

Teatro della Pergola and various other theaters as a stage technician until 1835. From there he accepted a job as a scenic designer and stage technician at the Teatro Tacon in Havana, Cuba.

Fascinated by technical research of any kind, Meucci read every scientific missive he could acquire. He spent a great deal of his spare time in Havana on research and he soon gained notoriety for his creative and productive mind. His purported inventions included a new method of galvanizing metal, which was applied to military equipment for the Cuban government. He continued his work in the theater, but science had become his indomitable passion.

One day, in his home, Meucci heard an exclamation of a friend, who was in another room of the house, over a piece of copper wire running between them. He realized immediately that he had something that was more important than any discovery he had ever made. With that realization also came the understanding that to succeed as an inventor, he would need an environment that truly fostered his inquisitive mind and vibrant spirit. He would come to America, to explore this new communication possibility.

He left Cuba for New York in 1850, settling in the Clifton section of Staten Island, a few miles from New York City. Though poor finances and limited English plagued Meucci, he worked tirelessly in his endeavor to bring long distance communication to a practical stage.

In 1855, when his wife became partially paralyzed, Meucci set up a telephone system which joined several rooms of his house with his workshop in another building nearby. This was the first such installation anywhere. In 1860, when the instrument had become practical, Meucci organized a demonstration to attract financial backing in which a singer's voice was clearly heard by spectators a considerable distance away. A description of the apparatus was soon published in one of New York's Italian newspapers and the report with a model of the invention were taken to Italy with the goal of arranging production there. Unfortunately, the promises of financial support, which were so forthcoming after the original demonstration, never materialized.

Antonio Meucci refused to let this set back destroy his vision. Though the years that followed brought increasing poverty, he continued to produce new designs and specifications. Unable to raise the sum for a definitive patent, Meucci filed a caveat, or notice of intent, that was a preliminary description of his invention with the U.S. Patent Office. His telegrafo was registered on December 28, 1871 with the requirement that he file for converting it into a patent in 1874. Fate would deal Meucci a cruel blow, however, as he fell victim to a near fatal boat explosion. While he lay in hospital, destitute and ill, Meucci allowed the provisional patent to lapse.

Two years after the expiration of Meucci's caveat, Bell took out a patent for his voice transmitting electrical device, which he called the telephone. It is possible that sometimes several inventors have the same idea at the same time. In this case, however, what has mattered is not who had the idea for the telephone first, but who first turned the idea into a viable commercial enterprise. As we all know, it was Bell who succeeded in that respect.

For too long Antonio Meucci has been only a footnote in our history books. At many local libraries, a search for Meucci in the card catalogue yields nothing. His legacy deserves more. Remember that a federal court in the 1880's found that Meucci's ideas were significant to the invention of the telephone and the Secretary of State at the time issued a public statement that "there exists sufficient proof to give priority to Meucci in the invention of the telephone."

Mr. Speaker, many people from many different nations have contributed to the greatness of America. Antonio Meucci was indeed one such person. He is an example of someone who worked for the benefit of all. It is fitting that his efforts are recognized here today.

#### IN HONOR OF TOM SHORT

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2000*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, President Thomas Short of IATSE, the International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees, ranks as one of the City of Cleveland's favorite sons. Cleveland is proud of his strong, disciplined, patient leadership which has earned him the gratitude of the rank and file of the IATSE, the appreciation of all international labor leaders, and the respect of those who sit across the table from his I/A team.

As a member of the labor committee of the United States Congress and as a member belonging to IATSE Local 660 (when you are in politics it is always good to have another trade) I know first hand the powerful and positive impact Tom Short has had in protecting and advancing the economical, social, and political rights of working men and women. President Short achieves success for his members through making the use of principle, a practical and pragmatic goal.

As a veteran of both labor and politics, I am aware of the challenges which confront my brothers and sisters in the entertainment world. Surely this, the most dynamic of all industries, with so many exceptional individuals blessed with depth of talent and breadth of vision—surely you can call upon the limitless reservation of spiritual and creative energies always available to you, to design an environment of benevolence and co-operation where all are winners in the collective bargaining process.

Over thirty years ago, when I began my career in public service, I worked closely with Tom Short's father, Adrian, who led Cleveland's stage hand union. Adrian Short introduced me back then to his sons, Dale, a labor leader in his own right, and Tom, our honoree.

How very proud your father would be of this well deserved moment of grace, Tom, for you embody every dream he had—in your quest to elevate the dignity of all working people.

