

For most of his life, Larry lived in Brooklyn, where his sister and other family members still reside. In 1993, Larry moved to Manhattan's West Village, where he joined a local block association to promote neighborhood well-being and community preservation. Among Larry's many notable community activities is his involvement in the New York Public Library, where he has been recognized as a member of the Bigelow Society. He is also an active member of the SAGE Forty Plus Group at the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center in Manhattan.

Larry is devoted to his close-knit family. Larry plans to spend his retirement years in New York City as well as his apartment in Hollywood, Florida, pursuing his various interests and enjoying the things he loves with family, friends and his partner, Bill Hevert. I am pleased to join with my friend, Lewis Goldstein, in congratulating Larry on this milestone. I wish him a productive and enjoyable retirement.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. A. EDWARD DAVIS, JR.

### HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2002*

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Reverend Dr. A. Edward Davis, Jr., Pastor of St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Chicago, Illinois. Pastor Davis preached his first sermon in 1969 and was called to the pastorate of St. John Missionary Baptist Church in 1976. Since that time, God, through him, has made and continues to make a difference in many lives.

Under his leadership and vision, St. John's membership has grown to almost four thousand five hundred members. He preaches two Sunday services and is making preparations to build a new church building which will include an Educational Facility with a full-time Day Care Center. Over thirty-three years of untiring service, faithful dedication to the community and strong leadership have earned him the deserved respect and admiration of all whose lives he has touched.

Pastor Davis has been instrumental in shaping the future of the community, state and country. I applaud his leadership and commend him for toiling so long to provide the type of guidance which has empowered so many to make meaningful contributions to the community. His accomplishments are far too numerous to list but I applaud him for each and every one of them and for having the dream and desire to use his faith as a vehicle to effect social, political and economic change. He is a true testament to his faith and an asset to our country. I commend Pastor A. Edward Davis and wish him many more years of exemplary service to the Lord.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RICH PERLBERG, NEW PRESIDENT OF THE MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2002*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Rich Perlberg of Brighton, Michigan, who was recently installed as 2002 president of the Michigan Press Association.

Rich Perlberg and his family have been dedicated for three generations to continuing America's tradition of a free press. The Perlberg family also works to keep the newspaper industry viable in a highly competitive era and is fully committed to enhancing the communities they serve.

Rich Perlberg, publisher and general manager of Home Town Newspapers, is both a second generation president and the third Perlberg to head Michigan's volunteer, statewide organization of newspapers. His father, Ed Perlberg was president in 1982, and his brother Bob served in 1992. Actually, the Perlberg family tradition goes back even farther. Rich's grandfather, Floyd, once served as a board member of the now 300-member association.

Rich Perlberg understands that community newspapers are the historians of American life, as well as the watchdogs of community well-being and a cornerstone of the community economy.

Perlberg assumes the Michigan Press Association presidency at a critical time. While newspapers that reflect their communities are the very backbone of a the community, the backbone of these publications is retail advertising. Without that revenue, it would be nearly impossible for newspapers to serve their communities. The recent dip in the economy and other media competition for advertising revenue, present Perlberg with a major challenge in the new year.

Perlberg's family tradition in community newspapers and his successful newspaper career make him the right man for Michigan's newspaper industry in 2002. He began his career sweeping floors, proofing ads and writing copy at his father's paper in Bay City, Michigan. He has since risen to lead one of the state's most respected and successful community newspaper groups. He is well-prepared to assume responsibility for the association.

We congratulate Rich Perlberg on his new opportunity and wish him and the Michigan Press Association the very best in the coming year.

THOUGHTS OF RABBI ISRAEL ZOBERMAN ON HIS RECENT TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST

### HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2002*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, on September 11 and in the weeks that followed, it seemed inconceivable that anyone in the world would ever be able to return to true normalcy. The

horror of that day would—as well it should—live forever in our hearts and minds. But, in parts of the world, old hatreds have been revived and violence has once again become an everyday occurrence. In particular, the Middle East has again become a tinderbox.

Rabbi Israel Zoberman of the Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, a congregation that draws people from all over the Tidewater area, recently traveled to Israel for the Israel Bonds Rabbinic Conference Solidarity Mission. As someone who had grown up in Israel before coming to the United States to preach, Rabbi Zoberman is regrettably well accustomed to the daily routine of violence in the Middle East. But, he is far from desensitized to its effects on human lives. He published his thoughts on the recent violence in the National Jewish Post, and he has shared them with me. I commend his article to my colleagues' attention as well.

