

THE JUDICIAL IMPROVEMENTS
ACT OF 2002

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 2002

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the "Judicial Improvements Act of 2002." This legislation constitutes a noncontroversial fine-tuning of an existing statute, the "Judicial Conduct and Disability Act of 1980" (the 1980 Act), which permits individuals to file complaints against federal judges for inappropriate behavior.

Mr. Speaker, the Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property conducted an oversight hearing on the operations of federal judicial misconduct statutes on November 29, 2001. The witnesses at the hearing were united in their general praise for the Third Branch. Their respect for the federal judiciary is also shared by the members of the Subcommittee. Still, no federal entity is immune from periodic evaluation.

Consistent with our obligations to conduct oversight, the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, Representative HOWARD BERMAN, and I are introducing this bill that will reorganize the 1980 Act by re-codifying it as a new chapter of title 28 of the U.S. Code. The legislation will also clarify the responsibilities of a circuit chief judge in making initial evaluations of a complaint. In addition, section 3 of the bill resolves an existing conflict governing recused judges and whether their votes should count in determining a majority by a circuit to sit en banc.

The changes set forth in the "Judicial Improvements Act of 2002" are largely based on procedures that the judges themselves have developed through the years. The construct for the bill, based as it is on self-regulation, indicates that Congress and the American people retain great confidence in the ability of federal judges to identify and correct misconduct among their own colleagues.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I failed to highlight the contributions of three individuals who helped to draft this bill. They are Professor Arthur Hellman of the Pittsburgh School of Law; Mike Remington, former Chief Counsel of our Subcommittee; and Sandy Strokoff of the Office of Legislative Counsel. The Subcommittee appreciates the energy, time, and talent that they invested in this project.

In closing, I urge my colleagues to support the "Judicial Improvements Act of 2002," and I thank the Speaker.

HONORING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOCAL 318 INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 2002

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 70th Anniversary of Local 318, International Union of Operating Engineers in Marion, Illinois.

Local 318 has 1125 members, which represents most of southernmost Illinois. Ron Herring, who is currently the Business Manager for 318, oversees the operations of the union. For Ron, being an operating engineer is more than just a job; it is a way of life. Ron's father, who is now retired, has been a member of the union for 53 years.

Back in 1932, during the Great Depression, a construction company came to Saline County, Illinois to do drainage work on the Saline River. They hired local people, some of them out of work coal miners. Working conditions were bad. Two workers on the job, brothers Ted and Prentiss Carathurs of Indiana, encouraged local men hired for the job to apply for an Operating Engineers Charter. It took seven names to apply, and since there were only 5 local men, the five split the fee in order to include the Carathurs brothers name to make the seven names needed for the application.

Soon, others joined in and on June 1, 1932, Laborer's International Representative William "Whitey" Stuhr came to Harrisburg, Illinois and presented the Union's charter. Local 318 was born.

Local 318's first Business Manager was Arley Sheldon, the founder. He was the Local's Business Manager from June 1, 1932 to October 12, 1948. After Arley's term, 318 has had six Business Managers; Stanley Medley 1948-1965; Wardell Riggs 1965-1980; L. Dale Choate 1980-1987; Lester D. Allen 1987-1989; Bradley O. Williams 1990-1993; Anthony Ron Herring 1993-present.

Over the years, 318 has seen plenty of changes especially in equipment. From the days of mules pulling scrapers to the use of modern computerized systems in dozers, cranes and trucks. They have come from the days of Bloody Williamson County when the UMWA was battling for workers' rights from 1949 through 1959 when this country was almost 85% union. 318 met in local kitchens, halls and rooms throughout southern Illinois. They participate in hundreds of projects across the southern portion of the state. Local 318's service area has been 100% union and continues to be under 318's leadership.

From the first project in the 30's on the Saline River, flood aid assistance in Harrisburg in 1937, construction of the Illinois Ordnance plant, the "Big Inch" pipeline project, the Joppa Power Plant, construction of Interstates 57, 24, and 64, the Dog Island Dam project and cleanup work at Crab Orchard, Local 318 has continued to provide quality work.

Founded in 1896, the International Union of Operating Engineers today has 400,000 members nationwide in some 170 local unions. It is the 12th largest union in the AFL-CIO. Further, nearly 100 apprenticeships and training programs ensure that union members are highly trained and highly skilled. The union offers employment and training opportunities to all.

Local 318, like other Building Trades, are involved in many community activities and educational programs for children. 318 has a program that begins introducing students, even at the grade school level, to the trade in hopes that they develop another dedicated operator prepared to assist southern Illinois. It was the first labor union in Illinois to take this step.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 70th Anniversary of Local 318 of the International Union of Operating Engi-

neers and wish their members and their families the very best for the future.

CONGRATULATING AMANDA
NETZEL

HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 2002

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Amanda Wetzel, who was recently named a George Mitchell Scholarship recipient for 2002-2003. Amanda was 1 of only 12 scholars nationwide selected for this prestigious award. The scholarship will include a year of postgraduate study in Northern Ireland.

The George Mitchell Scholarship is awarded to American students who have demonstrated the highest standards of academic excellence, leadership, and community service. Since its inception in 1998, the Mitchell scholarship is recognized among the most prestigious fellowships for international study. The program is named in honor of former Senator George J. Mitchell and is administered by the United States-Ireland Alliance, a nonprofit organization based in Washington, DC.

In May, Amanda will receive her bachelor's degree in International Politics from Penn State University. While attending Penn State, Amanda has served as director of the Innovation and Quality Team Program at the Schreyer Institute for Innovative Learning. She directed groups who provided feedback and policy based recommendations to improve meaningful teaming in Penn State classes. She also interned at the U.S. Consulate in Belfast and as intern in the European Affairs Bureau at the State Department.

Amanda is a hard-working, dedicated student and American. I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize Amanda Wetzel for her commitment and achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 2002

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, due to the California State primary on March 5, 2002, I was in my congressional district and unable to be present for rollcall votes 47-50. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 47, 48, and 50; and "nay" on rollcall vote 49.

RECOGNIZING CIVIL AIR PATROL
FOR 60 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2002

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of H. Con. Res. 311, recognizing the Civil Air Patrol for 60 years of service to the United States.