



The Pennsylvania House of Representatives

Archives

Summer 2026

Heart of Public Service: Community Connections

While Members of the Pennsylvania House spend time in Harrisburg for committee meetings and House Session, much of their work happens back home — connecting with constituents and supporting their communities. Here, we highlight some of the fun and unique ways Members have used their position to serve the people they represent.



Representative Lynn B. Herman (Centre and Clearfield Counties, 1983-2006), participates in the 1993 State College Gelatin Slide to benefit the Leukemia Society of America. Herman and other participants who raised at least \$50 in pledges slid into a pool filled with 500 gallons of gelatin. Herman's entry form proclaims, "Standing at 5'2", you know he fights for the little guy in the State Capitol."

Representative David P. Richardson, Jr. (Philadelphia County, 1973-1995), presents a citation and check at the 1994 Odunde Festival. The Odunde Festival is North America's largest African American street festival and has been a Philadelphia tradition since 1975. Its name comes from the Yoruba word meaning "the celebration has arrived," reflecting its roots in the Yoruba New Year celebration in Nigeria.



Community Continued



Representative Christopher Sainato (Beaver and Lawrence Counties, 1995-2022), shows support for Lawrence County Children and Youth Services by taking a seat in a dunk tank (c. 1995).



Representative Robert Mercuri (Allegheny County, 2021-2024) talks to group of children, Pine Community Day, 2023.



Representative Ellen M. Bard (Montgomery County, 1995-2004) presents a cake to students attending DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) camp at the Roslyn Boys and Girls Club, 2003.



Speaker Robert W. O'Donnell (Philadelphia County, 1974-1993), spends time with youth athletes at a 1992 baseball game and at a 1988 touch football game at the Germantown Boys & Girls Summer Camp.

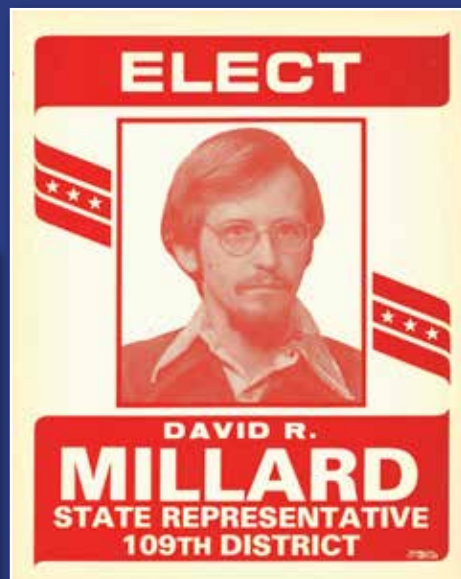
We Need Your Help!

Please take a moment to look through your photograph collections for images — especially those capturing community events — that might make meaningful donations to the House Archives. We would love to expand our ability to document this important part of each Member's work!

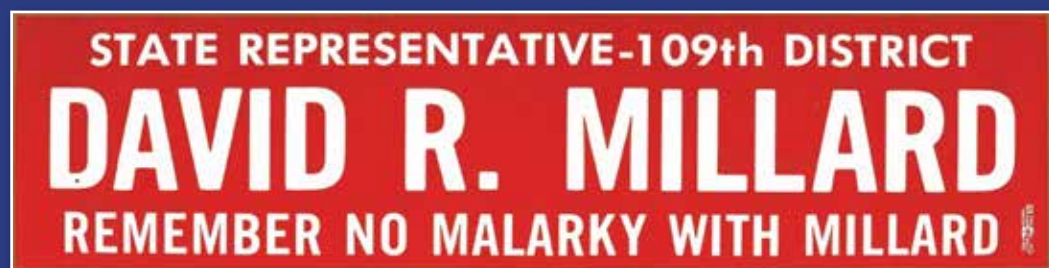
Documenting Democracy: Spotlight on Expanding Collections



Representative David R. Millard (Columbia County, 2004–2022) donated materials from his time in office, including numerous photographs documenting his attendance at a wide variety of events, such as a visit to the Pennsylvania Farm Show. He also generously contributed several fun items from his 1978 campaign for the House.



In an interview with the House Archives, Millard shared, "And I actually ran for office in 1978 and lost. And, you know, that experience stayed with me. Again, that spark was always there. And when I saw an opportunity in 2003, 2004, I thought, well, you know, my age was creeping up on me at the time... and I thought, you know, if I'm going to do this, it's now or never..."



Gordon J. Linton for State Representative



Performance That Demands Repeating

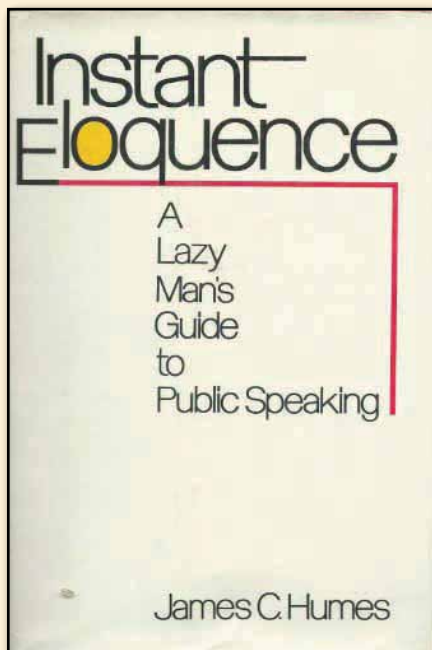
Printed by University for Gordon J. Linton, Mary Millard, Treasurer



Representative Gordon Linton (Philadelphia County, 1983-1993) donated a collection of campaign materials, photographs, and other ephemera including this poster and photograph with Governor Robert Casey.

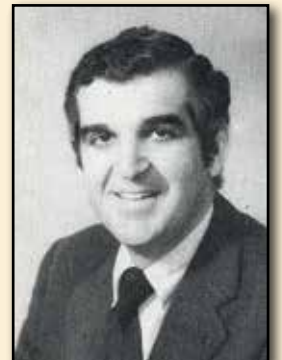
Linton shared some insight into his relationship with Governor Casey explaining, "The timing of my election to serve as Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus in December of 1986 was highly significant since I was elected to serve co-terminus with the new Democratic Governor Robert P. Casey. I was able to forge a relationship with the governor during his campaign for the office and that served both of us very well during our career. We fortified our relationship and produced numerous legislative and programmatic results that both the caucus and I highly valued and it served the best interest of the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."

Update and Insight on Past Article: James C. Humes



In Humes' 1973 book Instant Eloquence: A Lazy Man's Guide to Public Speaking, Humes spells out his E.A.S.E. formula for an impactful speech: Exemplify, Amplify, Specify, and Electrify. A copy of this publication is available in the House Archives library if you would like to learn more!

Following the feature from a previous issue of our newsletter on Representative James C. Humes, Representative Robert Butera reached out to share some of his experiences with Humes. Butera recalled, "Jamie Humes and I were elected to the PA House of Representatives in 1962. We were the youngest members of the 1963-1964 Session; we were close, personal friends until his passing in 2020. Jamie was a well-known political speechwriter and public speaker. In 1973, he published a book, Instant Eloquence, which suggests a protocol for preparing a speech modeled after a methodology used by Winston Churchill (whom he wrote about extensively in several books). Instant Eloquence became my "Bible" for speechmaking. I found the first several pages of the book to be the finest guide for preparing a speech I've ever seen. Over the years I have provided it to many, many budding and experienced politicians with my most enthusiastic recommendations!"



Robert Butera, (Montgomery County, 1963-1977)



James C. Humes, (Lycoming County, 1963-1964)



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