

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