

JOURNAL NEWS 12/12/01

## **Mehiel's qualifications are outstanding**

I read with interest your Dec. 5 article, "Latimer to run for lieutenant governor," and agreed with the assessment by Westchester County Democratic Chair, David Alpert, that George Latimer doesn't have the resources to run a statewide campaign.

I write, however, to set the record straight about his opponent, Dennis Mehiel, who was characterized as a "local businessman." Mr. Mehiel, in my opinion, is also unique among the candidates in the breadth of his political and civic experience. A former chair of the Westchester County Democratic Committee, Dennis also directed the New York State Democratic Campaign Committee, was appointed to head the Millennium Commission by County Executive Andrew Spano and currently serves as a member of the Democratic National Committee.

Dennis' community activism is at once local and national in its scope. It includes leadership positions in the Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center, New York State League of Conservation Voters and the Westchester Holocaust Commission as well as former membership on the Archdiocesan Council, the lay leadership of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Americas.

And Dennis is more than a local businessman. He is the chairman and principal shareholder of S.F. Holdings, the leading producer of disposable tabletop products for the away-from-home dining market. It's rated 195 in the private Forbes 500!

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