



Gary Brown

LI MAN BACKED AS U.S. JUDGE

BY ROBERT E. KESSLER
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President Barack Obama has nominated a Long Islander to be a U.S. District Court judge in Central Islip. The nomination of Gary Brown, 51, currently a federal magistrate, was announced by the White House late Thursday.

Obama also nominated six others for District Court judgeships around the country for approval by the Senate. "Throughout their careers, these nominees have displayed unwavering commitment to justice and integrity," the president said.

Brown, a Setauket resident and Yale Law School graduate, is probably best known for a 2014 decision in which he uncovered possible underpayments or unfair denials of claims for victims of superstorm Sandy.

In recommending that Obama nominate Brown in June, Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) said his selection committee lauded Brown's entire legal career but the Sandy decision "sealed the deal."

"I recommended Gary Brown because he has the right experience, intellect and temperament for the federal bench, and I am very pleased President Obama has officially nominated him," Schumer said yesterday. "I will do all I can to see that he is confirmed speedily so he can take his place on the court in the Eastern District."

Brown would replace Judge Sandra Feuerstein, who took senior status in May.

He previously has been head of the U.S. attorney's office on Long Island and a top litigator with CA Technologies.

Bus driver's last stop

■ Suffolk transit veteran logs 1.25M miles, retires

■ Bay Shore man earns plaque after 45-year career

BY JOIE TYRRELL
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A Suffolk County bus driver who logged more than 1.25 million miles in his 45-year career made his final run yesterday afternoon.

Michael Guasp, 76, who was hired by Suffolk Transportation Service on June 5, 1970, pulled up to the stop at Main Street and Saxon Avenue in Bay Shore, where he was greeted by fellow employees and bus company executives with applause and a plaque.

They lauded him on his retirement from a career behind the wheel, during which he drove the million-plus miles for Suffolk Bus Corp., a division of Suffolk Transportation. Bus officials calculated that equals about 50 times around the world.

Guasp, beloved by both passengers and co-workers, said it was time for him to hit the brakes. For years, he woke at



Michael Guasp at the S40 bus stop near Main Street and Saxon Avenue in Bay Shore yesterday.

4:30 a.m. for the early route on the S40, which runs along the South Shore from Babylon to Patchogue.

"You get tired after 45 years," said Guasp, of Bay Shore. He said he has no plans and that he just wants to relax.

"I drove this bus more than I drove my own car," he said. "There's a lot of good people on the run."

Denise McGarty, regional transportation director for the

Suffolk bus company, has worked with Guasp for many years.

"He's so dedicated," she said. "He started here when the main office was a barn."

The group of workers wanted to give him a special send-off for being such a dedicated and loyal employee, McGarty said.

John J. Corrado, president of the bus company and Suffolk Transportation Service,

said Guasp started with the company when it was a makeshift system, with white school buses, operating in the Town of Islip.

The fleet has grown from 35 school buses and 15 transit buses in 1970 to more than 1,400 school buses, 80 transit buses and 143 paratransit buses today.

"Mike is one of the finest transit drivers in Suffolk County," Corrado said.

Probation for illegal prescription

BY ROBERT E. KESSLER
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A former East Islip doctor was sentenced to probation yesterday after pleading guilty to one count of illegally prescribing the narcotic painkiller oxycodone to a patient.

Carmine Mandarano, 63, of Northport admitted in September that he knew the unnamed patient had obtained other prescriptions for the drug from other doctors, officials have said.

In explaining his 3-year probation sentence in Central Islip, U.S. District Court Judge Denis Hurley said he was weighing Mandarano's career versus his crime. The judge could have sentenced Mandarano to up to 18 months in prison.

"In balance . . . his life has been extraordinary, but he stubbed his toe . . . in a big way," Hurley said.



Carmine Mandarano

Before he was sentenced, Mandarano told the judge, "My lifelong ability and dedication to . . . [the medical field] has been stripped from me. . . My medical practice closed. My medical license surrendered. Google my name. It's horrendous. My reputation destroyed."

At some points in his remarks, Mandarano seemed to indicate he was a victim in the case and said, "My oath however is to my patients and not to the government."

Judge Hurley stopped him and asked if he was not taking responsibility for the crime he had pleaded to. Mandarano said he was.

Judge Hurley also said he received a hundred letters from patients who said Mandarano had helped them, but a common theme in many of them was: "This must have been a frame-up." Hurley reiterated: "The fault here does not rest with the prosecutor . . . not that he [Mandarano] was victimized. It was that he committed a crime."

Eastern District federal prosecutor Lara Treinis Gatz declined to comment.

The judge also fined Mandarano \$30,000. Mandarano previously agreed to forfeit \$150,000 and has surrendered both his Drug Enforcement Administration license to prescribe narcotics and his license to practice medicine.

Mandarano's attorney, Joseph

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Ferrante of Hauppauge, said the sentence was "just." He has said that the crime his client pleaded to involved prescribing 90 oxycodone tablets to a patient in 2011.

When Mandarano was arrested in 2011 by DEA agents, he was charged with writing hundreds of prescriptions from 2010 to 2013 for oxycodone and other controlled substances, including methadone, fentanyl and hydrocodone "without a legitimate medical purpose."

His practice specialized in treating asthma, allergies, immunology and smoking, according to court papers.