

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

GOD, FAITH, AND HEALTH: EXPLORING THE SPIRITUALITY-HEALING CONNECTION, A NEW BOOK BY DR. JEFF LEVIN

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2001

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to mark the publication of God, Faith, and Health: Exploring the Spirituality-Healing Connection, by our own Dr. Jeff Levin, raised in Wilmette, Illinois, a graduate of New Trier High School. Dr. Levin is a pioneering scientist and author whose research beginning in the 1980s helped create the field of religion, spirituality, and health.

In this groundbreaking new book, Dr. Levin—a National Institutes of Health funded social epidemiologist who has conducted much of the original research in this increasingly influential area of health and medicine—explores the latest compelling evidence of the connection between health and a wide array of spiritual beliefs and practices. These include attendance at religious services, faith in God, and worship, prayer, and meditation. With examples from spiritual traditions as diverse as Christianity, Judaism, and Yoga, he looks with an open mind and perceptive eye at the many ways that religious involvement and belief can prevent illness and promote health and well being.

Drawing on his own and other published studies, Dr. Levin shows how religion's emphasis on healthy behaviors and supportive relationships influences our overall health and how the optimism and hopefulness of those who profess faith promote the body's healing responses.

Levin studies other healing modes as non-contact therapeutic touch, distant prayer, and transcendent experiences and asks if other forces could be at work in many cases of healing. Sharing compelling evidence from recent research, he offers an exciting vision of a new era in modern medicine, one in which body, mind, and something else are brought together to promote health, prevent illness, and produce healing.

Filled with the dramatic stories of people whose health has been affected by their faith, God, Faith, and Health will alter the way we think about our bodies and our faith, and shows us the path for improving our own health through spiritual practice.

In January, President Bush signed executive orders establishing the White House Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives. In light of the Administration's emphasis on faith-based institutions, Dr. Levin's God, Faith, and Health is an especially timely contribution. It provides a scientifically grounded model for how religious faith can help serve to promote the health and well being of all Americans.

According to Dr. James S. Gordon, Georgetown professor and Chairman of the White House Commission on Complementary and Alternative Medicine Policy, "Dr. Levin shows us—clearly, thoughtfully, comprehensively—that belief does matter. Spiritual practice and religious observance are powerful medicine."

I commend Dr. Levin for his groundbreaking contribution to science and medicine. The evidence presented in God, Faith, and Health promises to heal the divisive barriers that separate faith from medicine, and science from spirit.

HONORING ELSIE PALSI

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2001

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a woman who has dedicated her life to the pursuit of learning and sharing the gift of knowledge with her students. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Elsie Palsi, an educator in East Rutherford, New Jersey, who was recently honored by that town for her service. In fact, June, 2001 has been declared "Elsie Palsi Month" by the East Rutherford Education Community.

Elsie Palsi has brought her creativity and imagination to the profession of teaching. She was well loved by both her colleagues as well as the many students whose lives she touched. There is no doubt that her work will be greatly missed by the students of East Rutherford.

However, her efforts will always be felt. I am reminded of Henry Adams' saying that, "A teacher affects eternity; they can never tell where their influence stops."

People who give so much of themselves, as Elsie Palsi, do not do so for the recognition. However, she certainly deserves to receive it.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Elsie Palsi as well as her family on the occasion of this well deserved tribute from the town of East Rutherford, New Jersey, and wish them health and happiness in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO DICK KNIPFING

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2001

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring New Mexico's anchorman, Dick Knipfing. Dick has faithfully served New Mexicans for 37 years and, just last week, took his career full circle. He has served our state as a news

anchor on all three of our largest local channels and has dedicated his life to informing his viewers on issues important to New Mexicans. His broadcasting career began at what was then known as KGGM, the CBS affiliate in Albuquerque. This week he returned to New Mexico's airwaves as an anchorman on KRQE, the current CBS affiliate formerly known as KGGM.

