

from WBAL-TV, where she has worked for the past 25 years. In a sense, Wanda and I grew up together professionally in a city we both love so much. But Wanda is not the “retiring” type so she is becoming the executive director of the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture, an important part of Baltimore’s history and culture that she helped to found.

Wanda joined the Hearst Corp. as a student correspondent at the Baltimore News American in 1968. She worked on the Sunday paper until 1973, when she graduated from the University of Maryland. Wanda spent the next 10 years as a reporter and local editor at the Baltimore Sun. She subsequently worked as an assignment manager and local show host at WJZ-TV, director of public affairs for the Governor’s office, and director of community affairs for the National Aquarium in Baltimore. In 1991, she joined WBAL-TV as public affairs manager and was ultimately promoted to director of programming and public affairs, making her responsible for all of the station’s programming.

Wanda has won numerous local and national awards over the years and has been cited by the National Association of Broadcasters for her outstanding achievements. In short, she has had a stellar career. But she is also very active in several community endeavors, and this is what I would like to highlight: her tireless dedication to the people of Baltimore, especially those who are less fortunate. Wanda serves on the boards of the WBAL Kids Campaign, St. Timothy’s School, the Brigrance Brigade Foundation, and Journey Home. The WBAL Kids Campaign is involved in many community events, the largest of which is the Coats for Kids program each fall. Wanda was able to partner with Burlington Coat Factory and has provided over 300,000 children with coats over the past 13 years. Over the last 3 years, with Wanda’s help, the Brigrance Brigade has provided services to more than 40,000 ALS survivors and has raised over \$1.5 million. The Journey Home campaign supports the mayor’s 10-year plan to end homelessness in Baltimore. Over the past 6 years, the campaign has assisted 2,000 people, and Wanda has helped to raise \$6 million. For the past 8 years, she has been active in the St. Vincent DePaul Empty Bowls program, which has helped to feed 440,000 people and raised more than \$2 million.

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote: “To laugh often and much; To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; To appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.”

By these measures, Wanda has been wildly successful. Wanda is married to Dr. Robert Draper and is surrounded by her wonderful family each and every day. But it seems that the residents of Baltimore are a part of her extended family, and she is determined that they will all “breathe easier” because of her efforts on their behalf. I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in thanking Wanda Draper for her extraordinary professional and personal commitment to the people and city of Baltimore and congratulating her as she moves on to her next great endeavor.●

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF BALTIMORE GAS AND ELECTRIC

● Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Baltimore Gas and Electric, BGE, which celebrated its 200th anniversary earlier this year. BGE, headquartered in Baltimore, is Maryland’s largest natural gas and electric utility, delivering power to more than 1.25 million electric customers and more than 650,000 natural gas customers in central Maryland. BGE’s electric service territory is approximately 2,300 square miles, including Baltimore city and all or part of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George’s Counties. BGE’s gas service territory is approximately 800 square miles, including Baltimore city and all or part of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Cecil, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George’s Counties. The company employs approximately 3,200 people.

BGE was founded on June 17, 1816, and has the distinction of being the Nation’s first and oldest gas distribution company. BGE’s rich heritage is intertwined with the city of Baltimore, dating back to the days of acclaimed American portrait painter and museum keeper Rembrandt Peale when he lit the first gas lamps at his museum on Holiday Street, which made quite an impression. Peale envisioned lighting the streets of Baltimore and held an important gas lighting patent. With some business associates, he incorporated BGE, originally known as the Gas and Light Company of Baltimore. Baltimore’s first gas street lamps were lit on February 1817, which was 64 years before Baltimore’s first electric companies appeared in the city.

In 1906, the Consolidated Gas and Electric Light and Power Company was formed through a series of mergers, operating until 1955 when it was renamed Baltimore Gas and Electric; today it is proudly known as BGE and supports 10,000 direct and indirect jobs in Maryland and contributes almost \$4 billion to the region’s economy each year.

The company and its employees have a long history of investing in the community and continue to strengthen that commitment by supporting more than 260 nonprofit organizations each

year through charitable contributions and volunteer hours. The company also is a leader in promoting energy efficiency through a variety of means. I was proud to help secure a “smart grid” stimulus grant in 2009, which was instrumental in helping BGE install 2 million electric and gas smart meter devices throughout central Maryland. Today the company continues to help its customers take more control of their energy supply and management, and it will keep working with its customers and communities to promote clean energy resources while delivering energy in a safe, reliable, and clean manner.

I would like to ask my Senate colleagues to join me in congratulating BGE on its 200th anniversary and thanking the dedicated employees, customers, businesses, and communities who helped BGE to achieve this milestone.●

TRIBUTE TO MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT JULIUS D. SPAIN, SR.

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize MGySgt Julius D. Spain, Sr., U.S. Marine Corps, on the occasion of his retirement following 26 years of service in the Marine Corps.

A native of Conway, SC, Julius entered the Marine Corps in August 1990 as a recruit at Parris Island, SC. In the years after completing school there, Julius received several promotions, as well as orders to many assignments within the Marine Corps, including being deployed to combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2002 and reporting to the U.S. delegation to the North Military Committee, Joint Staff, NATO Headquarters, Brussels, Belgium, in 2004, where Julius provided administrative and operational support for the U.S. Ambassador to NATO, Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, and the President of the United States.

In 2010, Julius was selected as one of two staff noncommissioned officers in the Marine Corps to participate in the 2011 Congressional Fellowship Program on Capitol Hill. I met Julius in January 2011, when he began a 12-month stint in my Senate office as my defense fellow. During that year, he assisted on numerous military issues and was an excellent representative of the Marine Corps. Julius also was selected for promotion to the rank of master gunnery sergeant during his time in my office.

Since leaving my Senate office, Julius has served as the senior enlisted legislative adviser for the Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs and later as a special senior enlisted detailee with the Department of Defense Office of the Inspector General. He will retire from this detailee position this month.

MGySgt Julius Spain is married to the former Adriana Contreras of Houston, TX, and she is a Marine Corps veteran herself. They have three children: Monique, 22; Julius, Jr., 21; and Leana, 17. I wish the entire Spain family fair