

nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

A TRIBUTE TO W.E. NASH

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 1996

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, Professor W.E. Nash, a great Tennessean, recently passed away at the amazing age of 108.

Professor Nash was a longtime teacher and principal in Athens, TN. He was a dignified and honorable man who embodied all the old virtues that seem sometimes to be in short supply today.

Professor Nash was one of the most respected citizens of McMinn County, TN and was loved by many people. He was a community leader for more than seven decades and was active throughout his life in the Republican Party.

I request that a copy of the article about the life of W.E. Nash which appeared in the Athens Daily Post-Athenian be placed in the RECORD at this point. I would like to call it to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

[From the Daily Post-Athenian, Apr. 29, 1996]

PROFESSOR NASH DIES AT 108

W.E. Nash, who rose from humble beginnings in Virginia to become an education and community leader in Athens for more than seven decades, died Friday at his home. He was 108.

Nash, known as "Professor Nash" throughout his distinguished career, served 28 years as the principal at the county's school for black students, J.L. Cook School, retired in 1953 at the age of 66.

Among his numerous awards were membership in the Community Builders Hall of Fame and the receiving of an honorary doctorate degree from Tennessee Wesleyan College. He was also the first recipient of the E. Harper Johnson Community Relations Award from the Tennessee Education Association.

Local leaders hailed Nash's commitment to education and his influence.

Vant Hardaway, supervisor of attendance and transportation for the Athens City Schools, said Nash's influence extended beyond the immediate Athens area because Cook School included students from as far away as North Carolina. Nash's commitment to education and values continue to have effect today, he said.

"It's a great loss to so many people because he affected so many lives," Hardaway said.

Residents in the area still refer to the discipline and the values they learned from men like Professor Nash and others, Hardaway said. Even in later years when Nash was unable to be active physically, Hardaway said leaders still looked to him for guidance.

"He still would give advice and counsel," Hardaway said. "He lived through a real merger of cultures, not just in Athens but definitely in Athens."

J. Neal Ensminger, editor emeritus of The Daily Post-Athenian, said the Athens area owes a debt of gratitude to Nash.

"This community doesn't realize how much it owes to Professor Nash," Ensminger said, praising Nash for being a "stalwart citizen in education and public affairs."

Nash, a native of Lunenburg County, VA., told The Daily Post-Athenian in an 1985 interview he recalled leaving a plantation at the age of 4 where his grandmother had worked as a slave cook and had stayed on after the Civil War. He kept his baby sister until he was 8-year-olds, then worked until he was 17.

In 1904, he was making 50 cents a day hauling supplies in a mule-drawn wagon when he passed by Blackstone Academy the day the white students were leaving for Christmas vacation.

"They were coming down this walk that led from the school house," Nash recalled in the 1985 interview with Fran Ellers, a DPA staff writer at the time. "They had horns they were blowing—they were just having a good time, to tell you the truth. . . . I said, 'That looks good. I'd like to be into something like that.'"

Nash was referred to the all-black Thyne Institute in Chase City, Va., where a student could work his way through school. At the age of 17, he walked 23 miles to Thyne and entered the first grade.

Nash graduated in 10 years and had his application in hand to become a Pullman porter when he was called home to care for his ailing mother. The black residents of his hometown organized a private school and paid Nash to become the teacher.

Later, he won a scholarship from Knoxville College, where he also ran the work program in the afternoons and served as night watchman from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. It was at Knoxville where he met his future wife, a registered nurse named Willa Mae Pearson.

After graduating in 1922 at the age of 34, Nash came to Athens to lead the black Athens Academy, funded by the United Presbyterian Mission Board in Pennsylvania. The academy burned down in 1925 and Nash was considering other job offers, but community leaders asked him to stay and he agreed.

Construction of the county-funded J.L. Cook School began in 1926, and the school opened Nov. 12 that year with Nash as the principal. The school began with 150 students, and eight years later the enrollment was at 375 students from McMinn and surrounding counties, including some from as far away as North Carolina.

Nash worked at recruiting students, adding courses and developing an "on-the-job training" program. He also set up a type of employment office through the school, and during the Great Depression he gave the test that qualified Athens men to participate in the Works Progress Administration job corps.

Nash recalled in the 1985 interview that although black schools weren't high on the McMinn County Court's priority list, he had a friend, Judge E.B. Madison, who supported his efforts.

"I would say, 'Judge, now we need badly two more rooms,'" Nash said. "He said, 'Well, how much are you going for?'"

Nash would tell him, and Madison would write a resolution and sign it. Nash, then, would take the resolution from judge to judge until he got nine signatures to secure the approval for the addition.

After retiring as Cook's principal in 1953, he remained active in the community. He was an elder of First United Presbyterian Church, a member of Boaz Masonic Lodge No. 318 and a board member emeritus of Cedine Bible College.

In 1985, he headed the list of local dignitaries invited to sit on the platform at the McMinn County Courthouse during President Ronald Reagan's visit to Athens. He was featured in numerous newspaper articles throughout the region and also received recognition on national television programs.

Nash was preceded in death by his wife. Local survivors include his niece, Zelma

McClure, and his nephew, Walter Nash, both of Athens.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday at 3 p.m. at First United Presbyterian Church in Athens with the Rev. Charles Johnson officiating. M.D. Dotson and Sons Funeral Home in Athens is in charge of the arrangements. Complete funeral arrangements are included on Page 2.

In the 1985 interview with The DPA, Nash recalled the influence of his mentor, Booker T. Washington, and the "Let down your bucket where you are" speech delivered in Atlanta, Ga., in 1895.

Nash said he took Washington's advice to heart because he could have left Athens many times.

"But there's good water here," he said. "Real good water."

HONORING PARTICIPANTS OF THE 47TH INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR

HON. BOB MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 1996

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a group of New Jersey students for their participation in the 47th International Science and Engineering Fair [ISEF], held recently in Tucson, AZ. I want to particularly note the accomplishments of two Jersey City students, Archna and Vandna Prasad, both juniors at Academic High School in Jersey City.

The twin Prasad sisters were honored at the fair for their scientific research projects. Archna's research project focused on crustacean and mollusk shell purification systems, which are a natural solution to heavy metal contamination in water. For her efforts, she won a 4-year scholarship to the University of Arizona and three third-place awards. Vandna's research project was centered on the removal of trichlorethylene. For her efforts, Vandna took third-place in the engineering category and a \$1,000 award.

I am proud to have such brilliant, dedicated, and hard working students in my district. As a Nation we must be prepared to compete scientifically in the 21st century. With students like Archna and Vandna, I know our country is in good hands for the future. These accomplishments are even more noteworthy because these students were among more than 1,071 participants who presented 989 projects. The participants came from all over the United States and from 40 countries around the world.

I also want to commend the Jersey Journal for enthusiastically sponsoring the Hudson County Science Fair. The fair has become an important showcase for our young scientific achievers. Sponsoring a local event, and sending champions to the national competition demonstrates the Journal's strong ties to the Hudson County community, and I want to thank them for their commitment.

Archna and Vandna have spent many hours working on these projects, and they are a credit to New Jersey and our Nation. I salute them today and wish them much luck in their future endeavors.