Dick is known and respected in New Mexico as a real "pro" who knows more about New Mexico history, politics, and policy than most of the people he covers and reports on every day.

Over the years, thousands of New Mexicans have relied on Dick Knipfing to give them the straight story, every night. In 1996, he was inducted into the Silver Circle Society, which is one of the more prestigious honors in his field. In the late eighties, he was elected by his peers as one of the "Best in the Business" and listed in the "Washington Journal Review."

Mr. Speaker, television news has changed and evolved significantly in the three and a half decades that have spanned Dick Knipfing's career. Today, it's a 24-hour a day, multi-channel business where, in too many instances, form is more important than substance. Dick Knipfing has always been a man of substance giving New Mexicans the truth with integrity.

We wish him the best in all future endeavors. He will always have a place in the hearts of New Mexicans for his integrity, his commitment to children and families, and his love of New Mexico. Please join me in honoring and thanking Mr. Dick Knipfing, New Mexico's anchorman, for all he has done and continues to do for our state.

Dick, it's good to see you back on the air.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELKS LODGE 664

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2001

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th anniversary of Elks Lodge 664 in Fairview Heights, Illinois.

The beginnings of the Elks organization is credited to Charles Algernon Sidney Vivian. Born in London, Vivian arrived in New York in 1867. Vivian, an actor, met with a group of other theatrical entertainers to create a loose organization called the Jolly Corks. When one of the members died in 1867, leaving both his wife and his children destitute, the Jolly Corks decided, that in addition to good fellowship, they needed a more enduring organization to serve those in need. On February 16, 1868, they established the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks and elected Vivian to

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

head it. As word of its social activities and benefit performances increased and spread to other cities, other Elk's "lodges" were formed.

The legacy of Charles Vivian continues to this day. In addition to aiding members in distress, the Elks raise money for children with disabilities, provide college scholarships, develop youth projects and organize recreational programs for patients in veterans hospitals.

In 1907, the Elks held the first Flag Day observance. This tradition, started by the Elks, was later declared a national holiday by President Harry S. Truman. During World War I, the Elks funded and equipped field hospitals in France. Their loans to 40,000 returning veterans for college, rehabilitation and education were the precursor to the original GI bill. The Elks were also used during WW II to recruit construction workers for the military and they also contributed books to the Merchant Marines. During the Korean War, the Elks gave more than a half million pints of blood to help the wounded and in Vietnam, the Elks provided funds for the recreational needs of the military. When Desert Storm took place, the Elks undertook letter-writing campaigns to help keep up soldiers' morale.

Today, there are more than 1.3 million members of the Elks in 2200 local lodges found in all 50 states. Many members of Congress have been Elks. Former Speakers of the House Tom Foley, Tip O'Neill, Carl Albert, John McCormack and Sam Rayburn all belonged to the Elks. Hale Boggs of Louisiana was also an Elk. Presidents Harding, FDR, Truman, Kennedy and Ford were all Elks lodge members. I, too, am an Elks member from Lodge 481 in Belleville.

Local Elks lodges provide recreational and support facilities for the entire family and are the focal point for many community service projects. Lodge 664 members in Fairview Heights log in thousands of hours annually in volunteer service to charitable, educational and patriotic causes in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 100 years of service of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks Lodge 664 and salute the members of the lodge both past and present.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID MEYERS,
ED.D., LAKEVIEW PUBLIC
SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, after thirty remarkable years in education, Dr. David Meyers, Superintendent of Lakeview Public Schools, will retire on June 30, 2001. As students, parents, and staff of Lakeview Public Schools bid farewell to a longtime friend and advocate of public education, they gathered to honor his retirement with a celebration of memories, laughter, and fun.