THANKS TO THOSE WHO HELP  
KEEP THE CAPITOL FUNCTIONING II

#### HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2000*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, on October 24, I rose to thank all of the people that make this great institution work. I wish I could have mentioned all of our extended support staff by name. Peggy Sampson has been with the Republican staff almost as long as I've been in Congress. She does a fantastic job playing Mother Superior to all our pages, watching over them, helping to educate them, and generally herding them. This has become an infinitely more complex job when Republicans became the House majority, with the right to name so many more pages on our side. But Peggy not only does her job and does it in exemplary fashion, but she also helps the cloakroom staff in so many ways. She has been and is absolutely invaluable and irreplaceable. I also want to mention the garage attendants who are so friendly and helpful to all of us: Tommy, Dennis, Scotty and so many others are always there on the job and make our tour here safer and more enjoyable.

#### TRIBUTE TO FATHER JAMES E. HOFF

#### HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2000*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Father James Hoff, a friend, educator and community leader, who will step down from his service as President of Xavier University on December 31, 2000.

Over the past ten years, Father Hoff has led Xavier to great new heights. In 1992, he began Xavier 2000 which led to the Century Campaign, the most ambitious fundraising campaign in the school's history, raising the endowment from \$24 million to \$89 million. He has also significantly strengthened the university's curriculum, advanced the quality of its faculty and created a more unified, attractive campus.

Perhaps most telling of Father Hoff's work is the success of Xavier's students. In the 1990's, the average high-school grade-point average of its incoming students rose from 2.9 to 3.49 for the current class. And, in 1998, the school ranked first in the nation for student-athlete graduation rates (100 percent).

In 1995, Xavier was recognized for the first time by U.S. News and World Report as one of "America's Best Colleges," placing fifteenth among Midwest schools. In its 2001 ranking, Xavier climbed to seventh among regional institutions in the Midwest. Xavier has also received recognition from Money magazine and the John Templeton Honor Roll.

Although Father Hoff surely deserves much of the credit, he is modest and quick to recognize Xavier's faculty and staff, Board of Trustees, administration and students—all of whom have helped to raise the level of excellence at the school.

He says his greatest accomplishment during his tenure is defining the school's mission: "to

prepare students intellectually, morally and spiritually to take their places in a rapidly changing global society and to work for the betterment of that society." He certainly has done that, and all of us in the Cincinnati area thank him for his vision and goodwill. We look forward to his continued leadership in our area.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF PAUL SELDENRIGHT

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2000*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a good friend of mine, Michigan State AFL-CIO COPE Director Paul Seldenright upon his retirement. Paul Seldenright has been standing up for working men and women for over 40 years, beginning in 1960 as a steelworker in Trenton. Every day during that 40 years, the working families of Michigan have had a champion in Paul. The political battles Paul has fought in Lansing and in the State of Michigan have had a direct impact on the standard of living for the working people in our State.

Paul's interest in politics led him to the position of chairman of his local PAC in 1962. In 1973, after associating himself with several successful political campaigns in Michigan, he began working for the Michigan AFL-CIO. He is a member of the A. Philip Randolph Institute as well as the Coalition of Labor Union Women and a lifetime member of the NAACP.

I want it to be known that Paul Seldenright has dedicated his life to the betterment of the working men and women of the State of Michigan. While I know Paul's retirement is well-deserved, his passion for politics and his dedication to working families will not let retirement take him from the causes he believes in and has fought for all his life.

Please join me in honoring the career of one of Michigan's working heroes as Paul completes his final days as Michigan State AFL-CIO COPE Director. Paul, we wish you all the best.

#### THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2000*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, in the closing days of the 106th Congress, I rise today to add perspective to the issue of the Armenian Genocide. Like many, I was deeply disappointed that the House did not consider H. Res. 596, the Armenian Genocide Resolution.

As my colleagues are well aware, the resolution was not considered because the Republic of Turkey decided to turn a sense of the House Resolution about the extensive U.S. record on the Armenian Genocide into a litmus test of its relationship with the United States. In an effort to stop the resolution, Turkey made repeated threats. In fact, many newspaper articles covering the progress of H. Res. 596 cited Turkey's numerous threats should this body move forward.

These threats were not only directed at the United States, but also at Armenia and Armenians living in Turkey. In Istanbul, Turkey, people threw rocks at the windows of the Armenian Church of Samatia, an Armenian priest was subjected to physical attacks, another priest was arrested for referencing the Armenian Genocide, True Path Party leader Tansu Ciller called for the deportation of 30,000 Armenians, military activities increased along the border, and this shocking list goes on.

I regret that the Republic of Turkey opted to use coercion to make its case. However, it is even more regrettable that the United States succumbed to such tactics. I believe that we must remain vigilant in the face of threats and those who continue to deny the Armenian Genocide.

While the resolution was aborted in Congress, internationally the pace of Genocide affirmation continued. During November alone, despite Turkish threats, the European Parliament, along with France and Italy, all adopted resolutions affirming the Armenian Genocide. In addition, Pope John Paul II recognized the Armenian Genocide. Today I am submitting copies of these documents for the record.

