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Gen Z Gets to Work—With Its Hands

At the end of the day, you can step back and say, ‘I built that.’

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A construction worker in Los Angeles, Jan. 31. PHOTO: EPA/SHUTTERSTOCK

It took me many years, as a philosophy graduate, to learn that I loved working outdoors with my hands. Eventually, I owned my own home-building and remodeling company. It’s rewarding to see younger people do this in a shorter time period (“Gen Z Picks Up the Toolbelt,” Page One, April 2). The trades are interesting and pay well. Plus, at the end of the day, you can step back and say, “I built that.”

It’s time to bring the pride of workmanship and self-respect into favor again. Many of America’s inventors and pioneers, like Henry Ford and Thomas Edison, worked with their hands and never graduated from college. The trades are the backbone of innovation. Three cheers for Gen Z in learning this.

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