

terrorism does not have anything to do with Islam as a religion and reinforces the effort we have been trying to make that the United States has Muslim allies in this effort. For Turkey, taking command of ISAF is an acknowledgment of Turkey's important position in that region and the role it can play in the Muslim world. It is also a signal of the important prestige Turkey has accumulated both here in the United States and in the West. The government in Ankara should be commended for its willingness to take on this critically important role. We congratulate Turkey and wish their military contingent the best of success.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not point out for commendation all of the other nations whose military forces are currently serving in Afghanistan. ISAF does have some 5,000 troops serving in Afghanistan and they all deserve our thanks and continued support. I think it is also important to note that the majority of the nineteen countries who have contributed forces to ISAF are not only European, but are from our NATO partners or NATO candidate countries. I believe this is an important point that is often overlooked by those who have criticized Alliances such as NATO for not being willing or capable of conducting missions abroad. The Afghanistan campaign was not a NATO mission but the fact that so many of our NATO partners have sent troops there is a testament to the importance of the Alliance and why we in this country should continue to strongly support NATO. Consider where we would be today if NATO was no longer relevant to our security needs. Whose 5,000 troops would be patrolling the streets of Kabul and ensuring the peaceful transition of that country.

So, again we salute the British forces for a job well done. We congratulate and welcome the Turkish leadership of ISAF and we thank our NATO allies and European friends for their continued support in Afghanistan and in the campaign against global terror.

IN SUPPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC
SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 4931, RE-
TIREMENT SAVINGS SECURITY
ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition of H.R. 4931, the Republicans' so-called Retirement Security Savings Act.

Like every other tax break the Republican leadership has brought to the floor lately, this bill is more about their political pandering than our priorities. But, I refuse to play games with the hard-earned pensions of working Americans while Republicans line the pockets of their wealthy contributors.

We ought to bring a pension bill to the floor that encourages saving and increases employee participation in pension plans. Unfortunately, the Republican bill does little to help average Americans save for retirement. It simply benefits the wealthiest Americans. Forty-two percent of the tax breaks proposed by the Republicans would go to the richest five percent of taxpayers.

Meanwhile, if you are an average American with a pension or retirement account, the Re-

publican plan does nothing to help you build upon that savings. Republicans are obviously content with the fact that most Americans have only about \$12,000 put away for retirement. I'm sure an Arthur Andersen accountant might be able to convince someone that \$12,000 is sufficient. But, to think the Republicans would expect that most Americans would believe it just shows how out of touch they are.

I support the Democratic plan for retirement security. It puts money where our mouth is when we say we want Americans to save. It rewards them for putting money away for their retirement by giving them a \$1,000 tax credit if they contribute to an employer-sponsored pension plan or an IRA.

Republicans supported giving lower and middle-income families this credit in the past. They included it in last year's tax bill. But, for some reason they won't support it today. Why not?

Maybe Republicans don't think it's necessary because they've already passed their huge tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans? Maybe they've just gotten too close with their corporate donors to appreciate the struggles many Americans face in building a secure retirement?

Whatever the answer may be, it is clear Republicans haven't learned anything from the Enron fiasco. This bill's second, major flaw is that does nothing to enforce corporate accountability when it comes to pensions. It doesn't prevent huge scams like Enron from being carried out on the backs of employees—it makes it easier. We shouldn't allow those that work hard for their retirement to be ripped off while a handful of greedy executives walk away with millions.

We should be on this floor today making sure that Enron never happens again. I support the Democratic plan because it will lock in real pension protection and ensure that workers are fairly compensated when companies fail. But, instead, we're stuck having to vote on a Republican bill that does nothing but reward corporate greed at the expense of millions of hard-working Americans.

I urge my colleagues to stand up for America's families, support the sensible Democratic plan for retirement security, and vote down the Republican bill.

SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM
PROTECTION ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, today I stand before you to express my concerns on strengthening and preserving our nation's Social Security system.

We are here today to discuss, H.R. 4070, The Social Security Programs Protection Act. However, I have grave concerns about what we are NOT discussing—namely, privatization, one of the biggest threats facing the Social Security Program today.

Last week, Democrats filed a discharge petition to demand a public debate on privatization. Democrats think the public has a right to know about the true effects of privatization.

