

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 Law 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 Forth 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