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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: Immediately

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEER ON BOARD SPACE SHUTTLE TELLS OF HIS EXPERIENCE

Dr. Byron Lichtenberg, a biomedical engineer who conducted experiments on board the space shuttle Columbia, spoke about his experiences in a recent movie and slide show presentation at the Masonic Hall in Hopkinton, MA. He spoke in front of townspeople and much of the staff from the Liberty Mutual Insurance Company Research Center, located in Hopkinton, where he conducted research on biomedical engineering for one year.

Lichtenberg was one of the first two non-astronauts to go into space. He became eligible for the mission by performing experimental work in a lab for five years. He was chosen to fly and conduct experiments by other scientists. In 1974, he conducted intensive research on biomedical engineering at Liberty Mutual's Research Center toward a thesis that earned him his Master's Degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). This research led to his eligibility for the NASA space mission program. Lichtenberg performed the research under the direction of Dr. Carlo De Luca, project director at Liberty Mutual's NeuroMuscular Laboratory and under administrative supervision of Allen Cudworth, Sc.D., vice president and director of the Hopkinton Research Center.

He believes there are human benefits from the space program. "Life sciences will help us understand more about the human body, pharmaceuticals and drug processing in space," he said.

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