

During the past twenty years, the museum has welcomed more than two million visitors, provided educational programming for thousands of children, and encouraged individuals to pursue careers in science and technological fields. The MOST has enabled the Central New York community to embrace learning through its innovative science fairs, educational workshops, and collaborative efforts.

Residents of Central New York and beyond can rest assured that by supporting the MOST, its vision to dispense knowledge and understanding will continue well into the future.

On the occasion of its 20th anniversary to be celebrated on Thursday, November 15th, it is my honor to recognize the Milton J. Rubenstein Museum of Science and Technology and extend best wishes for many more successful years of providing knowledge to the youth and families of Central New York. Congratulations.

HONORING PHILIP RUBENSTEIN

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2001

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Philip Rubenstein for his 57 years of government service, including 27 years as Director of the Ocean County Office of Senior Services.

During his long and distinguished career Phil has received numerous awards. In particular, he has received three Distinguished Federal Service Awards, as well as a Distinguished Award from the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

A dedicated leader of Ocean County's senior community, Phil Rubenstein has served selflessly and implemented many programs of benefit to Ocean County's seniors.

Mr. Rubenstein originated the transportation system for dialysis and chemotherapy patients in Ocean County. His original concept has grown into the County's transportation system which today services seniors and the disabled. In addition, he initiated prostate and mammogram screening programs for the County's older adults prior to their inclusion under the Medicare program.

Phil has also been committed to funding the Interfaith Volunteer Caregiver program, which has grown under his leadership to four individual service groups.

It is a privilege to honor Philip Rubenstein for his many years of community service. He is truly a devoted ombudsman for Ocean County's elderly.

TRIBUTE TO UNITED STATES NAVY COMMANDER TIMOTHY ATKINSON

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2001

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Commander Timothy Atkinson of the United States Navy as he prepares to assume command of the Surface

Combat Systems Center in Wallops Island, Virginia this October.

Commander Atkinson, a native of Newport, Rhode Island, received a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering from Auburn University and a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California.

Commander Atkinson has enjoyed a successful naval career. He served as the Combat Information Center Officer and made a Western Pacific deployment during his time aboard the USS *California* from 1984 to 1986. In 1987, he was assigned to the Coastal Systems Center in Panama City, Florida, where he worked on the combat systems testing aboard amphibious ships and the research and development of Landing Craft Air Cushion, the Navy's hovercraft.

From 1991 to 1993, Commander Atkinson repaired and maintained forward-deployed ships at the Ship Repair Facility in Guam. Following his assignment in Guam, Atkinson reported to the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command in Arlington, Virginia, where he managed command, control, communication, computer, and intelligence systems aboard Aegis-class destroyers and cruisers.

Atkinson became a member of the Navy's Acquisition Professional Community after completing the Department of Defense's Program Management course at the Defense Systems Management College in Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

In 1996, Commander Atkinson transferred to Arlington, Virginia, to lead the implementation of combat systems and C41 systems aboard surface combatant ships at the Program Executive Office for Theater Surface Combatants. Most recently, Commander Atkinson completed a two-year tour in Millington, Tennessee, where he was the Engineering Duty community's job assignment officer at the Navy Personnel Command.

TRIBUTE TO NEIGHBORHOODS INCORPORATED

HON. PETER J. VISCOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2001

Mr. VISCOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great honor to pay tribute to Neighborhoods Incorporated, a nonprofit organization that promotes and enhances neighborhoods through resident training, innovative lending programs and other community sponsored activities in Hammond, Indiana.

Through the efforts of Neighborhoods Incorporated and its executive director, Keith Speaks, Indiana's First Congressional District, and Hammond in particular has worked to improve their neighborhoods. Communities are transforming in Northwest Indiana due to an organized campaign to help revitalize neighborhoods and businesses along the Indiana and Illinois State Line.

The Neighborhood of Lights program is an example of how neighbors are actively working together to take their neighborhoods back. This program is a grassroots coalition of neighbors and businesses from Hammond and Calumet City working together to improve the quality of life in the State Line corridor. The purpose of the Neighborhood of Lights program is to unite the communities and to beau-

tify the area. These goals are achieved by improving properties, promoting security measures, and most importantly by empowering neighbors and businesses to take an active role in their neighborhood. Businesses on both sides of the State Line are effected by what is happening in these neighborhoods just as much as the residents. Creating partnerships between the residents and businesses in the neighborhood truly creates a formidable force, which is effective in creating an improved atmosphere for both families and businesses to prosper.

