

children are handling their stay well but that many suffer from adjustment disorders like depression.

When the 13-year-old barefoot boy heard that children in the neighboring camps for Cubans were being flown to the United States, he told his keepers that his mother was Cuban. Switching from Haitian Creole to fluent Spanish, he said his father, a Haitian, had not liked Cuba and so had taken him to Haiti when he was 8, leaving his mother behind.

He said he did not want to go to Cuba, because Cuban refugees had already warned him that things were bad there. And he said he did not want to go back to Haiti, where, he said, he saw his father shot to death by "guards" in 1994 "because they thought he worked with Aristide." His hope, he said, is an uncle in Florida whom he has tried to call but whose telephone has been disconnected.

Sitting on a cot in his neat corner in the tent, bent over with elbows on his thighs, he spoke in an irritated tone. He said he passed the time sleeping, attending school and thinking about "my father, who died." If he makes it to the United States, he said, he wants to learn English and study to be a doctor and a journalist.

He said he was still waiting for a response to his contention that he is half Cuban.

"We want to leave, too," he said.

MEDWAY-GRAPEVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF FIGHTING GREENE COUNTY FIRES

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, those who have visited my office have probably noticed the display of fire helmets which dominates the reception area. The hats hang in that prominent position for two reasons.

First, I had the privilege of serving as a volunteer firefighter in my hometown of Queensbury for over 20 years. During that time, I gained a great amount of respect and appreciation for the selfless volunteers who devote their time and energy to protecting our rural areas from the devastation of fire. This immense admiration is the second reason for the location of my hat collection.

In rural areas such as the many small towns in the 22d district of New York, fire protection is more often than not solely the responsibility of volunteer firemen such as those of the Medway-Grapeville Volunteer Fire Company. These dedicated individuals have saved countless lives and billions of dollars worth of

property in New York State alone. And the Medway-Grapeville Volunteer Fire Company exemplifies the kind of heroism which makes volunteer firefighters such an important part of our local communities.

During my years as a volunteer fireman, I noticed some extraordinary things about my company. Its members were among the most varied groups of people I have encountered before or since. There were teachers, doctors, and farmers, just to name a few of the many walks of life represented. Despite their many differences, however, these volunteers had two very important things in common—a strong desire to help their fellow neighbors in times of trouble, and an unwavering commitment to perform their duties at any time, day or night, whenever they were needed. I know that my experience was not a unique one, and that the volunteers of the Medway-Grapeville Company are equally dedicated to and superbly skilled in their most crucial roles as community protectors.

Mr. Speaker, on May 6, the Medway-Grapeville will celebrate its 50th year of service to Greene County. I would now ask that all Members join me in paying tribute to the Medway-Grapeville Volunteer Fire Company, as it celebrates a half-century of firefighting excellence.