devin Smith, Olathe North; Elaina Smith, Prairie Trail Junior High; Haylee Solcum, Trailridge Middle School; Peter Spitsnogle, Shawnee Mission East; Jessica

Stack, Olathe Northwest; Alexandria Szalawiga, Olathe South High School; Nicole Tepper, Mill Valley High School; Irene Wang, Olathe North; Danielle Weathers, Mill Valley; Marin Willis, Spring Hill Middle; Jessica Wilson, Spring Hill High School; Alexis Young, Chisholm Trail Junior High; and Jenny Zhong, Blue Valley Northwest.

## A TRIBUTE TO DEBORAH BATTLE POINTER

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Brooklyn resident Deborah Battle Pointer. Deborah Battle Pointer is a true child of the Diaspora with Carolinian, Jamaican and Black Foot Indian roots. She was born and raised in Connecticut and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology from SUNY Cortland and a Master's Degree in Education from Cambridge College. The issues of access and equality for all have been important cornerstones in her academic career. For the past 30 years, she has worked in higher education, and served her community as a volunteer while maintaining her involvement in the creative arts.

Deborah was the first Associate Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid at Cornell University, the first black woman to hold the position of Director of Admissions at Columbia University's School of Engineering and former Director of Financial Aid at both Columbia College and SUNY Downstate Medical Center. While residing in Ithaca, New York, she was elected to the Ithaca School Board where she served two terms.

Ms. Pointer is a co-founder and Co-Executive Producer of "Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry," a television series shown on the Home Box Office cable network. She was also an Executive Consultant to the Broadway hit show, Def Poetry. The television series aired for the first time in December of 2001 and continues to be a hit on HBO today. Deborah and other Executive Producers of Def Poetry were recognized with a Peabody Award for Excellence in Television for the HBO program and received a Tony Award for the Broadway production in 2003.

In October of 2001, under the company name Bone Bristle Entertainment LLC, Deborah and her business partners created a poetry anthology published by Random House, "Bum Rush the Page." The anthology features works of 200 poets and has sold more than 15,000 copies. She has recently published a children's picture book, "I Am Hip-Hop" through her non-profit organization Healium Inc. founded by Deborah Pointer and Ronald Grant. Healium Inc. is dedicated to the efforts of ending child abuse.

Deborah is currently a consultant to the Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at the Children's Hospital at Downstate where she is involved in development and community outreach. She is also one of a few African-American Christmas and Kwanzaa ornament designers and was featured as an Editor's Choice in "Decorative Gifts and Accessories" magazine.

Ms. Pointer has authored several magazine articles on financing and college education

and has worked on a series of videotapes on financial aid for students. The videotapes aired on Public Broadcasting Stations in the New York tri-state area. For many years she was a consultant to ESPN on selecting the High School Athlete of the Year. Deborah is currently a member of the Brooklyn Borough President's Task Force on BCAT, President of the Rutland Road Block Association and a member of numerous other organizations.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the impressive achievements of Deborah Battle Pointer and her commitment to the children of Brooklyn, New York. I also want to thank Ms. Pointer for sharing her gifts with the rest of us.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful and talented woman.

#### MOURNING THE LOSS OF DAVID BROWN

##### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a true public servant of South Carolina's Second Congressional District. David Brown, chief executive officer of Beaufort Memorial Hospital of Beaufort, South Carolina, passed away Monday, March 19, 2007. Brown fell ill last month and was hospitalized at Johns Hopkins University Hospital, where he passed.

Brown ably led the hospital during a time of tremendous growth. The facility is now twice the size it was when Brown took over in 1996. During his tenure as CEO, Brown developed a long-term affiliation with Duke University Health System in heart and cancer care. Most recently, he worked with Beaufort to bring additional workforce housing to the area and led the hospital's expansion of services across the Broad River.

Brown, son of Emerson M. Brown and the late Winifred Ryan Brown, was born in 1951 in Germany, where his father was assigned as a U.S. foreign service officer. Brown also lived in India, the Netherlands, and Canada and attended high school in Switzerland and in Maine. He earned a bachelor of arts degree in 1974 and a masters of business administration with honors in 1976, both from Boston University.

Brown began his career in healthcare in 1976 as assistant executive director of Prince George's County Foundation for Medical Care in Landover, Md., and became executive director within a year.

In 1982 he joined the Greater Southeast Community Hospital in Washington as vice president for professional services. Before leaving the Washington area in 1996, Brown became president and CEO of the Greater Southeast Community Hospital Foundation, which operated two hospitals as well as long-term care facilities, home health agencies, pharmacies and other health care-related businesses.