Under the Republican Privatization Plan, we would see cuts in guaranteed benefits, massive raids on the Social Security Trust Funds, and the threat that privatization poses to the ability of the system to pay benefits to the baby-boomer generation.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has a responsibility to our next generation to ensure that Social Security will be there for them. Social Security is more than a program, it is a promise. The Republican Leadership is refusing to bring their privatization bills to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, we have missed our mission of strengthening Social Security. We have missed our opportunity to strike, a true course consistent with the great traditions in this country of meeting the challenges of each generation. We can only live up to our responsibilities by preserving and strengthening our Social Security system. American families work hard to pay into the system, and they should be able to rely on Social Security when they retire.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to live up to the responsibility that has been bestowed upon us and to strengthen and preserve our Social Security system.

Thank you, I yield the remainder of my time.

CHILD OBSCENITY AND PORNOGRAPHY
PREVENTION ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I voted in favor of H.R. 4623, the Child Obscenity and Pornography Prevention Act of 2002. I strongly support the goal of this legislation, which is to protect children from sexual exploitation.

This legislation is in response to the United States Supreme Court's ruling in *Ashcroft v. The Free Speech Coalition*, which struck down portions of the Child Pornography Prevention Act that made it illegal to create, distribute or possess "virtual" child pornography produced by means other than using real children, such as using adult actors who look like children or through computer generated images.

In an effort to pass constitutional muster, this bill prohibits the creation, distribution or possession of computer generated images that appear "virtually indistinguishable" from that of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct. We should not allow technological advances to hamper law enforcement's ability to prosecute individuals for child pornography. Law enforcement agencies must have all necessary tools to eliminate sexual exploitation of innocent children.

However, I have concerns about how this legislation affects free speech protections under the First Amendment. H.R. 4623 criminalizes speech that not only is not obscene, but that has redeeming literary, artistic, or other social value. This includes therapists and academic researchers who use computer-generated images in their research, and filmmakers who create explicit anti-child abuse documentaries.

While I am hopeful that this legislation will pass constitutional scrutiny we must also ensure that we do not infringe upon the First

Amendment. I believe we must strive to eliminate child pornography, a despicable exploitation of our children, while at the same time respecting free speech.

LEHIGH VALLEY HERO—
STEPHANIE McKENNA

HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to share my Report from Pennsylvania for my colleagues and the American people.

All across Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District there are some amazing people who do good things to make our communities a better place. These are individuals of all ages who truly make a difference and help others.

I like to call these individuals Lehigh Valley Heroes for their good deeds and efforts.

Today, I would like to recognize Bethlehem resident Stephanie McKenna as a Lehigh Valley Hero. She is working hard to make a difference in her community.

Stephanie, a single mother of three and guardian of two others had always thought of ways to spend more time with her children. A year ago, she quit her high powered Manhattan job to put in motion the idea she had for a way to be more in touch with her children while helping other children in the community. This idea was called Teen Destiny, a one-year residential program for teenage boys who are troubled, but haven't yet crossed into the juvenile detention system.

This program, which could start as early as September is run by a seven-member board of directors and has a \$1.2 million agreement of sale for a 189-acre farm in Upper Mount Bethel Township.

This working farm would be the temporary home for teenage boys. After school and on weekends, the boys would learn to cook, clean and do laundry through the 4-H, and try their hand at farming. Stephanie hopes that by taking the teenagers into a new environment, giving them close supervision and lots of attention, she and a staff of professional counselors and tutors can turn the teenagers around before they succumb to alcohol, drugs or gangs.

Stephanie McKenna is selflessly working to make a difference in the lives of many teenage boys in need of direction, and therefore she is a Lehigh Valley Hero in my book.

Mr. Speaker, this concludes my Report from Pennsylvania.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PACIFIC
AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL
HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOOLS
COUNCIL INAUGURATION

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD a recent speech given by a distinguished former Member of this body, Former Congressman Lester L.

Wolff before an Assembly of Asian educators on May 20th in New York. Congressman Wolff served as Chairman of the House Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee and is now Chairman of the Pacific Community Institute.

INAUGURATION OF THE PACIFIC AMERICAN
INTERNATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOOLS
COUNCIL

With a new look and focus after two decades of service, the Pacific Community Institute (PCI), continues to work towards its purpose of creating a community of interests in the Pacific Rim. With those goals in mind, I am proud to announce today the inauguration of the Pacific American International Higher Education Schools Council.

