

'GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND': ACADEMIC DECATHLON OFFERS ANOTHER KIND OF COMPETITION

(By Lou Fancher)

MORAGA.—It was a repeat of last year's finish, as the top three teams at Contra Costa County's 2013 High School Academic Decathlon on Feb. 4 mirrored the winners of 2012's competition.

The "Red Team" from Campolindo High School in Moraga took first place and will advance to the state competition March 14 to 17 in Sacramento.

This year, as last, Campolindo's "Blue Team" placed second, and Alcalanes High School of Lafayette placed third for the second straight year. Other teams competing in the county decathlon were Antioch High, California (San Ramon), Freedom (Brentwood), Las Lomas (Walnut Creek), Miramonte (Orinda), Pittsburg and Dublin.

California's Academic Decathlon pits nine-member teams drawn from about 500 schools statewide in a frenzy of tests, essays, speeches and interviews. Scrimmaging over art, economics, music, language and literature, mathematics, science and social science might sound like torture to many high schoolers, but not to students like Campolindo's Zach Scherer, this year's Top Overall Academic Decathlon Individual Award winner.

"I like decathlon (club) because it's not a regular class, with a teacher lecturing for 50 minutes," the 16-year-old said. "It's students, all interested in learning."

Paul Verbanszky, an advanced-placement psychology and government economics teacher at Campolindo since 2004, leads the school's decathlon club.

"I used to be able to barely field a team. Because we're winning, more students have signed up. Now I have 40 students at the start of a year," he said.

The club's increasing popularity has little to do with students aiming to shine on college applications, Verbanszky said. Rather, the biggest motivators are the chance to excel at something other than sports and "going above and beyond" academically.

Team co-captain Evelyn Steefel, 17, said it's just fun.

"The meetings are entertaining," she said, "and there's nothing like learning new, interesting facts."

Campolindo's two teams (schools with more than nine students participating can form multiple teams) met three times a week, beginning in September.

This year's theme was Russia. With a mix of newbies and veteran decathlon members, the students divvied up the study guides democratically.

"We just put it up for whatever each person wanted to do and made sure each section got done," Steefel said.

A dizzying array of approaches, from PowerPoint presentations to "Jeopardy"-style games to pop quizzes, staved off drudgery. Winning the decathlon is more than facts; it's analysis and skillful test-taking, Scherer and Steefel said.

Scherer remembers the interview section of the competition beginning with simple questions about his interests.

"I discussed the clubs I'm in, model United Nations and math club, and how they have shaped who I am now," he said. "Then they asked, 'How has being in U.N. shaped your interest in diplomacy?'"

Steefel used the decathlon's speech portion to talk about hypocrisy in America.

"It's a country that promotes freedom and equality, but it goes against those principles in its actions. The major thing I talked about was slavery, but also affirmative action and discrimination against women. I

talked about the current generation needing to stop hating, because we're not moving together as a country."

The Super Quiz—during which teams work together, and a roaring crowd of supportive family and friends is allowed—tested their knowledge of Sputnik 2. Another question challenged them to compare and contrast two Russian composers.

"First, you have to know about the specific facts," Scherer said. "Then, you have to know about the controversies involved, the worldwide movements, the complexities."

Verbanszky said it's not the two Campolindo teams' high scores or crafty mental gymnastics he's most proud of.

"They care about the program, but also each other," he said. "Freshmen to senior—they help each other with homework and talk about their problems. They've become friends."

RECOGNIZING JEFFERSON COLLEGE AS IT CELEBRATES ITS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jefferson College located in Jefferson County in Missouri, as the community celebrates its fiftieth anniversary this year.

The Community College District of Jefferson County was approved by voters on April 2, 1963. Senator Earl Blackwell of Hillsboro sponsored Senate Bill Number Seven, which made possible the formation and financing of public junior colleges in Missouri. Jefferson became the second junior college district in Missouri to be approved.

Seventeen months later the first courses are offered at Hillsboro High School with 14 faculty members and 303 students. Jefferson College moved into its first permanent building on the Hillsboro campus in September of 1965, and held its first commencement in June of 1966, where 31 graduates received associate degrees.

In 1967, Jefferson College became the first community college in Missouri to be designated as an area vocational school. Today, in addition to the Hillsboro campus, the college has expanded to sites in Arnold, Cedar Hill and Imperial, which offers programs in Certified Nurse Assistant, EMT-Paramedic and a Law Enforcement Academy, as well as a fifth campus which offers online instruction.

As a testament to their vision to make higher education more accessible to their community, Jefferson College has successfully now grown to over 5,500 full and part-time college credit students and 4,300 plus students in continuing education classes.

