

entered the thermal battery business at its infancy, joining Catalyst Research, a division of Mine Safety Appliances (MSA), in 1948.

Catalyst Research had just been challenged by the National Bureau of Standards to develop a battery that could sit inertly on a shelf for years, and when needed, be instantaneously turned on without requiring any mechanical activation. Thermal batteries were the answer. Joe was part of the team that in the early 1950's provided the first thermal batteries for the U.S. Navy. Over the next decade, Joe helped refine this technology for use by our other services. In 1964, Joe went to the U.K. to start up a new MSA thermal battery factory in Scotland meeting the needs of our NATO allies.

Joe Gessler's contribution goes beyond engineering; he has been both a teacher and mentor. As the production and engineering manager at Catalyst Research, Joe had a direct and future impact on his current employer, Saft America. Three of the engineers he trained met him for lunch one day to announce they had decided to go out on their own and form KDI Score Thermal Batteries, which was eventually acquired by Saft.

Joe himself joined Saft in 1983 where he shared his expertise until his "first" retirement in 1990. But retirement for Joe Gessler meant he only worked 40 hours a week as a "part-time" employee. In the 16 years since then, Joe was instrumental in ramping up Saft's battery production for Operation Desert Storm and applying his vast knowledge of battery technology and production to help grow Saft America's Cockeysville facility to where it is today, the largest supplier of advanced lithium ion battery systems to America's Armed Forces.

Whatever the challenge, at an age when most men are content playing golf or sitting in a club house, Joe Gessler puts in a full 40 hours every week generating amazing results with the same positive "can do" attitude he had on the day he graduated college.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join with me today in recognizing Joe Gessler for over 58 years of dedication and contributions to the defense of the United States through superior technology, and congratulates him on his retirement as America's oldest thermal battery engineer.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, due to a combination of mechanical problems suffered by US Airways and inclement weather in the Washington, DC, area, I arrived at the Capitol yesterday later than I anticipated. For this reason, I missed the following three recorded votes on June 19:

1. H.R. 5540—Sergeant Jacob Dan Dones Post Office Designation Act—had I been present, I would have voted "aye";

2. H.R. 5504—Larry Winn, Jr. Post Office Building Designation Act—had I been present, I would have voted "aye"; and

3. H. Res. 826—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Youth Sports Week should be established—had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

TRIBUTE TO KERRY DUMBAUGH

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kerry Dumbaugh for becoming the Butler Distinguished Graduate for 2006. Having demonstrated a great degree of ability and knowledge in her field, it is my hope that she will continue to share this and grow in prosperity.

Graduating from Butler High School located in Pennsylvania's third Congressional District in 1970, Dumbaugh started out at Eastman School of Music as a piano performance major. Although she had been a piano student since she was 7 years old, she soon discovered that this was not the course she wished to pursue. She decided to transfer to Wittenberg University to study music, yet after meeting an enthusiastic professor, she was convinced to add Eastern Asian Studies to her "repertoire." After her time there, she attended the University of Pennsylvania, where she earned her master's in Chinese Studies and International Relations. Thus began her political career. Working as a legislative correspondent, assistant, and director for various United States Congressmen, she enjoyed her experience, yet felt that there was more.

When a position at the Congressional Research Service, CRS, opened, Dumbaugh seized the opportunity. She went on to earn a master's in National Security Studies from the U.S. National War College. Utilizing her knowledge about Eastern Asia, with the CRS, she provides information and analysis about the developments in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and China to U.S. Congressmen. She analyzes the political, military, economic, and security developments as well as the implications of U.S. foreign policy. She has authored over 100 articles; and since 1992, she has moderated the China Forum, a public policy TV program about China.

The Distinguished Graduate award is given to a Butler graduate each year. Kerry Dumbaugh will be the 27th recipient and the 5th woman to receive it. She is a model of excellence in academia and politics, as well as for women. Her intelligence has served to aid in furthering American policy abroad. Due to her many accomplishments, Dumbaugh deserves commendation.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join with me in congratulating Kerry Dumbaugh and her family on her receiving the Butler Distinguished Graduate Award for 2006 and in wishing her continued success in all her endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO GLORIA GARNER

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Gloria Garner, a 38-year veteran of the Knoxville Area Urban League. Her efforts will be long remembered and continually missed.