As an early supporter of mutual accommodation between the Israelis and the Palestinians, I urged in the wake of the 1982 Lebanon War—in an article inserted into the Congressional Record by then Senator Charles Percy of Illinois—for responding creatively to the Palestinian question while guaranteeing Israel's security. Indeed, the 1993 historic handshake between the late Prime Minister Rabin and Chairman Arafat at the south lawn of the White House vindicated those believing in the necessity of peace between the long warring parties. However, the past 16 months have painfully impacted the peace camp following Arafat's initiation of the Second Intifada, violently rejecting former Prime Minister Barak's wide proposal at Camp David to fully end the historic conflict.

While on an Israel Bonds Rabbinic Conference Solidarity Mission, we watched on Israeli TV the captured ship "Karine A," packed with fifty tons of Iranian offensive weapons ordered by the Palestinian Authority. Major General Shlomo Gazit (Res.) who headed the Israeli Army Intelligence branch, described to us the action as the most daring commando raid since the 1976 Entebbe Operation, also meant to save Jewish lives. All that while General Anthony Zinni was in the region receiving cynical assurances from the Palestinian of their commitment to implement a cease-fire.

U.S. Ambassador Daniel Kurtzer, the second consecutive American Jew to serve in the important post replacing Ambassador Martin Indyk, greeted us most warmly and unequivocally state, "there is a connection between the ship and the Palestinian Authority for which it should answer." Jerusalem's Mayor Ehud Olmert, thanking us heartily as did Israelis at large for visiting at a trying time, emphasized that the ship's episode illustrates the gap "between Arafat's declarations and deeds" with peace remaining elusive.

Israel's President Moshe Katsav movingly welcoming us in his official residence was highly critical of Arafat's conduct since the Peace Process began, and stressed the internal division the latter created in Israeli society. He emphatically announced, acknowledging borrowing President Lincoln's famous phrase, "Mr. Arafat, you cannot fool all the people all the time." The President spoke of the need to vigorously fight terrorism while asserting the meeting points of common interests between Palestinians and Israelis.

Deputy Defense Minister, Dalia Rabin-Pelossof, daughter of the slain Yitzhak Rabin, bemoaned the transition "from hope

to despair," calling on Arafat to cease engaging in violence as well as teaching Palestinian children the language of hate and suicide bombing. She regards economic development essential and finds the ultimate solution to be political rather than military. Jacob Perry, who led the Shin Bet, Israel's internal security service, reflected on Israel's long encounter with Arab terrorism even as recently Islamic fundamentalism "openly challenged the West." He praised American Intelligence capability, the failure of September 11th notwithstanding, explaining the difficulty of penetrating the compartmentalized and religiously extreme Muslim terror cells.

Dr. Raanan Gissin, Prime Minister Sharon's Media Advisor, analyzed Arafat's inability to change course and shed off his life's identity as a terrorist, thus bound to remain such. His present forced confinement to West Bank's town of Ramallah will extend till he turns in the murderers of government minister Rehavam Zeevi. Yet Gissin shared, "we have to find a way to live with Arabs" without compromising Israel's overwhelming right to its land, keeping Jerusalem united. He voiced enthusiastic support for President Bush's war on terrorism by unstoppable "democracy on the march." Rabbi Binyamin Elon, assassinated Minister Zeevi's party colleague who jointed the government in his stead as Tourism Minister, cautioned of the need to be strong in face of an enemy regarding Israel's moral code as a weakness. Limor Livnat, Education Minister, refuses to view Arafat as a peace partner in the midst of his waging war against Israel, denying Jerusalem's centrality for the Jewish people.

Encountering the families, fellow soldiers and the classmates of terror victims, including twenty-two immigrant Russian students from Tel Aviv's Shevah Mofet School, we witnessed with horror the bullet-ridden bus where ten Israelis found their death at Emanuel town's entrance. Tearfully facing freedom's high price, we were reassured by the resiliency of the human spirit coupled by Israeli resolve. The bond with America's own pain became most evident. In the deadly stalemate caused by the absence of a negotiated settlement, there is the option of a unilateral separation by Israel with a demilitarized Palestinian entity. The venerated vision of genuine peace will follow, some day, with both sides prayerfully seeking and creating sacred windows of opportunity. Meanwhile, will Chairman Arafat who has inflicted profound anguish on Israelis and Palestinians alike, betraying the precious though fragile essence of transforming and uniting hope of so many, kindly return the Nobel Peace Prize he no longer deserves?

#### YUCCA MOUNTAIN IS THE BEST OPTION

#### HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2002*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following editorial from the February 5, 2002, Norfolk Daily News. The editorial stresses the need to move forward on the construction of a nuclear waste site at Yucca Mountain in Nevada. As the editorial indicates, the Yucca Mountain location has been thoroughly studied and reviewed. Now that it has been chosen as the preferred location, Congress should approve the decision and facilitate the development of this site. Such an action would greatly enhance national safety and security.