Through the work of organizations like Neighborhood Incorporated, communities and lives are being transformed. Neighborhood Incorporated works to promote home ownership and to strengthen neighborhoods by helping to deliver improved affordable housing. Additionally, they offer a variety of services designed to address the demand of the local neighborhood. For example, they support the growth and development of resident leadership, rehabilitate homes, and collaborate with other organizations to improve the neighborhood image and restore pride and hope in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in thanking Mr. Speaks for his tireless dedication to improving the quality of life in Indiana's First Congressional District. Through the efforts of Neighborhoods Incorporated, individuals have come together at all levels to help their neighbors, their neighborhood schools, churches, block clubs, and their own families for the generations to come.

NEW YORK'S CREDIT UNIONS

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2001

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about credit unions. Representatives of New York City credit unions and the New York State Credit Union League visited my Washington office to explain the response of the credit union community in the wake of September 11th. The trip had been planned for quite some time and they thought about canceling their visit out of respect for the larger issues before Congress. Instead, they came with a message that has defined credit unions since their inception—one of cooperation and a "people-helping-people" service to their membership.

Branches of three credit unions, Excel Federal Credit Union, US Alliance Federal Credit Union and FAA Regional Federal Credit Union, were lost in the collapse of the World Trade Center towers. Municipal Credit Union—which serves predominantly emergency service personnel and city employees—had its main office and a branch office severely damaged. All employees were fortunate to escape, but hundreds of members undoubtedly perished. The New York State Credit Union League opened a "command center" to channel information to distressed credit unions and assist in their recovery. The New York State Credit Union Foundation created a disaster relief fund that has raised nearly \$500,000 from credit unions throughout the country and the world to assist families and help rebuild community programs in Manhattan. Fire and police

credit unions in Syracuse, NY raised \$150,000 in a single weekend. Empire Corporate FCU, located in Albany, NY has created a \$2 million "interest free" loan fund for credit unions in Manhattan to assist their members or help rebuild their infrastructure. The National Credit Union Foundation, operated by the Credit Union National Association on behalf of 80 million credit union members, has raised \$250,000 through its Credit Unions Rebuild America. In addition to providing operational and financial assistance, credit unions are extending special services to surviving members in the form of lower loan rates, deferred payments on credit, longer grace periods and fee waivers.

As owners of their cooperative financial institution, credit union members feel a sense of community, which is especially apparent during periods of financial hardship. I urge my colleagues to speak with the credit unions in their districts and to encourage their constituents to turn to credit unions for help. The New York credit unions have demonstrated to me their willingness to reach out during this time of extraordinary need to help our communities. Their cooperative spirit will not only see their members through these trying times, but will make us stronger as a Nation in the end.

TRIBUTE TO LATSON ROAD
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievement of Latson Road Elementary School from Howell, Michigan, in receiving a Blue Ribbon Award. Recipients of the Blue Ribbon Award must meet rigorous standards and criteria including: attention to student support, fostering student culture, building community partnerships, meeting challenging standards, and ensuring the quality of their teachers. Furthermore, the process to be recognized at the national level is long and arduous with first being selected by the state department of education to a site visit by a national panel of reviewers to being nominated by the U.S. Secretary of Education. The final step includes the presentation of the awards given tonight at a prestigious banquet in honor of Michigan's top schools.

The Blue Ribbon Award is the hallmark in achieving academic excellence for a school. But a school is a great deal more than a building with chalkboards. A successful school is only as good as the people behind it. Therefore, I wish to wholeheartedly commend the principal, teachers, parents and students that dedicated their time and efforts into making this award possible. I am proud to represent Latson Road Elementary School, a shining example of excellence in education.

ENDORSE THE MITCHELL COMMITTEE REPORT RESOLUTION: SUPPORT AMERICAN INTERESTS BY WORKING TOWARD A JUST, LASTING PEACE BETWEEN ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2001

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and the 29 colleagues who have joined me as original cosponsors, I rise today to announce the introduction of an important concurrent resolution pertaining to the ongoing violence in Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. As we all know, this violence not only endangers Israelis, Palestinians, and their neighbors, but it threatens the interests of the United States at this most critical time.

