

one of her favorite activities is playing cards until her eyes hurt!

After 101 years, Mrs. Dergin says if she had to live life all over again, she'd love to be a sketch artist, a hobby she had to give up in order to support her family. When asked what advice she'd give to young people she said, "Listen to your parents." She says the best thing about growing older is having her family around.

Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues, I ask that you join me in honoring Rose Dergin today. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as she has. She is truly a great lady and someone with an appreciation for the importance of family and closeness.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN THOMAS DYE  
SCHOOL ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 21, 2004*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly remarkable educational institution in the 30th Congressional District—the John Thomas Dye School—on its 75th anniversary.

The John Thomas Dye School in Los Angeles, California, was founded in 1929 by Cathryn Robberts Dye and John Thomas Dye II. Originally named the Brentwood Town and Country School, it opened with ten students in 1929 at the corner of 26th Street and San Vicente Boulevard. One of these students was the founders' own son, John Thomas Dye III, who later was tragically killed while a pilot in World War II. In 1959, the school was renamed the John Thomas Dye School in memory of its fallen son.

In 1960, the school was moved to its present campus at 1141 Chalon Road. The very next year, the school burned to the ground in the Bel Air Fire. Thanks to the dedication of its founders, and the unwavering and generous support of the community, the school was rebuilt in one year.

Today, this independent, nonprofit school educates children from preschool through 6th grade. In addition to its strong academic program, the John Thomas Dye School places special emphasis on the "Five Cs": Caring, Common Sense, Consideration, Cooperation, and Courtesy. Throughout its 75 year history, the school has touched the lives of over 1,500 graduates, thousands of parents, and an exceptional faculty and staff.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the John Thomas Dye School family on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

CELEBRATION OF LUNAR NEW  
YEAR

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 21, 2004*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to represent a vibrant and strong Asian American and Pacific Islander community that is a historic part of San Francisco's world-re-

nowned diversity, and I rise today to recognize the celebration of the Lunar New Year, the most cherished Chinese festival.

The Lunar New Year marks the beginning of a new season and is a time of renewed hope. It is considered a time to sweep away misfortune and to welcome the New Year with hopes of good luck, prosperity, and excellent health.

The Lunar New Year celebration begins on the new moon of the first day of each year and ends on the full moon 15 days later. Family is a major focus of the Lunar New Year celebration, and participants pay great respect to their ancestors who laid the foundations for the well-being of their families. The Lantern Festival, which concludes the celebration with a parade of brilliant lanterns, the music of drums, and a dragon dance performed by youth, is especially beautiful.

By the Chinese calendar, this is the year 4,701, the Year of the Monkey. The Monkey represents the inventor and innovator and symbolizes growth and development. In many ways, the Monkey epitomizes the entrepreneurial spirit of my district in San Francisco and our ability to overcome great challenges.

The U.S. Postal Service recently issued its Year of the Monkey Stamp, the final in its spectacular Lunar New Year commemorative stamp series. It has been a great pleasure to celebrate the 12 years of the Chinese Zodiac with the stamps designed by artist Clarence Lee, and I am proud to display these beautiful images on the walls of my office. Thank you to the Organization of Chinese Americans, to the U.S. Postal Service, and to the leaders of San Francisco's Chinese American Community for your hard work to make this wonderful series a reality.

By percentage, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are the country's fastest growing ethnic group, and the community is a dynamic part of our nation. The Lunar New Year is a wonderful opportunity to recognize the immeasurable contributions of Asian American and Pacific Islanders to all aspects of American life, including the arts, education, sports, medicine, religion, and politics. It is my pleasure to join with so many of my constituents and with Asian American and Pacific Islanders across the country to celebrate the Lunar New Year.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ILC DOVER INC. AND ATK ELKTON

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 21, 2004*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recent accomplishments of ILC Dover Inc., located in Frederica, Delaware. ILC Dover has long been a partner in this country's space exploration efforts. From manufacturing space suits for the Apollo mission's to the moon to creating the air bag landing systems for the recent Mars rover's Spirit and Opportunity, the later of which is scheduled to land on the opposite side of Mars this weekend. I as well as the 400 employees at ILC will be watching closely as the company's technology delivers Opportunity safely to the surface of Mars.

As NASA's vision continues to change over time, ILC Dover has adapted their technologies to meet the challenges of these new missions. ILC's landing bags work much like your everyday passenger air bag in a car. The system surrounded and protected the rover Spirit as it bounced 30 times before resting on the surface of Mars. These unmanned probes will scour the red planet's surface in an effort to discover any previous existence of life. These air bag systems were enhanced from those that ILC made for the earlier Pathfinder mission to Mars.

ILC is very excited by the President's recent announcement that he plans to send Americans to Mars by establishing a permanent space station on the moon. ILC Dover has already begun testing their newest space suit, the "I-suit", which could be worn by those astronauts who will build the moon base. ILC has stated that they expect these suits would perform better, would cost less, and would be more comfortable, allowing crewmembers to perform their duties for longer periods of time.

The company also manufactures products to meet the emerging homeland security, defense, and environmental challenges that our country faces. For example, they have begun production and sales of the Scape hood, a mask that protects civilian wearers from nuclear, biological and chemical warfare agents. The company currently manufactures the M40 gas masks donned by the U.S. Army. The federal government, state and local municipalities, and the corporate community have invested in their Vapor Guard product. These soft material covers are designed to contain odors and emissions within wastewater treatment tanks. These are just a few of the emerging technologies that the company is focused on.

As part of the successful Mars Exploration Rover program, I would also like to acknowledge the important work of Alliant Tech Systems Inc. (ATK). ATK, based in Edina, Minnesota, is a \$2.2 billion aerospace and defense company with strong positions in propulsion, composite structures, munitions, precision capabilities and civil and sporting ammunition. I will be touring their Elkton, Maryland, facility and will see first hand how ATK is partnering with NASA.

The Elkton facility, which employs close to 100 Delawareans, is working on NASA's Mars Exploration Rover as well, the orbital space plane and other NASA missions. Specifically, ATK constructed the gas generators that inflated ILC Dover's airbags to cushion the rover's landings, as well as the rocket motors that slowed their decent.

Besides their NASA work, ATK is also partnering with the Department of Defense to create Kinetic Energy Interceptor missile defense programs and is also part of a Department of Homeland Security team with United Air Lines that has been tasked to submit designs for an electro optic missile warning systems for commercial airplanes.

These forward thinking companies continue to assert themselves as major players in our nation's research and development, especially our search of the next frontier. I congratulate them on their achievements and wish them continued success.