

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

Cleveland Ohio, as the United States Conference of Mayors was meeting.

He writes:

"I am delighted to join my fellow Americans in observing June 16-23 as National American Automobile Centennial Week. More than any other invention in the past century, the automobile has shaped and defined America. Even as it has helped our nation to grow, the car has brought people closer together, advancing commerce and communication, and connecting our cities, suburbs and small towns on an intricate web of highways and roads. In the 100 years since the production of the first motor wagons, the automobile industry has become a source of pride for Americans and an inspiration for entrepreneurs around the globe.

"The car is now an inseparable part of our culture. Our poets, our songwriters speak of the joys of the open road. And for millions of us, the automobile embodies America's freedoms of mobility and expression. This week offers us a special opportunity to honor the pioneers of automotive engineering and the automotive workers who helped build this remarkable industry and make the American dream of a better life come true.

"As we celebrate the remarkable automotive achievements of our past, let us salute, as well, the work of the engineers who are developing the next generation of vehicles—the cars we will be driving in the 21st century. These dreamers and doers are continuing a legacy of progress: innovation, employment and competitiveness that have marked America's automobile industry since its birth 100 years ago.

"Best wishes to all for a wonderful Centennial Celebration and a memorial week."—President Bill Clinton.

Next, and finally, I would like to ask Robert J. Eaton, Chief Executive Officer, Chrysler Corporation; Carolyn Forrest, Vice President, International Union, UAW; John F. Smith, Jr., Chairman, CEO & President, General Motors Corporation; and Alex Trotman, Chairman and CEO, Ford Motor Company, if you would join me here at the podium.

The United States automobile industry celebrates its 100th anniversary this year, and it is only fitting that Detroit, the world's motor capital, serves as a national headquarters for this historic event. From June 16-23, Detroit will showcase one of the largest gatherings of antique and classic automobiles ever, along with the most spectacular automotive parade in a half century.

As the birthplace of the global automobile industry, Detroit acknowledges its legacy as a city that profoundly shaped the American lifestyle and changed the culture of the 20th century. Appropriately nicknamed "The Motor City," Detroit sparked a century-long love affair with the automobile. Detroit is also home to three of the largest employers in southeast Michigan. Ford Motor Company, Chrysler Corporation, General Motors Corporation, and the UAW.

This celebration is a tribute to the inventors, engineers, entrepreneurs and the workers who made the auto industry great. The strength of our society relies, in part, on the advances made in technology. From innovations in manufacturing to design and development of alternative fuels, the auto industry has enriched the lives of all Americans and made our fine city's name synonymous with automobiles.

As communities across the United States throughout 1996 are uniting to celebrate this milestone in our nation's history, I salute the American Automobile Centennial Commission along with its four sponsors, Chrysler, Ford, General Motors, and the UAW for its efforts to create a year-long commemoration of this special occasion. The metropolitan Detroit area marks this historic anniversary

with exhibits and displays, celebrity appearances and ceremonies.

Therefore, I Dennis Archer, Mayor of the City of Detroit, issue this proclamation in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the United States automobile industry. I urge all residents to embrace and celebrate this vital part of Detroit's history.

### SUOMI COLLEGE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of the U.S. House of Representatives and this Nation the 100th anniversary of Suomi College, located in Hancock, MI, a small community of about 4,000 people on the Keweenaw Peninsula in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The celebration of this event will occur this weekend, August 3-4, 1996.

Named for its founders' homeland and heritage, Suomi College was an outgrowth of the need for higher education for the sons and daughters of the hardy Finnish immigrants that settled in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, especially Hancock. They were quick to realize that education was a key to improving quality of life in their adopted country and wanted to make this opportunity available to all young men and women. At the same time, there was a strong desire to retain the proud ethic heritage that was brought with them, as well as the religious influence of the Lutheran Church. It was out of this framework that Suomi College was founded in 1896.

Suomi College proved early on to be highly innovative by offering scholarships, work opportunities, loans and other support services to students. It is a college that in its early years often saw gifts and tuition payments come, not as cash, but as contributions of food, firewood, books and building materials.

The school struggled financially in the early 1900's, but never lost sight of its stated mission of providing a quality education. As money was raised in the 1930's for expansion and to provide financial assistance, the Great Depression forced these funds to be rechanneled to pay for daily operating expenses. In the 1940's, enrollment and revenues started to significantly increase only to be halted again with the start of World War II. Regardless of these and other setbacks, leaders of the school, such as Viljo K. Mikander, who served as president of Suomi during their 50th anniversary, provided the encouragement to continue, even to the point of suggesting the school expand to a 4-year college of liberal arts.

It is the belief in the institution and its mission by its current and past administrations, faculty, students and supporters that have allowed it to get through the tough times and become the progressive, innovative and growing college it is today. Suomi College is establishing an outstanding record and providing excellent opportunities for its students.

Today, thousands of Suomi alumni are present in every walk of life and in every area of the country with more than 1,600 area residents alone having graduated or completed courses at Suomi. Suomi graduates are leaders in law, religion, medicine, administration

and many other fields and all have as a basis of their education in their course work done at Suomi, nurtured in the Finnish heritage.

Liberal arts and humanities serve as a mainstay for this small, personalized, church-related college. Math and science are also strongly encouraged in any curriculum. To date, Suomi has been a 2-year community college granting associate degrees. However, beginning this fall, a new 3-year baccalaureate degree will be offered, again demonstrating the innovative thought that Suomi is known for. A 3-year degree obtained over eight consecutive semesters significantly reduces costs and provides greater efficiency and applicability of courses taken and quickly moves young people into the workforce.

The Suomi College Centennial Celebration this weekend will be highlighted by several events including the groundbreaking ceremony for its new chapel and library expansion. In attendance for this event will be Archbishop John Vikstrom of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland as well as Presiding Bishop H. George Anderson of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and Bishop Dale Skogman of the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

Mr. Speaker, the 100-year history of Suomi College will serve the institution well in its second century as it continues to serve the Upper Peninsula and this Nation. On behalf of the First Congressional District, the State of Michigan and the House of Representatives, I congratulate President Robert Ubbelohde, his staff, the faculty, the student body and the Hancock community on this momentous occasion.

### TRADE FREE ZONE IN THE NORTH OF IRELAND

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, a bill (H.R. 3599) which aims to help address some of the economic deprivation in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland's six border countries was proposed here in the House on June 6, 1996. I was pleased to be an original cosponsor of this important proposal by my good friend—Representative THOMAS MANTON, of New York. In light of the current outbreak of turmoil in Northern Ireland the introduction of such a proposal aimed at economic improvement and change, has become even more crucial today.

Our bill (H.R. 3599) concerns the potential establishment of a free trade agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, which governs the aforementioned areas. It provides authority for the President to negotiate such a treaty, consistent with the goals and policies of the European Union.

Indeed, it is envisaged that a strengthened economy in Northern Ireland and the affected border countries would help facilitate the precarious peace process which has become most imperative in light of the recent outbreak of sectarian violence in Northern Ireland.

The bill will not solve all of the region's many difficult problems, but it can greatly contribute toward a long-term shared economic strategy, which will be of mutual benefit to workers in the North of Ireland and American