In introducing this resolution—which is strongly supported by the Administration—my colleagues and I are sending a clear message that violence in this troubled region is unacceptable and serves no one's long-term interests. It stresses that the Mitchell Committee Report offers the best road map toward ending the current cycle of violence and restarting the peace process in the Middle East. It notes that U.S. leadership is vital to creating and implementing a just and lasting peace. Finally, it highlights the fact that peace between Israel and the Palestinian Authority is America's best interest now and in the future.

In the past week we have seen violence beget violence. Assassinations do not serve the interests of the Palestinians. Unjust, aggressive acts do not serve the interests of Israel. Most importantly these acts do not serve American interests, particularly at a time when we are engaged in war and the delicate diplomacy of coalition building. These acts harm our ability to effectively meet and beat the forces of evil that we are fighting in Afghanistan.

I would note that while neither party is beyond reproach, I am troubled by what is taking place in Bethlehem, Beit Rima, and elsewhere. I am deeply troubled that when we shared our concerns with the Government of Israel and asked that they refrain from escalating violence by occupying additional Palestinian lands, they refused.

Mr. Speaker, as we wage war on terrorism, we must be careful to remember that while we have many allies, we must not allow any single country to use this conflict to justify any and all actions they take in their national interest. American interests overlap with the interests of other countries on many points, but they are not identical. American interests must be our priority and must prevail.

The Israel-Palestinian conflict has left thousands dead since 1948, and hundreds dead in the last year. This conflict must be resolved. Both sides have suffered, are suffering, and will continue to suffer if nothing is done. It is in the interest of our nation to encourage these parties to halt the violence and make peace.

The Mitchell Committee was created by the mutual agreement of the United States, Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Egypt, Jordan, the United Nations, and the European Union at the conclusion of the Sharm el-Sheik Middle East Peace Summit on October 17, 2000. The

Mitchell Committee studied the ongoing violence over a period of months, and the report they submitted included objective findings and constructive recommendations as to how to end the violence and rebuild confidence that will enable the parties to return to the negotiating table.

The United States, the UN, Israel, and the Palestinian Authority endorsed the Mitchell Committee Report because it is the best blueprint as to how to get the peace process back on track. It was accepted because it is a fair and balanced report that highlights the fact that both parties are responsible for the starting and perpetuating violence, and both parties are responsible for stopping it.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution I have introduced is balanced and fair, and merely expresses this body's support for the Mitchell Committee Report. Passing this resolution will send a message to both Israelis and Palestinians that the United States is a true partner for peace, and will work toward creating a just, lasting peace that will protect the interests of all parties.

This resolution enjoys the strong support of the Bush Administration, and I submit a copy of an October 5, 2001, letter of support from the State Department. This letter notes the following:

Passage of this resolution, without amendment, would make a positive and welcome contribution to the Administration's work with the parties to end the violence, implement the Mitchell Committee recommendations, and return to substantive negotiations.

Mr. Speaker, violence between the Israelis and Palestinians only begets more violence. This needless bloodshed runs counter to the interests of all parties, including the United States. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and demonstrate their support for peace and the Administration's efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinians conflict in a just, balanced manner.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

Washington, DC, October 5, 2001.

DEAR MR. DINGELL: Thank you very much for your letter to Secretary Powell and for sharing with us the text of your Concurrent Resolution. Passage of this resolution, without amendment, would make a positive and welcome contribution to the Administration's work with the parties to end the violence, implement the Mitchell Committee recommendations, and return to substantive negotiations. We appreciate very much your support.

As you point out, the Mitchell Committee recommendations represent a practical path back to productive negotiations between the parties. Before negotiations can begin, however, it is essential that the violence end and that both sides do everything possible to restore an atmosphere of calm. The meeting between Israeli Foreign Minister Peres and Chairman Arafat and the renewed security coordination which followed that meeting are important steps in this direction.

It is important that both Palestinians and Israelis avoid actions that jeopardize this renewed dialogue. Both sides must engage in the fullest possible coordination on security issues to help ensure a lasting halt to violence and terror. The Israelis should refrain from provocative acts that can only escalate tensions and undermine efforts to bring about a lasting halt to violence. For their part, the Palestinian authority must take sustained and effective steps to preempt violence and arrest those responsible for planning and conducting acts of violence and terror.