Many experts have called for a dialogue between Turkey and Armenia on this subject. In fact, on October 3rd, the State Department offered to broker a dialogue between these two countries. While Armenia has repeatedly agreed, Turkey has refused. During his address at the Assembly of Turkish-American Associations in Washington, DC last month, Anthony Blinken, U.S. National Security Council European Director, indicated that Turkey had the responsibility to take the first step to start a dialogue with Armenia. Blinken said "as a small, landlocked country suffering from economic problems, Armenia sees Turkey as offering a fist, not a hand."

I agree with Mr. Blinken on this point. From Armenia's perspective, Turkey's ongoing hostile actions and continued violations of international human rights laws and treaties represent a significant security threat. Turkey's defense spending is the highest of any NATO country as a percentage of its Gross National Product (GNP) and over the next 25 years Turkey plans to spend \$150 billion modernizing its armed forces—against whom is unclear. Armenia simply does not have the resources to defend its own borders, especially given Turkey's military superiority and defense spending. Turkey's blockade, refusal to establish normal relations, military superiority, refusal to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide, and complete solidarity with Azerbaijan's demands regarding the Nagorno Karabagh conflict has only served to reinforce Armenia's view and has forced Armenia to rely on third parties to buttress its security capacity. As my colleagues know, Armenians faced genocide at the beginning of the 20th Century and the Armenians of Nagorno Karabagh suffered another attack during the end of the 20th Century. It is incumbent on us to ensure that Armenians and others around the world are not subjected to genocide in the 21st Century.

I would like to point out to my colleagues that since gaining its independence Armenia has consistently reached out and sought to normalize relations with Turkey only to be rebuffed at every step. Last year, when Turkey suffered a devastating earthquake, Armenia was one of the first countries to offer assist-

ance. Armenia, having endured a major earthquake years before, has developed an expertise in earthquake response and recovery. Despite Armenia's offer, Turkey initially rejected assistance. In fact, it was reported that Turkey's Minister of Health, Osman Durmus, rejected offers of blood from Armenia because he didn't want Turkish blood mixed with theirs. More recently, Armenia offered earthquake assistance to Azerbaijan. To date, Azerbaijan has not accepted Armenia's offer. Finally, Armenia's President, Robert Kocharian has proposed the creation of a regional security system that will facilitate long-term peace and regional cooperation. President Kocharian stated, "the creation of such a system will allow the states of the region to cast away the current concerns and to overcome the atmosphere of distrust. It will allow [the settlement of] the current conflicts, to avoid the emergence of new dividing lines, to establish long-term peace, and to think about prospects of development and [a] prosperous future." Turkey did not take President Kocharian up on his offer.

Time and time again, Armenia has shown its willingness to normalize relations with its neighbors. However, Armenia's offers have fallen on deaf ears. In my view, if Congress is unwilling to recognize and affirm the U.S. record in response to the Armenian Genocide, why would Turkey feel any obligation to enter into a dialogue with its weaker neighbor Armenia when it has successfully silenced the United States? It is my hope that we can continue to work on these important human rights issues during the 107th Congress and create an atmosphere in the Caucasus region whereby the security of all countries is not at issue and people can exchange views without the fear of retribution.

#### ITALIAN RESOLUTION

The Italian Chamber of Deputies has observed that on November 15, 2000 the European Parliament approved by a large majority a proposal deriving from the Periodic Review on the progress made by Turkey towards admission to the European Community, a review completed by the European Commission in 1999. The Turkish government has been encouraged to intensify its efforts towards democratization, especially in the fields of criminal law reform, independence of the judiciary, freedom of expression, and the rights of minorities.

The Italian Chamber of Deputies has also observed that the recent resolution deals with questions concerning the Armenian people in three paragraphs of particular significance: "we urge recognition of the genocide inflicted upon the Armenian minority [within the Ottoman Empire] committed before the creation of the modern Republic of Turkey (paragraph 10); improvement of relations with Turkey's neighbors in the Caucasus, as proposed by the Turkish government itself (paragraph 20;" and, in support of the suggestion put forward in paragraph 21 by the Hon. D. Cohn-Bendit, President of the Bipartisan Parliamentary Commission on UE-Turkish relations, "invites the Turkish government to open negotiations with the Republic of Armenia, restore diplomatic relations and trade between the two countries, placing an end to the blockade currently in place."

The Chamber of Deputies therefore urges the Italian Government, in concordance with the proposals described above, to pursue energetically the easing of all tensions between peoples and minorities in that area, [i.e. the Caucasus], in order to create, with due observance of the territorial integrity of the