Because the United States was originally an off-shoot of Europe, there is a historical tendency to think of the U.S. as an Atlantic nation only. However, the United States has historically been involved in the Pacific since 1784, its Pacific Coast is longer than the Atlantic Coast, and the State of Hawaii is in the Pacific. The commitment of the United States to the Pacific has also been sealed in active diplomacy and several wars for freedom and democracy.

The basic principle of the Pacific Community Institute (PCI) is to promote community, based upon respect for individuals and the traditions of its members. Building on ties of trade and kinship, which have long existed among the countries of the Pacific Rim, PCI seeks to facilitate interaction and cooperation toward the solution of common problems. PCI aims to obviate such problems by enabling the nations of the Pacific Rim to explore together, at the working level, means to contemporary activities, and new, creative solutions to the common concerns. PCI is supplementary and supportive without competing with existing organizations.

PCI believes that true community may be facilitated by the revolution in communication and information technology, but that it must be created by people in concert, in person. For that reason, PCI remains committed to facilitating face-to-face interaction as significant step toward building a climate of cooperation. The advent of the World Wide Web has made the task of the PCI simpler in some respects, by permitting the movement of information in a more efficient manner. Yet without a sense of the human being sending an e-mail, or the organization maintaining a website, the official, the executive, or the academic who may be seeking a solution remains uncertain and unconvinced.

The Pacific Community Institute seeks today to promote international education based on the concept that both sides of the Pacific can learn from each other. PCI is currently working to develop a graduate level, Western-style curriculum in business. The role of the PCI is to oversee the content of the program, curriculum, the credentials of the instructors, and performance of graduates. In general, PCI fosters the idea of appropriate conferences designed to enhance the sort of personal contact that makes an e-mail message a genuine commodity, and not a nuisance.

The Pacific Community Institute, in its role to improve inter-relationships, understanding, and economic well-being within the nations of the Pacific region, is in the process of organizing such an organization: The Pacific American International Higher Education Schools Council. The Council, composed of an elite professional group of Academicians, will create and oversee an MBA program to meet the high standards of the International Community and the special needs of the educational requirements of young people residing in the Pacific Rim.

Selected to head the Council is Dr. Wayne Patterson who has served as Dean in Residence of the National Council of Graduate Schools. Invitations to participate in the Council have been extended to: Dr. Orlando L. Taylor, Dean of Graduate Schools at Howard University, former Chair of the Board of Directors of the Council of Graduate Schools; Dr. Marcia Welsh, Provost and V.P., Academic Affairs, Adelphi University; Dr. Sung Lee, former Vice Provost, Michigan Tech, now executive at Carnegie Mellon; Dr. Thomas Maresh, former Dean of the Graduate School at Oregon State University; Dr. J. Kent Morrison, President at Walden University; Dr. Robert Ringold, Provost at Purdue University; Dr. Robert Rudd, former Dean of School of Business at Charleston College and have met with a strong positive response.

The Pacific American University was founded in 2002, as a division of the Northern Institute of Business Management, an affiliate of The Pacific Community Institute, Inc., in order to bring the highest quality of American-developed higher education to students in China and other Pacific region countries. The initial degree offering by the Pacific American University is the Master of Business Administration. The curriculum is designed to be aligned with many MBA programs in the United States.

The Pacific American University is a research-oriented private university dedicated to providing educational experiences of exceptional quality, based on the traditions of American higher education, to students of high academic potential in China and in other countries throughout the Pacific region. Further, the University is dedicated to attracting and sustaining a cadre of faculty who are, through their teaching and research, committed to the development of distinguished and compassionate graduates and to the quest for solutions to human and social problems.

INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SUPPORT
OF THE VICTIMS OF TORTURE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution condemning the use of torture and other forms of cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment or punishment wherever they occur—in the United States and other countries. As the United States has become a safe haven for hundreds of thousands of torture victims, the resolution also expresses support for the victims of these heinous acts. I am pleased that I am joined by my colleagues, Representatives STENY HOYER, BEN CARDIN, and ALCEE HASTINGS, as original cosponsors of the measure. The Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, Senator BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL, is introducing an identical resolution in the Senate.

Torture remains the weapon of choice of oppressive regimes. In the worst cases, it is systematically used to silence political opposition, punish religious minorities, and target those who are ethnically or racially different from those in power.

It is estimated that some 500,000 torture survivors live in this country alone, most of whom came here as refugees. The debilitating