

send packages from home every week. The boxes that just arrived for Todd and his unit include books, magazines, videos, DVD's, snacks and personal items. Best of all, 200 of Todd's fellow soldiers will receive a card of their own for 60 minutes of long distance calling time. Three weeks ago three boxes were shipped that included a Christmas tree, decorations, cards, pens and stationery for their personal use.

I applaud the partners of Bell, Boyd and Lloyd for their efforts, not only during this season, but for their caring and compassion throughout the year. Their support of the brave citizen soldiers serving in Iraq deserves recognition. The support of our troops almost always goes unnoticed. I noticed. Many of my colleagues also noticed and we offer our sincerest thanks to Captain Pentecost, his wife, and their supporters at Bell, Boyd and Lloyd.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LEONARD
S. FIORE, INC.

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Leonard S. Fiore, Inc. on its 50th Anniversary and to thank the general contracting corporation for its numerous contributions to the community.

For more than four decades, Leonard S. Fiore, Inc. has maintained a strong commitment to people, hard work, and education. The company was founded by Leonard Fiore Sr. in 1954 upon the principle of providing efficient, top quality work at a reasonable cost, and the progress that it has made in the past fifty years confirms the company's dedication to this principle. In 1957 the company completed its first commercial construction project with the erection of the Altoona Skating Center and the St. Rose of Lima Church in Altoona. Since that date, the company has expanded its capabilities and heightened its goals tremendously, having provided jobs to over 250 people and completed over 300 commercial buildings.

As one of central Pennsylvania's leading general contractors, Leonard S. Fiore, Inc. offers demolition, excavation, concrete and steel erection, masonry, carpentry, metal stud and drywall work as well as plastering, painting, and a certified surveyor. Devoted to the belief that "no job is too large, no need too small," every job that the company undertakes receives the same enthusiasm and quality of workmanship. Regardless of the task at hand, the experience and expertise of each and every employee guarantees every project to be completed with the best possible results.

In addition to the organization's excellence in its industry, it has remained extremely loyal to the surrounding community. Leonard S. Fiore, Inc. regularly supports Saint Francis College in Loretto, PA, and Bishop Guilfoyle High School in Hollidaysburg, PA, providing them with financial assistance and volunteer services. Additionally, the company sponsors local little league baseball teams, the Tour de Toona bicycle race, and the annual Fiore Family Golf Classic, which is a popular event that raises money for various community services. Leonard S. Fiore, Inc. has demonstrated

an unyielding enthusiasm and care for the public which it serves.

For its incomparable generosity, service to the community, and unabated commitment to excellence, Leonard S. Fiore, Inc. deserves the highest recognition. The company continues to grow and maintain a high level of quality, providing an example that all businesses should follow. I congratulate Leonard S. Fiore, Inc. on its 50th Anniversary and eagerly await its future progress.

MARITIME SECURITY PROGRAM

HON. W.J. (Billy) TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation to Chairman DUNCAN HUNTER of the House Armed Services Committee for his successful efforts to reauthorize the Maritime Security Program (MSP) in the recently-passed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004. The vitally important MSP program will ensure that militarily-useful, United States flag commercial vessels crewed by American citizens are available for this Nation's military and national security needs.

In the MSP program reauthorization, the Congress has ensured that no unreasonable impediments stand in the way of obtaining U.S.-flag roll-on/roll-off, container and other militarily-useful MSP vessels for the transport of military vehicles, supplies and other materiel in support of U.S. military operations around the world. Chairman HUNTER's support was vital to our efforts to clarify the original intent of certain vessel equipment provisions in the Maritime Security Act of 1996 that first created the MSP program. Specifically, it is now clear that existing vessels built to international standards may be documented under the United States flag for inclusion in the MSP program when the telecommunications and other electronic equipment on such vessels meets internationally accepted standards.

As Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, and with my dear colleague from Louisiana, Congressman VITTER, we worked closely with Chairman HUNTER to ensure that appropriate telecommunications and other electronic equipment standards are applied to MSP vessels. When the MSP program was originally enacted, the law provided that a vessel that meets internationally accepted construction and equipment standards may be reflagged under the United States flag for operation in the MSP. That provision was intended to apply to all vessel equipment, including telecommunication and other electronic equipment. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 now clarifies that matter.

