

The GENE PITNEY COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE, Inc.

P.O. Box #2
Rockville, CT 06066
www.genepitney.org

Rockville Remembers
GENE PITNEY

Re: Bill No. 5476 An Act Establishing a Music Hall of Fame

My name is *Cliff Edwards*, and I am the president and chairman of the **Gene Pitney Commemorative Committee, Inc.**, which has been formed and has operated as a not-for-profit organization out of Rockville, Connecticut since February, 2007... *Incorporation in the State of Connecticut was 3/21/2007*. Our organization is a volunteer group of residents, music aficionados & industry experts and town representatives whose main mission is to preserve the history of one of Connecticut's earliest Pop music legends and local heroes, **Gene Pitney**. As part of this mission, one of the initiatives we have on our agenda is to create a "**Connecticut Music & Hometown Heroes Museum**" with Gene being the first and most prominent inductee at a time when we have sufficient funding, a proper site and have developed a proper business plan to operate it at a self-sustaining cost/expense ratio. Many, many other Connecticut bred musicians can finally be recognized for their contributions as well.

We believe, since Gene Pitney is the first... and only... state born musician to ever be inducted into the prestigious Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio, that his hometown, more specifically, the village of Rockville within the Town of Vernon, would be a wonderful and appropriate home for a state music museum. Gene's legend overseas is probably greater than here in America and he will be bringing us visitors and tourists for years to come. Our International website (www.genepitney.org) has shown us the enormous international audience Gene has had, with now over **14,780** visits since its launch just a little over a year ago... and a "**Fan Convention**" planned for October, 2008 is already attracting overseas advanced bookings of more than a dozen rooms at a local hotel since its announcement a few weeks ago.

Lynne Pitney, Gene's widow, has endorsed our activities in writing, and has donated many unique items for display to be available for his fans worldwide to view. Those fans will be coming to his hometown with that expectation... especially since that is also the location of the newly installed **Memorial Plaque** dedicated to his life, career and musical legacy.

We also have the support of the local **RDA** (Rockville Downtown Association), and the **Town of Vernon** (the Town Council passed a resolution to fund a feasibility study and will submit a matching funds grant application to the State's Commission on Culture and Tourism), in support of efforts to convert existing space in the vacant Citizen's Block building in downtown Rockville for use by a museum.

Our committee has a membership of 12 on its Board of Directors plus 7 honorary members (see below):

Board of Directors:

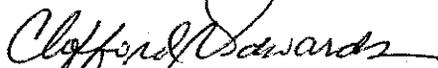
President: Clifford R. Edwards (Retired music retailer)
Vice President: Brian Frederick (Pitney friend & Archivist)
Secretary: Mary M. Edwards (medical professional)
Treasurer: Norine Z. Edwards (Rockville native and resident)
Bruce Dinnie (Town of Vernon, Parks & Recreation)
Stuart I. Edwards (Rockville native & musicologist)
Bryan Flint (RDA & Rockville Community Block Watch)
"Wild Wayne" Jones (WWUH, 91.3FM, Hartford - Radio host)
Russell Johndrow (downtown Rockville merchant)
Sandi LaChapelle (downtown Rockville merchant)
Gene Skladnowski (Rockville Bank - Vice President)
Joseph Angiolillo (Official Committee Historian & Biographer)

Honorary Members:

Terry Stewart (CEO - Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, Cleveland, OH)
David & Guida McGrath (International Fan Club, *now closed*, in Kenosha, WI)
Grahame Winters (DRC-FM, 102.9 - Promotions Director)
William McGurk (Rockville Bank - President)
Bob Terry (Original member of "The Genials", Gene's first local band)
Richard Spurling (Original member of "The Genials", Gene's first local band)
Corrine LaChapelle (Student Advisor and daughter of Sandi LaChapelle)

Our committee wholeheartedly endorses the Bill No. 5476 and stands ready to assist in any way possible to bring the Connecticut Music Museum and Hall of Fame to Rockville, CT.

Respectfully submitted,



Clifford R. Edwards - President, GENE PITNEY COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE, Inc.

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