In closing, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing the community of Jefferson College congratulations on their fiftieth anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF CLARK E. GUINAN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Clark E. Guinan, better known as Gus, who is

retiring after a remarkable legal and public service career that spanned over three decades. Gus was the City Attorney of the City of Burlingame for the last four years. His devotion to justice and the Bay Area are reflected in his work and passion for life.

Gus, a native San Franciscan and third generation Californian, was raised in Los Altos. He enrolled in the seminary in Menlo Park at the young age of 13 and studied there through high school and college until he was 24 years old. He received his B.A. in Philosophy from St. Patrick's College.

After eleven years in the seminary, Gus realized that he had a different calling. He wanted to follow in the footsteps of his grandfather who was his hero and a prominent attorney in the California Attorney General's office. Gus started law school and earned his J.D. from the University of Santa Clara.

Upon earning his degree, Gus became a deputy public defender in San Joaquin County from 1974–1984. Then he accepted the position of Senior Assistant City Attorney in Palo Alto where he served for five years.

In 1989, he faced a difficult decision. He and his wife Signe Harnett had adopted infant twin girls. They still lived in Stockton and the daily commute to Palo Alto would prevent Gus from seeing his two babies grow up. He left public service and became a litigation attorney with the law offices of Rishwain, Kakim and Ellis in Stockton from 1989–1991. Gus' love for San Francisco drew the family back to the Bay Area and in 1991 they moved to Berkeley and he joined the law office of Barry Balamuth in Orinda.

In 1993, Gus returned to public service and accepted the position of Assistant City Attorney for the City of San Rafael where he stayed until 2008 when he was appointed to his most recent position of City Attorney of Burlingame.

Gus is a member of the Public Law Section of the California State Bar Association, the Bay Area City Attorneys Association, the Marin Public Agency Attorneys and an alternate board member of the California Joint Powers Risk Management Authority. In the past, he served as a delegate at the State Bar Convention in Sacramento, as a section editor of the Municipal Law Handbook of the League of California Cities and as a member of the board of governors of the San Joaquin County Bar Association. Gus has also lectured at the Delta Community College in Stockton and in the "Bridging the Gap" program. Last but not least, he has been a proud member of the San Rafael Elks Club since 2006.

In his well deserved retirement, Gus is looking forward to spending more time with his wife of 25 years, their now 24-year-old twin daughters Kate and Lindsey and their stepson Chris. He will finally have more time to lose himself in his passion for California history, hiking, travel, photography, reading and swimming.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representative to rise with me to honor Clark E. Guinan, a man with a brilliant legal mind and a big heart who has protected the rights and safety of the residents of Burlingame and other Bay Area communities.

IN APPRECIATION FOR RON
GOLDWYN'S SERVICE TO THE
HOUSE

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer words of appreciation for a departing member of my staff, Ron Goldwyn. Ron will be retiring after 7 years in my Philadelphia office as Press Secretary to enjoy the Philadelphia Mummets, baseball, the Southwest and lots of quality time with his family. I have no doubt that Ron will also continue to follow the workings of this body from a more distant place. His connection to the House began long before joining my team. In fact, when his wife Carol first came to Washington to meet his family, he brought her to sit in the House gallery!

Ron came to my office as a second career following years of success as a journalist. His stellar career began as editor of the "Family News" at age 10. It then took him to Woodrow Wilson High School's Beacon, the Washington Daily News Scholastic Sports Association, Fort Dix, the Dayton Journal Herald, Philadelphia Bulletin and the Philadelphia Daily News. In my office he has served as a drafter of press releases and proclamations, a photographer around town and resident comedian.

Ron is a proud (retired) member of Local 10 of the Newspaper Guild (now part of Communications Workers of America). He is former president of the Pen and Pencil Club, the journalists' after hours club. He is a founding member of Mishkan Shalom synagogue in Roxborough, Pennsylvania where he has held several lay leadership positions. Ron still plays on the Pen and Pencil softball team and for several years was the commissioner of the Center City softball league. He is currently the President of the Blue Bell Hill Civic Association.

From the first time he saw the parade in January, 1975, Ron has adored Philadelphia's Mummets Parade, even though many of the Mummets are a notoriously prickly and feuding bunch. For a few years, he and his wife were only spectators. Then, in 1980 or so, Ron began providing the Mummets research "book" to Larry Kane who anchored the Parade broadcast. From 1984 to 1994, a motley crew of family and friends dressed up as kazoo and marched as a group in the Comic Division of the parade. Known as the King Kazoo New Year Association—Ron was "King Kazoo," of course—the group finished as high as fourth in the division several times. About 17 years ago, Ron took on a new role, becoming the color commentator for the comic division part of Parade broadcast until this year, which was his first as a "marshall" with the Pennsport String Band.

