

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 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.

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