

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. DINGELL Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and celebrate President Howard Cash and the employees of Gene Codes Corporation on their inexhaustible efforts and immense accomplishments in identifying the remains of those killed at the World Trade Center in New York on September 11, 2001. Over the course of the past few years, Mr. Cash and the Gene Codes employees have proven themselves to be truly amazing under some of the most challenging circumstances imaginable.

On September 26, 2001, Mr. Cash and his employees responded to a call to service when the New York City Office of the Chief Medical Examiner requested that the Gene Codes Corporation assist in the process of identifying the victims of the World Trade Center terrorist attack. The challenge was to create software capable of matching DNA extracted from thousands of remains at Ground Zero to the list of close to 3000 missing persons. Motivated by the anguish caused by the horrific attacks on our country, the Gene Codes staff unanimously agreed to undertake a complex project that was proving to be impossible using current technology. Moreover, Gene Codes decided to complete the project at cost. As a consequence, the Corporation suffered its first unprofitable quarter in eight-and-a-half years.

As thousands of families anxiously awaited the results, the entire technical staff began working solely on the Trade Center project, thus committing to extremely long hours and a great deal of emotional wear and tear. The employees' inexhaustible labor and long hours epitomize the indomitable spirit and unity of the American people. The precision and effectiveness of their software, Mass Fatality Identification System (M-FISys), embodies the limitless dedication and expertise of the Gene Codes staff.

Howard Cash and his corporation have been at the forefront of commercial bioinformatics developments since 1984. Former Michigan Governor John Engler appointed Howard Cash to the Michigan State Commission on Genetics, Privacy and Progress in 1997. In addition, Gene Codes was named one of the Future 50 of Greater Detroit in 2002. Howard Cash's leadership, patriotism and perseverance earned him the title of Entrepreneur of the Year in 2002 by both the New Enterprise Forum and Ernst & Young, and Person of the year in the Genome Technology All-Star Awards. Furthermore, in 2003 Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm nominated Gene Codes Corporation for the National Medal of Technology.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Howard Cash and his employees on their accomplishments and in wishing them many more years of success and service. The selfless acts of this amazing group of people should be commended. Through their teamwork, dedication and perseverance, these men and women have truly shown the nation what it means to be a hero.
