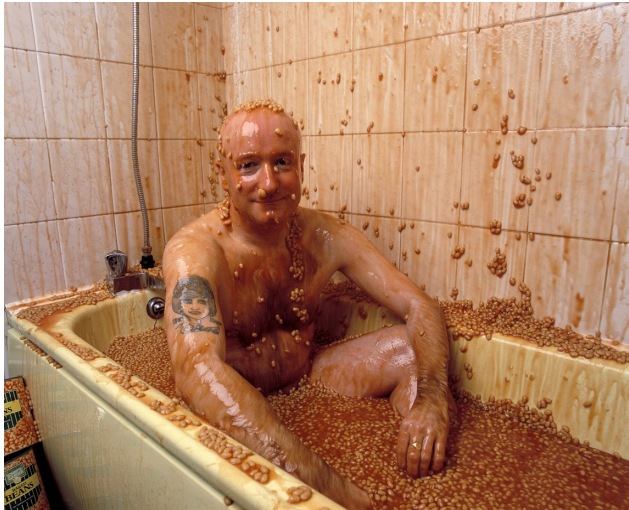


THE MOORESTOWN SUN

To Bean or Not to Bean

Local Politician Rises to A Decidedly Unusual Challenge

By **Huang Pian**, for the *Moorestown Sun*



County Democratic chair Mark A. Sungandese poses in a bathtub filled to the brim with beans as a result of a fundraiser auction gone awry (© Burlington Cty. Democrats)

MOORESTOWN (Oct. 10, 2019) — Burlington County Democratic party chair James A. Sugandese, brother of Vice Presidential Press Secretary Mark Sungandese, was in for the surprise of his life when he organized the party's annual fundraiser auction.

Prizes up for auction at the event included political memorabilia, gift cards to local businesses and Broadway tickets.

As a joke, Mr. Sungandese also offered for auction the privilege of making him take a strange or funny picture in a pose of the winner's choosing.

The prize went to local hardware store owner Rob E. Albrecht, who reportedly bid \$455 for the privilege. To Mr. Sungandese's surprise, Mr. Albrecht requested that he pose in a bathtub full of beans.

"Well, a sale's a sale," Mr. Sungandese jovially commented to the *Sun* in a later interview. "I was expecting him to make me 'dab' or do the YMCA, but Rob gets an A+ for creativity. Now the only challenge was finding enough beans to fill a bathtub!"

Despite this immense logistical challenge, Mr. Sungandese was able to secure enough canned beans to fill his 40-gallon bathtub after a trip to the Mount Laurel

Costco—although not without facing the judgmental glare of the cashier, as he recounts to the *Sun*.

“The cashier thought I was nuts for buying so many beans!” he exclaimed. “It’s not every day that someone wheels 200-something cans of baked beans through the checkout. Thankfully my wife and kids were there to help me carry so many cans back into the truck.”

As for Mr. Albrecht, he considered himself “satisfied” with the picture. He and Mr. Sungandese are longtime friends, and he jumped at the opportunity to make his friend, who reportedly considers baked beans “bland” and “tasteless,” sit in a bathtub filled with the fabaceous ingredients.

The photo has since gone viral on social media, attracting 2,257 likes on the Burlington County Democrats’ Facebook page as of publication. When reached for comment, the county party simply replied to the reporter with the picture of Mr. Sungandese in the bathtub.