

**Remarks: Reception for Alzheimer's Poetry Project, April 3, 2012**

- I would like to thank Gary Glazner, the founder and executive director of the Alzheimer's Poetry Project, for his hard work in creating this innovative initiative, and his efforts to bring the Alzheimer's Poetry Project here to Poland. I would also like to thank Bohdan Piasecki, who worked with Gary to create a program custom-made for Poland. And I would like to express my gratitude to all the poets and artists who have participated and will participate in workshops this week.

- This program would not have been possible without the cooperation of health care professionals and health care facilities, who agreed to work with Gary and Bohdan on this project. So I would like to thank all of you for your efforts, and I would especially like to thank to Alicja Sadowska of the Alzheimer's Center, for all that you do for Alzheimer's and dementia patients here in Poland.

- I'd also like to recognize the American School in Warsaw for bringing the Alzheimer Poetry Project to the classroom, and for giving students the chance to meet with Alzheimer's patients in Warsaw. I'm sure it was an incredible learning experience for them, and I'm equally sure it meant the world to the Alzheimer's patients who got to spend the afternoon with a group of enthusiastic students.

- So, Tony [Gerlicz] and Marjorie [Gruzen], thank you for your cooperation. And Carmen [Victor], thank you – I think we all owe you a thank you – for letting us at the Embassy know about the Alzheimer’s Poetry Project. That’s the reason we’re here today, and we owe that to you.

- The Alzheimer's Poetry Project has been recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation for a reason. In less than a decade, they've served more than 15,000 patients who suffer from Alzheimer's disease or dementia, and they've served these patients personally, in their own languages.

- The reason there are several Polish poets with us tonight is that Gary and Bohdan created a program specifically for Poland, finding old Polish poems that many patients would have heard in their youth. This personal approach is not only effective, but it treats patients with the dignity and care they deserve.

- This the second time that a U.S. Embassy has worked with the Alzheimer's Poetry Project to organize workshops abroad. Last year, they traveled to Germany, working with the U.S. Embassy in Berlin. This year, of course, they're here with us in Poland. And next year...Gary, plans for next year?