#### FURTHER DELAY NOT AN OPTION—YUCCA MOUNTAIN NOW OFFICIALLY DECLARED BEST NUCLEAR WASTE SITE

Nearly 40 years after the federal effort began to find a permanent place to store high-level nuclear waste, a suitable site has been identified. It is now 20 years after Congress promised to have such a facility opened; five years after Congress named the preferred location—Yucca Mountain 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas, Nev.

Exhaustive scientific review has affirmed that site's suitability. The federal Department of Energy has now officially declared that the Nevada site meets the stringent standards prescribed for storing 70,000 tons of high-level, long-lived radioactive waste.

It does not mean transfer of such materials from 130 separate sites across the nation, much of it from nuclear power plants, will occur soon. The next step in the process is for President Bush to approve the recommended site and apply for a federal license. Nevada officials aim to derail the project, and a 1987 law gives that state veto power. Congress can then override the veto.

The process will still consume years, rather than months. And so will design work and construction once an irreversible decision is made. While it is projected now that the repository could be ready to accept waste by 2010, experience proves that is an optimistic timeline.

Opponents lack a key argument, however: that there surely are other, better sites available in the continental United States. Those were weighed long ago, and the sparsely-settled mountainous desert terrain in Nevada, already probed, tunneled and extensively surveyed for its stability, was chosen on justifiable scientific grounds. That the state has a small population might have been a political plus, but determined opposition on the part of its leadership has kept the issue in doubt long after the site should have been ready.

Now it is up to Congress once again to reaffirm its earlier decision, and to offer the best protection against future risks from nuclear waste by proceeding with deliberate speed to store the nuclear waste where it can be monitored carefully for the safety of generations of Americans yet to come.

The sensible majority of today's national political leaders must recognize that the greater good for the greater number is the issue. One state cannot have veto power over 49 others in a matter of vital national importance. Further delay only increases the risks and makes the nation more vulnerable to terrorists and the hazards that nuclear waste represents.

#### A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING JUSTIN DWIGHT MITCHELL

#### HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2002*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Justin Dwight Mitchell has devoted himself to serving others through his membership in the Boy Scouts of America Troop 145; and

Whereas, Justin Mitchell has shared his time and talent with the community in which he resides; and

Whereas, Justin Mitchell has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Justin Mitchell must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award;

Therefore, I join with the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating Justin Dwight Mitchell for his Eagle Scout Award.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. GERALD R. REED

#### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2002*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, since 1926 Americans have recognized black history annually, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." February was chosen because the month marks the birthdays of two men who seriously impacted the African American, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. This year's month long celebration's theme is, "The Journey to Freedom: The Struggles, Trials and Triumphs."

I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to a man who embodies the characteristics of a leader of the African American Population. It is with great pleasure that I introduce and honor Gerald R. Reed as he celebrates his tenth year as a member of Blacks in Government (BIG) and his third year as its president.

In 1992 Mr. Reed began his leadership role within the BIG as President of the Pentagon Chapter. The following year he was the honored recipient of the prestigious BIG National Distinguished Service award.

In 1994, only two years after he joined the organization, Mr. Reed became the President of the Region XI Council. During the three years of his presidency the Council was awarded the bids for the BIG Annual National Training Conference in 1994, 1997, 1998 and year 2000. Additionally, Mr. Reed served on influential BIG National Committees and instituted many major conference improvements as the Co-Chairperson of the BIG National Training Conference in 1997 and 1998.

Furthermore in 1994, during his first year as National President, Mr. Reed successfully implemented many initiatives for BIG, including a partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture Graduate School and several organizational infrastructure improvements.

Mr. Reed is also affiliated with the Black Leadership Forum, the National Coalition for Equity in Public Service, the Leadership Council on Civil Rights, and a VIP member of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

Mr. Reed is presently employed with the Network Infrastructure Services Agency, Pentagon, (NISA-P) as the Branch Chief for the Systems Applications Development Branch. He holds several degrees including a Master of Science degree in Administration with a concentration in Software Engineering from Central Michigan University. He is a veteran of the United States Army and also the author of "Building A Masterpiece with Simple Poetry."

Many events have been planned in conjunction with this month's Festivities in my district. Mr. Reed has been selected as the guest speaker at this year's Mentors Chapter of Blacks in Government (BIG) annual Black History Month Luncheon in Fort Monmouth, New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring and recognizing Mr. Reed and his significant accomplishments throughout his career, his work