Gloria spent her 38 years of service with the goal of helping others help themselves. She is

a great example of how individuals in our communities can make a difference in the lives of others.

I commend Gloria Garner for all that she has done for the men, women, and children of Knoxville. I wish her all the best in her future life, and am hopeful that others will stand in to follow in her path.

I would also like to include in the RECORD a June 16, 2006 article in the Knoxville News-Sentinel about Gloria's retirement and career for all of my colleagues, constituents and readers of the record, so that they can more fully understand her dedication.

HEART OF THE URBAN LEAGUE; GLORIA GARNER RETIRES AFTER 38 YEARS WITH KNOXVILLE AFFILIATE

(By Chandra Harris)

A walking encyclopedia chock-full of Knoxville Area Urban League facts, Gloria Garner is clearing out her bookshelves.

Retiring after 38 years with the league, Garner doesn't need a book to recount the history of the league because she is the history of the league.

The vice president of community affairs has held every position there is and was at the league since starting there months after its inception in 1968.

A handful of moves for the Urban League came before settling at East Fifth Avenue. But Garner was never moved to leave.

And four presidents came and went. Garner stepped in as interim director while the search was on for the next president.

When money was tight and staff was short, Garner's smile and tenacity remained steadfast through 40-plus-hour weeks.

She held onto the words of the national president from 1961-1971, Whitney M. Young, Jr.: "Every man is our brother, and every man's burden our own."

"Where poverty exists, all are poorer. Where hate flourishes, all are corrupted. Where injustice reigns, all are unequal."

Garner said she stood in then and will continue to stand in to bridge the gap of social and economic development in minority communities.

Even as she is dusting off her desk and packing up, she is still telling strangers and friends alike that they need to join the Knoxville affiliate of the National Urban League.

"Once an Urban Leaguer, always an Urban Leaguer," she said during a celebratory reception in her honor Thursday night at the University Club.

While she may no longer have an office to call her own come next Thursday, her official last day, Garner said, "I will still be around helping wherever I can."

"When you have a passion for what you do, you want to work hard."

The on-time Head Start teacher who dreamt of becoming a nurse or joining the military still found a way to help people.

"There are people in jobs today that I had a hand in, and that's a good feeling," Garner said.

"The Urban League is my family and I was busy helping people," said the mother of five adult children when asked why her tenure was such a long one.

Without her insight through the years, there wouldn't have been a foundation of the league, Ernest Fulton and Douglas Upton said.

Fulton and Upton both worked with Garner in the early days of the league.

"She has a way with people," Upton said. "She connects with people."

And that was apparent Thursday night as dozens, including Knoxville Mayor Bill Haslam and Vice Mayor and former Urban

League President Mark Brown, offered encouragement and shed a few tears.

"We can't fill her shoes," said Phyllis Nichols, league president and CEO.

Life after checking into the Urban League some mornings at 7 for Garner will be filled with lunch dates, "some good movies and relaxing travels," she said.

Grandson Kody Willis summed it up: "That's my granny and she's a star."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE OF JOSEPH VALENZANO, JR.

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Joseph Valenzano's tremendous commitment to public service and his outstanding contributions on behalf of the disability community. Later this week, Joe, who is a constituent of New Jersey's Fifth District, will be honored for his work in Chester, NJ, by the International Brain Research Foundation.

Joe Valenzano has spent more than 30 years in publishing and communications, most recently as president, CEO, publisher, and editor in chief of EP Global Communications, Inc., which publishes *Exceptional Parent Magazine*. This publication provides both practical advice and emotional support to the parents of children and adults with disabilities and special health needs. The magazine provides a forum for parents, health care professionals, and education specialists to work together as a community for the betterment of the disability community.

Under Joe's direction and vision, *Exceptional Parent* magazine has been a pivotal player in important discussions, such as use of restraints and aversive punishments, expanded universal newborn screening, the use of people first language among journalists, end of life issues, and more. *Exceptional Parent* has led the fight to support the frontline workforce of professionals who provide care and assistance to those with special needs and to promote the use of tandem mass spectrometry to screen for over 60 inborn metabolism errors in newborns. And *Exceptional Parent* has worked with the Department of Defense to deliver reliable, accurate information to more than 150,000 military families around the globe to help them care for their children with special needs and disabilities.

