



Angeline Rivera, at home, puts her patriotic soul into her proposed national anthem. The song has already been introduced into the "Congressional Record" by U.S. Rep. William Brodhead. (Photo by Dwight Cendrowski)

Gets congressional listen

Oh, say have you heard?

By CRAIG PIECHURA

If sincerity and determination were all that it takes, America would already be singing a new national anthem called "Oh Beautiful America" penned by Angeline Rivera of Southfield.

It is Mrs. Rivera's intention to sing the song, written to the tune of "America the Beautiful," before the U.S. Senate or U.S. House of Representatives.

After that happens, she plans to take the song to the citizens of America.

"I'll sing this stanza and see what the public feels," Mrs. Rivera says. "I know they will feel good, like having a peach pie with ice cream."

The song, Mrs. Rivera explains, celebrates what's good in America. "Some people might be wrong, but that doesn't mean the whole country's wrong."

"I'll raise the roof of the Capitol," predicts Mrs. Rivera, the 67-year-old mother of six children who once trained as an opera singer and still has her pipes. When she practices her anthem at home with her daughter Carmen on harmony the neighborhood knows it.

"I know Congress is going to pass this once they hear me," she says. "I haven't got a date set because they're all out for summer recess."

She has already had her two stanzas and chorus read into the Congressional Record of May 30 by U.S. Rep. William Brodhead, Democrat representing the 17th District.

"I know of Ms. Rivera's dedication to the United States and her strong feeling that our country should be glorified in song," Brodhead told the Congress.

THE NOTICE in the Congressional Record only spurred Mrs. Rivera to push for congressional action establishing her song as "one of the national anthems."

She'd like to sing the anthem, with piano accompaniment if possible, in the Senate or House. She says if Senate rules prohibit Sen. Edward Kennedy's wife Joan from accompanying her on piano, her daughter could play. If no pianos are permitted in the Senate chambers, she'll sing a capella.

Unlike others who have proposed new national anthems, Mrs. Rivera isn't out to replace the "Star Spangled Banner." Some critics pushing for a new national anthem call the "Star Spangled Banner" too patriotic and too hard to sing.

"We shouldn't take out the 'Star Spangled Banner,'" says Mrs. Rivera. "And I can sing it. That's hurting an American who had the right kind of thought. I don't want to push anybody over."

"This could be the third national anthem. I'm not trying to make mine on top, but maybe in the top three."

Mrs. Rivera isn't even overly critical of the words to "America the Beautiful," on which tune her anthem is based.

"There's nothing wrong with those lyrics," she said. "But they expired in 1926. They need some new ones. Of course, nobody asked for them, but now they got them."


IF THE ANTHEM doesn't catch on, which she doubts, it will still have been worth the effort, she says, "for my own soul, for the coming generations to know how I feel."

As the daughter of Polish immigrants, Mrs. Rivera said she learned "we must make America much finer than what it is."

"It's our country, our home."

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CITY OF FARMINGTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS (Summary)

A Regular Meeting of the Farmington City Council was held Monday, July 21, 1980 in the Council Chambers, 23600 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Mayor William S. Hartsock.

Present: Councilmen Bennett, Buckler, Yoder, Tupper, and Mayor Hartsock.

Absent: None

City Officials Present: City Mgr. Deadman, Dir. Billing, Dir. Seifert, Attorney Kelly and City Clerk Viane.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Minutes of other boards were received and/or filed.

Council received resolution from City of Birmingham re construction of interchange at 10 Mile Rd. and Woodward, and resolution from the Township of Rose opposing HB 5615, re collection of school taxes.

Letter from SEMTA regarding proposed bus terminal was received.

Letter from Farmington Community Library Board re reduced services was received.

City Manager Deadman was instructed to request entrance into houses on Liberty Street affected by basement flooding to determine grade elevations of basements and sewers and report to Council for further determination of what course to follow to alleviate the condition.

City Manager Deadman was instructed to prepare a study of the magnitude of requiring sidewalks on major thoroughfares throughout the city.

Council received the Six-Year Capital Improvement Program recommended by the Planning Commission.

A Resolution was adopted authorizing an Amendment to the City Charter be placed on the November 4, 1980 Ballot changing the timing of the budget process.

City Attorney Kelly reported on the use of alternate members on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Attorney Kelly was instructed to prepare an amendment to the City's ordinance Chapter 39, Section 5.1254 to provide for 2 alternative members.

The Building Dept. Annual Report was received.

The following appointments were made:

Regional Transportation Systems Planning Committee: Councilman Warren A. Buckler

Oakland County Housing Council: Mr. Gerald Herter, Asst. to City Manager

Mr. Robert F. Deadman, City Manager (Alternate)

Farmington Youth Assistance: General Citizens Committee

Councilman Warren A. Buckler

Farmington Area Arts Commission: Mrs. Joyce O'Brien

Monthly bills were approved for payment.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

WILLIAM S. HARTSOCK, Mayor
NEORA VIANE, City Clerk

Published July 31, 1980

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Dr. Walter S. Gross
Chiropractic Physician

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