Accordingly, it is now clear that a vessel may be added to the U.S.-flag commercial fleet for operation in the MSP program if it is built to international standards, and the telecommunications and other radio equipment aboard the vessels comply with applicable international Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention requirements. This is in keeping with the elimination of financial and other burdens that the Congress specifically sought to remove through the establishment of the Maritime Security Program. I would like to again

thank Chairman HUNTER and his staff for working closely with us on this matter of critical importance to the military and national security of the United States.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF GORDON PARKS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of this nation's most distinguished talents in commemoration of his birthday. As a renowned photographer, poet, author, filmmaker and composer, Gordon Parks has secured his place in American society as a true Renaissance man of the arts. Born on November 30, 1912 in Kansas, Mr. Parks grew up the youngest of fifteen children in an environment stricken by poverty and racism. With the guidance of his loving, inspiring parents, he persevered despite his circumstances.

Gordon Parks began his photographic journey at the age of 25, when he bought his first camera, affectionately referred to as his "weapon against poverty and racism." This simple instrument did just that, allowing him to break the constraints of discrimination and rise to greatness as an artist. In 1941, Mr. Parks became the first photographer to receive a fellowship from the Julius Rosenwald Foundation and the following year, he was commissioned by the Farm Security Administration to create a visual record of the lives of America's poor in urban and rural communities. During this project, he captured one of his most popular, compelling photographs, American Gothic, the image of Ella Watson standing in front of the American flag, holding a broom.

He moved on to become the first Black photographer to work at both Life and Vogue Magazines where he coined his unique style of focusing a series on one person to convey a story of humanity. Aside from chronicling the intense emotions of America's poorest, the civil rights movement and the surge of Black Nationalism, Mr. Parks' photographic repertoire also featured images of leading societal figures such as Langston Hughes, Duke Ellington, Ingrid Bergman, Barbara Streisand, Mohammed Ali, and Marcel Duchamp.

Gordon Parks tried his hand in cinema, making eleven films, including "The Learning Tree", based on his autobiographical novel, and the 1971 film, "Shaft". Mr. Parks has also published twelve books, three about his life, and several are collections of poetry and photography. Musically inclined, Gordon Parks also composed a number of sonatas, concertos, a symphony and a ballet, all of which have been performed internationally.

Mr. Parks has also received a number of awards for his outstanding contributions, including: Photographer of the Year from the American Society of Magazine Photographers (1960 and 1985), induction into The Black Film Makers Hall of Fame (1973), induction into the NAACP Hall of Fame (1984), Governor's Medal of Honor from the State of Kansas (1985), and honorary degrees from thirteen separate academic institutions.

Gordon Parks now resides in New York City and continues to enjoy the recognition earned

by his rich legacy as the premier photo-journalist and creative mind of his time.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY CELEBRATES THE SUCCESS OF NJ/K12 ARCHITECTS BUILD AND BELIEVE PROGRAM

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the success of twelve apprentice architects and their mentors. These twelve students from Trenton Central High School and Lawrence High School participated in an intensive summer program in which they learned architectural and design skills that allowed them to design two projects. Divided into three groups, each group prepared an original design for a warehouse and a renovation design for a building at Trenton Central High School. Then simulating a business world, they prepared proposals for each project to go to bid. These projects represent hours of hard work, dedication, collaboration and communication among students, mentors and community members. This program is a fine example of teaching practical math skills. It involves identifying a problem, developing an approach to solve it, testing that approach, and eventually implementing a solution.

The students worked under the leadership of three mentor architects, Vince Myers, Harvey Myers and Bob Iamello. They were divided into three studios: Latin Architects in Action, Edgar Gonzales, Byron Zacarias, Judith Rodrigues, Raykel Abreu; Professional Building Design Architects, Patrick Alvarado, Shaneeka Ingram, Edwin Zacarias, Brandon Bey; Architect Design Perfection, Leidy Toro, John Frink, Jamie Rodas, Vamey Keita. Working together as mentor and studio, each student learned many skills including design, math computation, teamwork, public speaking, critical evaluation and long-range thinking.

Programs like these reflect my values about the necessity for excellent math and science education. Math is not just another subject. Math is fundamental like reading. A mathematical framework provides us the skill for life-long learning, for creating progress itself. These are very important skills for the very complex times in which we live.

I ask that all the Members join me in congratulating these 12 students and three mentors for their excellence in using mathematics to design real buildings for real life.

