

houses 6,000 mainly Latino students. The vast majority speak a language other than English at home. But the district is renowned because of its success in creating English-fluent students.

"The thing I'm most proud of is that we created an attitude that all kids could learn, that they all could get along," Moffett said. "We created a model where we showed it could happen."

Moffett now hopes to spend more time with his wife, who teaches in Torrance, and with his two grown children—one at West Point and the other in Idaho, training in the "family business" to become a teacher.

And he wants to take a few more vacations and travel—although his idea of a relaxing vacation is building a redwood deck on his cabin in the mountains.

"I like to be busy, and I'm going to stay busy," he said. "But I won't be gone for home six nights a week."

#### KOVATCH GROUP CELEBRATES 50 YEARS IN BUSINESS

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 1, 1996*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my close personal friends, Mr. John J. "Sonny" Kovatch and his brother, Joseph. This month, their success as business leaders will be celebrated along with the 50th anniversary of their company, the Kovatch Group. A 3-day celebration of the Kovatch Group will begin tomorrow, and I am proud to be able to participate in these festivities.

In 1946, Sonny and Joseph began a small business dedicated to providing first-rate specialty motor vehicles. Fifty years later, the Kovatch Group has grown into a network of 13 different companies which work together to manufacture and service specialty vehicles used all around the world.

It is with great pride that I say that the international headquarters for the Kovatch Group is located in Nesquehoning, PA, in my congressional district. The complex sprawls over 65 acres and has over one-half million square feet under roof. More than 700 employees utilize a state-of-the-art computerized and automated assembly line to manufacture specialized vehicles designed to meet very specific needs of the Federal Government, military organizations, search and rescue crews, and heavy industry.

Having established a reputation for first-rate vehicles of the highest caliber, the Kovatch business organization grew dramatically since its establishment 50 years ago. In the mid-1980's, Kovatch was selected to construct highly specialized vehicles for the U.S. military. When Kovatch completed the contract nearly 1 year ahead of schedule, the company became known worldwide, and orders for vehicles were regularly submitted to the company from every division of the U.S. military, numerous foreign governments, and private businesses from around the world. Today, Kovatch is considered the manufacturer of choice for military refueling trucks and firefighting apparatus.

Whether we realize it or not, most of us have seen the vehicles produced by the Kovatch Co. Chances are the brave men and women responding to local emergencies utilize

the rescue trucks, ambulances, pumpers, tankers, and aerial ladder trucks manufactured by Kovatch employees. The company can boast of having provided specialized vehicles to government agencies, volunteer fire and rescue teams, and private businesses from Eastport, ME, to Fairbanks, AK.

During the last decade, the Kovatch organization has experienced tremendous success because it has sought to integrate qualified workers with innovative engineering and modern manufacturing techniques. Together, Sonny and Joe have shown me that there really is no substitute for quality products designed and manufactured by American workers.

Mr. Speaker, I am not alone in recognizing the leadership of Kovatch Group for its success. Last year, Sonny was selected as the 1995 Master Entrepreneur of the Year for central Pennsylvania by a consortium of leading businesses including Ernst and Young, Sprint, and Merrill Lynch. Sonny was chosen for this award based on his ability to ensure continued success for the Kovatch Group over an extended period of time. Given that Sonny has been at the helm of the Kovatch Group since its founding 50 years ago, and has guided the company through both good and bad economic times, he is truly deserving of this award and recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to highlight the accomplishments of my good friends, Sonny and Joe Kovatch. The work of these business leaders is an example of the true entrepreneurial spirit that has made our country the greatest Nation in the world. Sonny and Joe have proven that hard work and ingenuity are the key ingredients of success. I am proud to join with their families, friends, and the community in congratulating the Kovatch brothers on their many successes.

#### IN HONOR OF LIAM BENSON: MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO HIS COMMUNITY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 1, 1996*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual, Mr. Liam Benson, who has distinguished himself through uncommon dedication to the children of Northern Ireland. Mr. Benson, along with his wife Margaret, are again donating their services to the annual luncheon I will be hosting for the adopted families of Project Children. Their restaurant, O'Donoghues, is located at 205 First Street, Hoboken, NJ.

The word "tradition" comes to mind when speaking of this truly dedicated person. For the past 3 years, Mr. Benson has graciously afforded the children who come to the United States from Northern Ireland, along with their host families, an opportunity to meet and share their experiences in the United States. While in our country, the children have the possibility to sample a life without the threat of violence prevalent in their homeland. Mr. Benson, through his Irish heritage, has an unique understanding of the true value of peace and freedom.

Mr. Benson's journey to become a community member of my district began with his birth

in County Mayo, Ireland. This son of the Emerald Isle traveled across the Atlantic Ocean 12 years ago in search of new horizons to explore. Mr. Benson arrived on our shores in New York City where he went to work in a neighborhood bar. Two years later, Mr. Benson's journey led him to Hoboken and the establishment of his own place of business, O'Donoghue's Bar and Restaurant. A genuinely modest gentleman, Mr. Benson chose to name his new establishment after a famous bar with the same name located in Dublin, Ireland.

Major themes that have resonated in the life of Mr. Benson have been community and family. For the residents of Hoboken, O'Donoghue's has become a friendly oasis in the life of this bustling urban center. The sense of community experienced by visitors who enter this local institution makes everyone feel like they are members of the Benson family. When it came time to think about starting a family, Mr. Benson married a woman named Margaret who became his partner in life. In 1995, their joyful union produced a son, also named Liam, who will undoubtedly one day carry on the tradition of community service.

It is an honor to have such an extraordinarily considerate individual operating a business in my district. Mr. Liam Benson exemplifies the tremendously positive influence one person can have on the lives of others. I am certain my colleagues will rise with me and honor this remarkable gentleman.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE CENTENNIAL

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 1, 1996*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, this year is the Centennial of automobile production in America.

At a gala held on June 22, 1996, the Mayor of Detroit, Dennis Archer, spoke eloquently about the impact of the automotive industry, of the role of management and labor in its development, and of the place it carved out for Detroit in this Nation's and the global economy.

It is my pleasure to insert his prepared remarks in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE CENTENNIAL GALA,  
SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 1996

Thank you very much, distinguished head table guests, ladies and gentleman. I want to thank Keith Crain, who shortly after I became mayor, came by the office and said, "In about two years, we're going to be celebrating 100 magnificent years of the automobile, and I think we ought to do something about it."

I said, "Keith, you're absolutely right. Thanks for being my next dollar-a-year guy. Would you please take charge of it, and by the way, I want you to work with my point person, Maud Lyon, who is the city's director of the Historical Museum."

Keith, you and Maud came together with everybody to make this happen. It wasn't just you that could create this beautiful room with all of these magnificent people who are here, but the sponsors—those of you who gave and contributed generously, and to the committee, I want to say thank you very much.

Second, I am pleased to bring a message from a friend that I was with earlier today in