Brown is survived by his daughter, Caitlin Ryan Brown; son, Ryan David Brown; father, Emerson Brown of Reed City, Mich.; sister, Catherine W. Brown of Washington; and brother, Christopher G. Brown of Columbus, Ohio.

#### A TRIBUTE TO CLAUDETTE AUDIGE

##### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Brooklyn, New York resident, Ms. Claudette Audige. Claudette Audige was born on December 7, 1962, in Kingston, Jamaica. She has been a resident of New York for more than 21 years. Ms. Audige is the wife of Andre Audige and the mother of 3 beautiful children, Chase, Chad and Jodie.

Claudette Audige has been an experienced loan consultant for more than 20 years. She is noted for her wisdom and compassion for encouraging home ownership. She has inspired and helped many people to save their homes as well as purchase a home.

Most of Mrs. Audige's extensive community involvement has been with young people. She was a counselor at Good Samaritan Church, in the Bronx, and St. Michaels, in Sheldon, New York. Her community activities include participation in the McDonald's sing along concert series, a drug awareness campaign, and the neighborhood gang violence awareness program. The assistance she provides for children goes beyond the call of duty since she works closely with the youth in her community.

She is sensitive to the needs of homeowners and it is out of that compassion that led her to become a financial consultant. In addition, the high rate of housing foreclosures among her friends and family was another incentive for her to embark on this profession. Claudette gives workshops to new homeowners and advises them of their financial status. Due to her own past financial hardships, she has developed a flair for assisting people to accumulate wealth through the power of prayer and financial wisdom. Financial empowerment guides and motivates Mrs. Audige to teach others to accumulate wealth and prosperity.

This extraordinary woman goes above and beyond the call of duty and is commendable to the standards befitting the praised, virtuous woman described in Proverbs.

Her motto is "if I can help someone let my living be in vain." Claudette Audige strives to educate the young and the old to possess the knowledge of financial wisdom. She believes that everyone can own a home with the proper education.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to recognize the impressive works of Claudette Audige as well as her commitment to the Brooklyn community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful woman for all that she does for current and prospective homeowners.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE HUNTINGTON VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

##### HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Huntington Veterans Af-

fairs Medical Center (VAMC) located in Huntington, West Virginia. I am so proud to report that the Huntington VAMC was named the "Best Performing Facility" for 2006.

This is a well deserved honor for the dedicated employees of the Huntington VAMC who work so hard to ensure that our Nation's veterans receive the quality they deserve. This honor is even greater considering this is not the first time the Huntington VAMC has been singled out for its high quality care. Just two years ago, this center received similar recognition from the VA.

It is wonderful to know that the veterans who call West Virginia home have such a top-notch medical facility to provide care. As we all recognize, our veterans are our heroes and these heroes deserve only the best care available.

It is important that we remember our veterans have given so much to the future of our country and have asked for so little in return. Our veterans, as our soldiers today, remain foremost in the thoughts and prayers of all West Virginians.

I am honored that the Huntington VAMC is in my district. I hope that this entire body will take a minute to congratulate the hard-working men and women of the Huntington VAMC and to honor the sacrifices that our brave servicemembers have made and continue to make.

#### A TRIBUTE TO AY'TASHA T. HANTON

##### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Brooklyn resident Ay'Tasha T. Hanton. Ms. Hanton is the proud daughter of Edna M. Fulton, and Willie E. Hanton Sr., stepdaughter of Maudine Hanton, who she affectionately calls "Mom." Ay'Tasha was born in New York City as the only daughter of seven children. Ay'Tasha's father expired when she was 1½ years old. Without the relationship of her father, she faced many challenges. With the loving support of her mother, family and friends, she matured into a strong, independent woman.

A nine-year employee of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, Ay'Tasha has extensive knowledge in Finance Administration, Policy and Procedures, Performance Improvement, Graphic Design, Community Affairs and Healthcare Administration. In April of 1998, her career in health care began when she became the Coordinating Manager of Chemical Dependency Outpatient Services and the Mental Health Geriatric Program at Cumberland Diagnostic and Treatment Center serving the Fort Greene Community. As an Assistant to the Sr. Associate Director, Ay'Tasha worked diligently to aide the Chemical Dependency patients who strived daily to maintain sobriety from their addictions. She also worked attentively to aide the Geriatric population as they faced the uneasiness of Mental Health.

In October of 2005, Ay'Tasha was reassigned as the NYS OASAS (Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services) Administrator of Chemical Dependency Inpatient and Outpatient Services at Woodhull Medical