TRIBUTE TO MARY DAVIS ON HER 108TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Mary Davis, a resident of the Bronx, New York who will turn 108 this month. Ms. Davis is a living testimony to the indomitable spirit of our great nation.

Born December 12, 1895 in Florida, Ms. Davis was the granddaughter of slaves, whom

she still has very clear memories of. This incredible woman witnessed an America that almost none of us can say we truly knew; an America that wrestled to establish the ideals of democracy and freedom while continuing to oppress and terrorize those of African descent. However, like many African Americans of her time, Ms. Davis transcended that oppression and in doing so helped bring a nation closer to its great potential.

The proud mother of five daughters, grandmother of 10 grandchildren and great grandmother of 30 great grandchildren, Ms. Davis spent most of her life working as a nanny and housekeeper to support her family. Today, she lives alone in the Bronx and is described by those close to her as being a lovable, God fearing woman who still attends her church, the Great Methodist Baptist Church of Manhattan, regularly.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Davis lived through two World Wars, the Cold War, Vietnam, and two wars in Iraq. She has seen 20 Presidents enter the White House and witnessed America's role in the world evolve from a non-influential nation to the most powerful nation the world has ever known. She was here before Henry Ford introduced the Model T, and even before the Wright Brothers took their famous flight in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. There are only a few people on earth who can say that they have witnessed all of these events first hand and Ms. Davis should certainly be proud to be one of them.

For her many contributions to her community and to this nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Mary Davis on her 108th birthday.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF
PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S DEATH

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, "A nation reveals itself not only by [the individuals] it produces, but also by [those] it honors, [those] it remembers."

President John F. Kennedy spoke these words 40 years ago, less than a month before he was tragically killed in Dallas. On the 40th anniversary of that sad month, which lives so vividly in our memory, America honors and remembers President Kennedy. In doing so, we reveal once more the nation he imagined and the country we might yet become.

Like a generation of Americans, I carry with me strong memories of President Kennedy. As a college student standing on the grounds of the Capitol on a freezing cold January day, I listened to President Kennedy's enduring challenge now known the world over: "And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

And I have always remembered the less well-known—but equally important—line that followed: "My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of mankind."

Those of us who lived through those awful November days 40 years ago will always remember the shock and never forget the sadness.

Yet on this anniversary we recall not how President Kennedy died, but rather, how he lived; not just the tragedy of a single day, but the triumphs of one thousand days—of a presidency and a President that guides us still.

The first American President born of the 20th Century, President Kennedy embodied the hopes, the optimism, the vigor and the vitality of a new generation of Americans. Inspired by his call to cross a New Frontier, America began a bold journey that would take us to the moon. Young, idealistic Americans entered public service and joined the Peace Corps. Courageous African-Americans became Freedom Riders, challenging the evils of segregation and leading to the greatest demonstration for justice in American history—the 1963 March on Washington.

A veteran of World War II, President Kennedy knew that in those dangerous days of the Cold War, military strength was essential, yet "war need not be inevitable." Through the crisis over Berlin and 13 days in October 1962, his resolve averted the unthinkable. And through it all he knew something we must never forget—America stands strongest when it stands with friends and allies.

Yet this Cold Warrior also knew that true and lasting peace demands the elimination of the fury of despair and instability that plagues too much of the world. President Kennedy's vision of a future where "the weak are safe and the strong are just" inspired those young Peace Corps volunteers to build a better world—combating poverty, illiteracy, disease and hunger.

A man of deep faith, President Kennedy knew that "here on earth God's work must truly be our own." And so this man of privilege challenged the nation to reject private comfort for the public interest to fight for higher wages for workers, housing and medical care for the poor, dignity and security for the elderly. And although he did not live to see the day, his vision of a more just America would come closer with the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Ever since his death, Americans have wondered—how might the days and years that followed have been different had he lived? Perhaps the more important questions might be—have we lived up to the challenge he issued so long ago? Have we kept alive the spirit and high purpose that he kindled? Have we achieved the national greatness that he imagined?

Forty years later, President Kennedy challenges us still. As we remember his death, let us rededicate ourselves—as a people, as a nation—to the principles and vision that defined his life. On this somber anniversary, there can be no higher tribute.

LUISA DELAURO'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate my mother, Luisa DeLauro, as she celebrates her 90th birthday on December 24th. She is—in every sense of the word—a remarkable person—someone who made a good life for herself and her family from the humblest beginnings.

From her, I learned the values I carry with me to this day—she taught me the meaning of