

horse-riding preacher, Gideon Draper, on the Wyoming-Minisink Trail.

Reverend Draper's readings from the Methodist Discipline of that time inspired the people of Paupack to accept those disciplines as organizing principles and to form a church. Originally, the church met in members' homes and in local schoolhouses. In 1906, the newly formed Ladies' Aid Society began construction on a church.

For 200 years, this congregation has persevered in preserving their faith and their Church. They credit the dedicated service of the laity and the faithful preaching of the clergy for this tremendous accomplishment.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Paupack United Methodist Church for their 200 years of distinguished service to Paupack, Pennsylvania and the United States of America.

CHERYL MCKISSACK FELDER—ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ACHIEVEMENT

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today to acknowledge the business achievement of Cheryl McKissack Felder and to enter into the RECORD an article from the *Carib News*.

I am so proud to acknowledge the achievements of Cheryl McKissack Felder, descendant of Moses McKissack, a slave who became a master builder and one of America's first contractors. Ms. McKissack is a part of a family that has a long history of entrepreneurship and accomplished architects. She obtained a BS degree in civil engineering from Peabody Demonstration School and a M.S. degree from Howard University. Her career began at the Department of Defense where she was involved with quality assurance and control for government research projects. Later, she worked for firms in New York City as a civil engineer and estimator. A major project that she worked on involved the restoration of the Schomburg Theatre. Following in the footsteps of her ancestors, she opened the architecture and design firm McKissack and McKissack in 1999.

Her firm has worked on several significant projects including the Lincoln Financial Field football stadium and the US Airways International Terminal both in Philadelphia. Most recently the firm was selected to oversee the reconstruction of the Vanderbilt Rail Yards as a part of the Atlantic Yards Project in Brooklyn New York. Being selected for this project is remarkable and I congratulate Cheryl McKissack and her firm.

I'm extremely happy to know that minority owned firms are being selected for projects that will enhance the economic and residential life for New York City residents. The Atlantic Yards Project will provide much needed jobs, housing, and commercial real estate. For that I'm grateful and wish Cheryl McKissack and her firm well on this and other future projects.

CHERYL MCKISSACK FELDER, CEO OF THE MCKISSACK GROUP INC. TAKES ON FIRST PHASE OF ATLANTIC YARDS PROJECT

Construction crews recently kicked off the prep work needed for the first phase of The

Atlantic Yards project in Brooklyn, a residential and commercial development that will include an arena for the Nets basketball team. Under the Atlantic Yards Community Benefits Agreement, negotiated with Forest City Ratner Companies (FCRC), qualified minority- and women-owned contractors were among the firms given due consideration for execution of the project.

Cheryl McKissack Felder, CEO of The McKissack Group, confirmed to *Carib News* that her firm has been selected to oversee the reconstruction of the Vanderbilt Rail Yards. A firm with a proven track record of having successfully executed similar projects, CEO Cheryl McKissack comes from a family of architects that started with an enslaved Ashanti ancestor in 1790.

As a slave, Moses McKissack first became a master builder under the tutelage of his owner, William McKissack, one of America's first contractors. Grandfather Moses McKissack founded the family business in 1905. Felder's father, William DeBerry McKissack, took it over in 1968 and Felder's mother, Leatrice Buchanan McKissack managed the business after her husband died.

Felder attended Peabody Demonstration School, earning a B.S. degree in civil engineering in 1981 and M.S. degree in 1983 from Howard University. At the United States Department of Defense, Felder provided quality assurance and quality control for government research projects, including MX missile silos, the United States Embassy anti-terrorist program and a large space structures project for NASA.

From 1985 to 1989, she worked as a civil engineer for Weidinger Associates and, in 1989, she served as an estimator for Turner Construction, both New York City firms. Felder also served as the estimation manager for the \$2.5 million restoration/addition of the historic Schomburg Theatre. In 1991, she formed The McKissack Group (TMG), a full service construction management firm now with offices in New York City and Philadelphia. In 1999, Felder launched McKissack and McKissack Associates, an architecture and design company.

As The McKissack Group's chief executive officer, Felder managed construction of the US Airways maintenance hangar in Philadelphia. She also served as project executive for the Medgar Evers Academic Building and Student Support Services buildings in Brooklyn, New York. Felder was the principal in charge of Philadelphia's \$395 million Lincoln Financial Field football stadium, the \$450 million US Airways International Terminal in Philadelphia and the \$1.5 billion renovation and reconstruction of the School District of Philadelphia.

As Felder intimated, the prep work will involve the reconstruction of the Vanderbilt Rail Yards and is expected to extend for some two years into 2008, alongside the works for construction of the arena. In her view, this represents a great economic boost for Brooklyn in terms of the creation of jobs. In spite of protest from some community groups, the inclusion of an affordable housing component as part of the plan will also ensure that not all of the residents will be permanently uprooted.

"The Atlantic Yards" CBA is an important milestone for New York's construction industry," she said. "By including diverse firms—and diverse individuals—from the start, I think this project is living up not only to the extraordinary standards of Forest City Ratner, one of the most committed and progressive companies out there today, but living up as well to the values of Brooklyn, where inclusion is a way of life and diversity is a badge of honor."

In response to queries regarding challenges faced in the industry, Ms. McKissack re-

marked that she is fully cognizant of the myriad challenges faced by minorities with regard to venture funding and career advancement. However, on the strength of a stellar family reputation in the construction field, her firm has acquired an excellent track record and will continue to maintain the tradition and performance standards commensurate with that of the oldest minority-owned professional design and construction firm.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF DONALD J. KLEMAN ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mr. GILLMOR. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Donald J. Kleman of Fort Jennings, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Donald's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Naval Academy this summer with the incoming midshipmen class of 2011. Attending one of our nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer.

Donald brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class at the Naval Academy. While attending Fort Jennings High School in Fort Jennings, Ohio, Donald attained a grade point average which placed him at the top of his class. While a gifted athlete, Donald has maintained the highest standards of excellence in his academics, choosing to enroll and excel in Advanced Placement classes throughout high school. Donald has been a member of the National Honor Society, Honor Roll and has earned awards and accolades as a scholar and an athlete.

Outside the classroom, Donald has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete by participating in both cross country and track. Donald has proudly earned the rank of Eagle Scout, and has remained involved in his community by actively participating in 4H Club as both a Junior Leader and Junior Fair Board Member. Donald's dedication and service to the community and his peers has proven his ability to excel among the leaders at the Naval Academy. I have no doubt that Donald will take the lessons of his student leadership with him to Annapolis.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Donald J. Kleman on his appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Donald will do very well during his career at the Naval Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his service to the nation.