It is the dedication of individuals like Joe Valenzano that gives hope to so many parents when they first embark upon the path of raising a child with special needs and provides sustenance to those parents who have already spent years in loving care of children with special needs. I applaud Joe for his efforts and join the International Brain Research Foundation for honoring this lifetime of work.

CONGRATULATING EAST HIGH SCHOOL ON PLACING THIRD AT NATIONAL COMPETITION ON THE CONSTITUTION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that East High School from Denver, CO, placed third in the national finals competition of "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution." From April 29 to May 1, 2006, approximately 1,200 students from across the country participated in the 19th annual We the People competition—the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. The We the People program is administered by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress.

The We the People national finals are a 3-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing in which the students "testify" before a panel of judges on constitutional topics. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles as they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues.

In Colorado, I have made a priority of dispatching my staff to serve as "judges" in competitions at all levels within my district and throughout the State. Through them I can attest to the skill, intellect and diligence that characterize the East High School team. Congratulations to the members of the East High School team: Michelle Buchanan, Darien Combs, Lila Creighton, Paula Davis, Joshua Figueroa, Sophia Galleher, Rose Green, Jonathon Hammond, Meghan Harrington, Kathryn Havranek, Than Hedman, Collin Hornsby, Noah Hubbell, Mackenzie Jacobs, Elizabeth Kochevar, Clay Lemar, Zach Levek, Christopher Linsmayer, Elise Mann, Gabe Mann, Logan McHenry, Tyler McNamara, Sarah McNaughton, Zena Price-Broncucia, Rachel Romer, Claire Sanderson, Cary Shapiro, Amy Stanesco, Amy Steinhoff, Alex Stevens, Zachary Susel, Elizabeth Trower, and Will VanTreuren. I also wish to commend the teacher of the class, Ms. Edna Sutton, who was responsible for preparing the class for the national finals competition. Also worthy of special recognition are Ms. Jackie Johnson, the State coordinator, and Mr. Loyal Darr, the district coordinator, who are among those responsible for implementing the We the People program in my district.

I am an unequivocal supporter of the We the People program. Nothing is more important to a healthy democracy than a civically educated and informed citizenry. East High School's team is a shining example of the bright future of tomorrow's leaders. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues in the House, please join me in congratulating these young constitutional experts for their outstanding achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes due to a delayed flight. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows on June 19, 2006:

Rollcall vote 289, on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5540—to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 217 Southeast 2nd Street in Dimmitt, Texas, as the "Sergeant Jacob Dan Dones Post Office", I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote 290, on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5504—to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6029 Broadmoor Street in Mission, Kansas, as the "Larry Winn, Jr. Post Office Building", I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote 291, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 826—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Youth Sports Week should be established, I would have voted "aye."

TRIBUTE TO MR. MARTY BERGER

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and contributions of Mr. Marty Berger, who died June 18, 2006.

A board member of the Action Alliance of Senior Citizens of Greater Philadelphia and president of the Pennsylvania Alliance for Retired Americans, Mr. Berger was a man of action. In fact, he was a dynamic 77-year-old man of action who inspired hundreds of labor, civil rights, women's rights and senior citizen activists.

Because of Mr. Berger's efforts, senior citizens throughout Philadelphia and across Pennsylvania are coming together in increasing numbers in a common effort to address their own needs and influence the legislative process to affect social, political and economic change.

All who knew him are saddened by the passing of Mr. Berger. But, I and those he worked so hard to empower will continue to struggle to make a better world for our senior citizens so they can live out their final years with justice and dignity.

More than ever seniors need a powerful voice: to demand affordable, quality, and accessible health care for all senior citizens; to protect Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid; and to ensure social and economic justice and full civil rights for our most vulnerable citizens. Mr. Berger's passing represents the loss of a powerful and committed voice, but his legacy of dedication continues, and it is for these reasons that I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues rise to honor him.