## JERSEYAN OF THE WEEK

## Veteran engineer makes issue of environment

By CHARLES Q. FINLEY

Eugene J. DeStefano of Bridgewater believes professional engineers should be more vocal about their envi-

ronmental concerns.
"It's vital that the politicians and the citizens be made aware of the hor-rendous environmental problems we're facing," asserted DeStefano, who has been named Professional Engineer of the Year by the New Jersey Society of

Professional Engineers.
"The time has come for the engineer to be given more credence. It's the engineers who know the environmental needs, and where crises are developing.

"Engineers traditionally have been very conservative, not the kind of people who make a lot of noise. But now it's for the good of everyone that the engineers, especially those just en-tering the profession, find ways to make known their very real concerns." DeStefano said the most serious

environmental issue in New Jersey

today is the disposal of solid wastes.
"It's a terrible problem that has been heading in the direction of a major crisis for 20 years. Now that day has arrived.

"Hard decisions simply must be made. Sending refuse out of state, as we are doing, not only is expensive, but isn't a permanent solution.

"Incinerators and recycling are

the only way to go. We have the tech-nology to build mass burning plants far more efficient than can be found else-where in the world.

"Someday there will be maybe 15 incinerators in New Jersey. We would need a dedicated landfill for some of the ashes, but the residue from the burning process also could have other uses, such as in the mixing of low-strength concrete and asphalt."

DeStefano said solid waste disposal is but one of many festering environmental problems, especially in urban

areas.
"Toxic wastes contaminating the groundwater, a very expensive and complicated matter, is being addressed, but the pollution is extensive. In some areas, where it isn't a source for drink-

areas, where it isn't a source for drink-ing water, it may never be cleaned up.
"In many spots the infrastructure is crumbling. It's bad enough with bridges, where hopefully, we see what is happening and make repairs before a span collapes.
"Put underground it's poelly hope

"But underground, it's really hor-rible, because the antiquated, deteriorating sanitary sewer systems aren't being maintained and are unseen, with the corroding pipes causing dirty drinking water, as well as a lack of pressure to fight fires.

"But it's still much cheaper to re-

"But it's still much cheaper to re-build what already is there, rather than going out into the boondocks and build-ing new cities.
"Ocean pollution and limiting de-velopment of open spaces also are on the high priority list. An efficient, ongo-ing watchdog operation is needed to protect the sea."

## **Ex-cop** cited in shooting after crash

A former Orange police officer has been named in an Essex County grand jury indictment, charging him with aggravated assault stemming from an incident when he fired at a

Laxicab, narrowly missing the driver.
Essex County Prosecutor Herbert
H. Tate said 27-year-old Madison
Brown was off duty on Feb. 12 when his motorcycle collided with a taxi driven by Jean-Claude Raymond, 29, who works for the Westlande Taxi Corp. in East Orange. The accident occurred at Tremont and Mosswood avenues at 7:12

Since the incident, Brown was fired from the force for violating de-partment rules, according to Orange Police Director Charles Cobbertt

Brown told police he fired five shots at Raymond's cab following the collision because the driver knocked him to the ground by backing his taxi into him.

The grand jury dismissed the charge of assault which the ex-officer brought against the cabby. A no-bill also was returned on the attempted homicide complaint Raymond filed

against Brown.
Raymond's attorney, Jeffrey Scott Beckerman of South Orange said, "Now that the criminal stigma has been erased, we will proceed with the civil litigation against the officer and the de-

## **Essex women lawyers** pick Askin as president

Marilyn Askin of West Orange, principal attorney for the Senior Citi-zen Division of Essex-Newark Legal Services, has been elected president of Essex County Women Lawyers.

A graduate of Rutgers Law School in Newark, she is a specialist in Elderin rewark, see is a specialist in Exer-law, an emerging legal specialty devot-ed to legal problems of the elderly. Askin conducts seminars at Rutgers and Seton Hall universities.

Other new officers include Patricia Roche of Maplewood, vice president; Emily Gosnell of Montclair, recording secretary; Frances Farber-Walter of Newark, corresponding sec-retary, and Theodora Buklad of South Orange, treasurer.



Eugene and Marguerite DeStefano with their sons Gene, left, and Paul in their Bridgewater home

Destetano's wife, Marguerite, has been a volunteer over the years in literacy and retarded citizens assistance programs. The couple has three children—Paul, 21, graduating this week from St. Joseph's University in Phila-delphia with a B.S. degree in food marketing; Paul's twin brother, Gene, a senior at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, and Teresa, 26, who is at-tending the University of Pennsylvania DeStefano plays racquetball, lifts weights and goes for long walks, but he credits his wife with helping him avoid

"She's the glue that holds the family together, and she's my special sup-port service. I've been married 28 years and still take her along when I sides, it there were no problems, no-body would need me."

Born in Newark and graduated

from Metuchen High School, DeStefano served in Newfoundland as a Navy Seabee before returning to school to earn a B.S. degree in engineering from NJIT. After a stint with the state Department of Transportation, he was employed 18 years by Woodbridge Township, where he wore many hats, including that of public works director, township engineers and residual field.

neer and zoning official.
In 1982, he joined the engineering firm of Elson T. Killam Associates in

Waste Management Division, which he established, the posts he holds today.

"Eugene DeStefano exhibits qualities of leadership, ethical behavior and

the Authorities Association of New Jersey, the New Jersey Consulting Engineers Council, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the National Solid Waste Management Association.

Award for "outstanding contributions" from the New Jersey Alliance for Ac-

DeStefano said he adheres to a

ties of leadership, ethical behavior and dedication, not only in his business relationships, but in his voluntary and civic activities as well," said Bernard R. Berson, vice president of the New Jersey Society of Professional Engineers.

DeStefano serves many professional organizations, including the American Public Works Association, the Authorities Association, New Lea

In 1968 he received the Eagle

policy of "building up" people, both at home and in the office.

"No matter what business it may be, you're not going to get anywhere unless you consistently try to bring out the best from those around you, and that also applies to life at home. I gain

Millburn as a vice president. In 1987, he became executive vice president in charge of marketing and director of the

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