

World Tai Chi & Qigong Day Organizer's Amazing Success in NY:

Laurince McElroy of Water Tiger School in New York's World Tai Chi & Qigong Day Organizing in New York is a Force of Nature

New York School Provides Example of How to Maximize Use of World Tai Chi & Qigong Day
Water Tiger School of T'ai Chi Chuan in Long Island, New York has Done Amazing Work.
Water Tiger School Shows How WTCQD Provides a Powerful Platform for Local Schools and Groups to Expand their Practice.

WORLD TAI CHI & QIGONG DAY - PATCHOGUE: A BRIEF HISTORY

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It all began in another part of the country. A continuing education student in Des Moines, IA USA, asked me in 1999 if I knew of "World Tai Chi & Qigong Day". I didn't. I researched. I began preparations for a 2000 event in the capital of the Tall Corn State.

As Water Tiger had been sponsoring "T'ai Chi in the Park" events in Des Moines in conjunction with the city's department of parks and recreation since 1997, they were my first contact. It wasn't hard to receive the proper approvals. That first year, we brought together four instructors from different local programs to play demonstrations and give small workshops for a respectable number of Iowans. We even received coverage by the local NBC affiliate, WHO-13.

Since I relocated to Long Island in New York State later in 2000, so did Water Tiger School and my efforts to sponsor public Tai Chi events. Shortly after settling into our new home, I again reached out to the local parks and recreation department and the planning began. While the new event in Patchogue was being put together, Water Tiger remained involved in helping plans move forward for a 2001 Des Moines event. I'm happy to report that not only will the Patchogue event be celebrating its 13th year in 2013, but so will the event in Des Moines.

Following the persistent requests of Mr. Douglas, **part of my annual event preparation now includes a plethora of letters to politicians of all stripes from the local level to the national.** Over our 12 years in the village, we have had more than a modicum of success. **The recognitions we have received includes: 10 proclamations from the Incorporated of Village of Patchogue; seven proclamations from the Suffolk County Legislature; four letters-of-support from the Suffolk County Executive; one proclamation from the Town of Brookhaven; one proclamation and one letter-of-support from the New York State Senate; three resolutions from the New York State Assembly; and one letter of support from the US Senate.** We've also received a supportive phone call from actor, director, and writer Ralph Macchio of "The Karate Kid" fame!

I truly believe that part of our success is persistence mixed with process. Every year sees a fresh, personalized letter to all levels of politicians. It usually cites recent study results or anecdotal evidence about the health benefits of Tai Chi and Qigong; and, not only spells out reasons recognition is important, but also why the event is important to the



officials' constituents. Each letter is accompanied with a draft copy of a possible proclamation or resolution, as required by the office, and, recognizing a politician's busy schedule, a draft copy of a letter-of-support.

Our event isn't one of the largest, but we do average 70+ people every year with an average of seven facilitators leading three hours of free workshops overlooking Patchogue Bay and Fire Island. We couldn't be happier with the event itself nor with the recognition documents we've added to the WorldTaiChiDay.org collection.

Bill Douglas - World Tai Chi & Qigong Day [billdouglas@worldtaichiday.org]
World TC & QG Day News: Stunning Medical Tai Chi Article from Australia
Fri 11/9/2012 3:00 PM

Headlines and emphases added by Bill Douglas.