Demonstrating outstanding dedication and commitment to his students, his colleagues, and his community, Dr. Meyers has always been an active and enthusiastic supporter of education and advancement. Beginning his

teaching career in 1971 at South Lake Schools teaching special education, a short ten years later he became Assistant Principal at South Lake High School in 1981 and named Principal of Avalon Elementary in 1986. Joining Lakeview Public Schools as Assistant Superintendent in 1991, he served in Curriculum and Labor Relations until 1993, when he was named interim superintendent and finally Superintendent of Schools in July 1994.

The hard work and innovative ideas of Dr. Meyers led Lakeview Public Schools in a new direction, including the first district strategic plan and a comprehensive staff development plan integrating the Lakeview Excellence in Academic Program (LEAP). His substantial contributions also included development of a K-12 curriculum initiative resulting in the first district-wide written curriculum based on standards and benchmarks as well as a change from a high school six-hour schedule to a modified block schedule. Developing the first county middle school alternative education program, implementing the Reading Recovery program at the elementary level, and creating a vocational/business partnership marine service class, the first of its kind offered to high school students in the nation, Dr. Meyers's crusade to raise the standards of public education is one that will be long remembered by students and educators for years to come.

I applaud Dr. Meyers for his leadership, commitment, and service, and thank him for dedicating thirty outstanding years to public education. I know he is honored by this recognition and I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting him for his exemplary years in academia.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2001

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform you that my absence from voting in the House on Friday was due to my attendance at an annual briefing for senior citizens in my district. I notified my leadership on Friday that I had to leave for this event. My Chief of Staff informed me of the possibility of votes late Friday and into Saturday morning. I was preparing to leave for the vote late Friday evening when due to inclement weather I was unable to fly back from California on time. I ask that I be excused from my legislative duties on Friday and Saturday due to these unforeseen circumstances.

REQUIRE A REPORT ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2001

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation that will require the Attorney Gen-

eral to submit a report to the House and Senate Committees on the Judiciary regarding the effectiveness of the State Justice Institute (SJI or "the Institute"). The report would be due by October 1, 2002.

Congress established SJI as a private nonprofit corporation in 1984. Its stated purpose is to further the development and adoption of improved judicial administration in state courts. SJI is to accomplish this goal by providing funds to state courts and other national organizations or nonprofits which support state courts. SJI also fosters coordination and cooperation with the federal judiciary in areas of mutual concern. The Institute may not duplicate the work or functions of existing nonprofit organizations. Since becoming operational in 1987, the Institute has awarded more than \$125 million in grants to support over 1,000 projects. Another \$40 million in matching requirements has been generated from other public and private funding sources.

Section 213 of the original authorizing legislation, now codified at 42 U.S.C. §10712, required the Attorney General to submit a report governing the effectiveness of SJI operations by October 1, 1987, to the House and Senate Committees on the Judiciary. Since SJI did not become operational until fiscal year 1987, however, the report submitted by former Attorney General Meese is of limited value in assessing the operations of the Institute.

Still, the report praised SJI start-up activities in the following summation: "Although the Institute has only recently begun implementation of its program, much has been accomplished since it began operation. The Institute has made diligent efforts to develop and implement effective policies, procedures, and guidelines. . . ." With regard to oversight, the report also noted that the Institute had established ". . . an effective system of internal control by developing procedures and guidelines for its staff and grantees that ensure its resources are protected against fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement." The report concluded by noting that a full assessment of SJI activities could not be made until grants had been awarded and other program activities implemented.

As noted, the purpose of the bill I am introducing is to authorize the Attorney General, in consultation with the Institute, to submit a report to the House and Senate Committees on the Judiciary regarding the effectiveness of SJI in fulfilling its missions. The report would be done in consultation with SJI, and would be due not later than October 1, 2002.

Mr. Speaker, this is a noncontroversial bill that promotes good government. While I am impressed with SJI operations to date, all federal entities should be accountable to the taxpayers. I therefore urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

CHILE'S COMPLIANCE WITH ITS OWN LAWS PROTECTING LIFE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to commend