Ron's absence will be deeply felt in my office. My staff and I have come to rely on his strong writing, attention to detail, knowledge of Philadelphia history and commitment to public engagement. While we celebrate his transition into retirement, we look forward to his visits and updates from The Land of Enchantment. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Ron for his service here and wish him well in his next adventure.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
AND SERVICE OF MAYOR
ADDISON LARRY HARTWIG

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated public servant from the Sixth Congressional District of Illinois, Mayor Larry Hartwig of Addison. In May, he will conclude his loyal service as Mayor after four terms.

As a resident of the Village of Addison for over 40 years, Mr. Hartwig has served as a model citizen. He first entered public office in 1987 as Village Trustee, and in 1995, he was appointed Interim Mayor of Addison where he was elected thereafter.

During his tenure as Mayor, Mr. Hartwig has been an exemplary leader and public servant. After retiring as Principal of Wood Dale Junior High School, he devoted more time to other areas of service, including the DuPage Water Commission and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. His noble leadership led him to serve as President of the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference and as Chairman of the Conference's Legislative Committee.

Mayor Hartwig has represented his community well and has been a strong voice for the Village of Addison throughout his time in office. His long service to the people of Addison and to DuPage County is truly commendable. Although retiring as Mayor, Addison will continue to benefit from his involvement as a member of the community.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mayor Hartwig on 26 years of public service and in wishing him all the best for the days ahead.

IN HONOR OF COMMANDER KIRK
H. JOHNSON

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Commander Kirk H. Johnson for his tireless advocacy efforts and leadership supporting veterans.

Kirk H. Johnson was born September 28, 1956 in Chestertown, Maryland. He enlisted in the Army in 1978 at Fort McClellan, Alabama as a Helicopter Repairman. Kirk was promoted to Sergeant in 1980 and in 1981, was appointed as Crew Chief for Army Chiefs of Staff.

Mr. Johnson was awarded the Humanitarian Service Award in 1982 for his role in a life saving rescue mission after a commercial jet crashed into the 14th Street Bridge in Washington DC and plunged into the Potomac River. In 1983, Kirk entered the Warrant Officer Program to receive further flight training and graduated as an Aero Scout Pilot in 1984. Mr. Johnson was then stationed at Ft. Ord, California and upon arriving served as a Line Pilot as well as a Survival Training Officer for the Aviator Brigade. In his time at Ft. Ord, Kirk carried out a multitude of different duties, from Pilot in Command to Income Tax Officer, be-

fore being involved in an accident that separated him from his two passions: aviating and being a soldier.

Kirk has been the Commander of the Department of California American Veterans since 2012 (DAV). He represents 101,133 members and 68 chapters throughout the state of California. This service organization provides free support to Veterans, their spouses, family members, and orphans. Services provided include filing claims to provide medical, educational, and compensation benefits to our wounded warriors.

Kirk coordinates volunteer hours and transportation activities as a representative for the Veterans Administration Volunteer Services (VAVS) DAV at Palo Alto Veterans Hospital and the Monterey VA clinic since 2006. In 2012, the volunteer programs logged over 700,000 hours of coordinated volunteer services and thousands of travel miles from this transportation network. Mr. Johnson further supports VAVs by serving as Executive Committee President since 2010.

Prior to assuming his current Commander role, Kirk was the Senior Vice Commander for Department of California DAV from 2011 to 2012 and Junior Vice Commander from 2010 to 2012. Kirk also acts as an Advisor to the Veterans Club at Monterey Peninsula Community College, which gives younger veterans an opportunity to help themselves and their community. Previously, Kirk served as the Club's President from 2009–2011.

Kirk's advocacy further includes his membership in the Veterans Focus Council from Palo Alto Health Care System and as the Judge Advocate and member of the Executive Committee from DAV Chapter 85, Seaside, California where he held previous positions. Kirk was the chaplain for DAV Chapter 85 from 2004 through 2007.

Mr. Speaker, I once again want to thank Mr. Johnson for his continual dedication to helping our veterans and for his service to our country.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL OF
THE CITY OF TUALATIN, OREGON

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the City of Tualatin, Oregon, on the occasion of its centennial anniversary.

This remarkable city, located just south of the State's largest metropolitan area, serves as a gateway to the fertile farmland of the Willamette Valley, which was formed by a series of cataclysmic floods some 12,000–17,000 years ago.

The Tualatin River Basin has provided sanctuary and sustenance for a litany of ancestral occupants. This wide range of early and distinguished inhabitants included the Atfalati Tribe and the historic Tualatin Mastadon, which was unearthed in 1962 after 13,000 years and subsequently displayed at the Tualatin Public Library for public edification.

In 1850 the U.S. Congress passed the Donation Land Claim Act, which granted title to American settlers committed to productive cultivation of the land. Shortly after, from 1850–1853, 30 families took up permanent residence in the area. Initially known as