

THANKING LANCASTER UNITED
FOR LIFE

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and congratulate Lancaster United for Life. Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, which is and always has been strongly pro-life, mobilized quickly when an organization announced that it intended to perform abortions there. Recently, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal of a Commonwealth Court decision upholding life in Lancaster County. While the cause never ends, this is a major victory for Lancaster County. I want to thank and applaud all of those whose prayerful and dedicated efforts led to this success. Those whose lives will be saved will one day thank them too.

ON THE DEATH OF PATRICK B.
HARRIS, FORMER STATE LEGISLATOR
AND CIVIC LEADER OF
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. LINDSEY O. GRAHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to report to the House of Representatives the death of Patrick B. Harris of Anderson, South Carolina. He is survived by his wife of more than 60 years, Elizabeth.

I had the distinct honor of serving with 'Mr. Pat' in the South Carolina House of Representatives where he served for more than twenty years. It truly was an honor to serve with him as he was a tireless advocate on behalf of senior citizens and people with mental illness.

Among his numerous accomplishments in public office were the creation of a property-tax homestead exemption for people older than 65, creating a sales tax exemption on prescription drugs for those age 50 and older, making elder abuse a crime, and allowing people age 65 and older to attend state colleges and universities tuition-free.

Born in Mount Carmel in 1911, Mr. Pat attended Anderson Boys High School where he played both football and baseball.

He began work when he left Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina to work in a textile mill during the Great Depression. He also owned and operated a local gas company and for many years was involved in real estate.

Mr. Pat was awarded numerous honors and awards during his life including an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Erskine College and the Order of the Palmetto from former Governor Carroll Campbell.

With the passing of Pat Harris South Carolina has lost an extraordinary statesman and gentleman. I'm sure other Members of the House join me in sending our condolences to his family and loved ones.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ON THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
CHINA'S ROLE IN THE EXECUTION
OF PRISONERS AND TRAF-
FICKING OF THEIR ORGANS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with you this statement presented before a hearing at the House International Relations Subcommittee for Human Rights and International Operations on June 27, by Wang Guoqi, a physician from the People's Republic of China. Mr. Wang was a skin and burn specialist at the Paramilitary Police Tianjin General Brigade Hospital. Mr. Wang writes that his work "required me to remove skin and corneas from the corpses of over one hundred executed prisoners, and, on a couple of occasions, victims of intentionally botched executions."

In a very graphic example, Mr. Wang describes how he harvested the skin off of a man who was still living and breathing.

What kind of government skins alive its own citizens?

I urge our colleagues to read this statement and to keep this egregious abuse of human rights in mind when voting on China's trade status this year.

TESTIMONY OF WANG GUOQI, FORMER
DOCTOR AT A CHINESE PEOPLE'S LIB-
ERATION ARMY HOSPITAL

My name is Wang Guoqi and I am a 38-year-old physician from the People's Republic of China. In 1981, after standard childhood schooling and graduation, I joined the People's Liberation Army. By 1984, I was studying medicine at the Paramilitary Police Paramedical School. I received advanced degrees in Surgery and Human Tissue Studies, and consequently became a specialist in the burn victims unit at the Paramilitary Police Tianjin General Brigade Hospital in Tianjin. My work required me to remove skin and corneas from the corpses of over one hundred executed prisoners, and, on a couple of occasions, victims of intentionally botched executions. It is with deep regret and remorse for my actions that I stand here today testifying against the practices of organ and tissue sales from death row prisoners.

My involvement in harvesting the skin from prisoners began while performing research on cadavers at the Beijing People's Liberation Army Surgeons Advanced Studies School, in Beijing's 304th Hospital. This hospital is directly subordinate to the PLA, and so connections between doctors and officers were very close. In order to secure a corpse from the execution grounds, security officers and court units were given "red envelopes" with cash amounting to anywhere between 200-500 RMB per corpse. Then, after execution, the body would be rushed to the autopsy room rather than the crematorium, and we would extract skin, kidneys, livers, bones, and corneas for research and experimental purposes. I learned the process of preserving human skin and tissue for burn victims, and skin was subsequently sold to needy burn victims for 10 RMB per square centimeter.

After completing my studies in Beijing, and returning to Tianjin's Paramilitary Police General Brigade Hospital, I assisted hos-

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pital directors Liu Lingfeng and Song Heping in acquiring the necessary equipment to build China's first skin and tissue storehouse. Soon afterward, I established close ties with Section Chief Xing, a criminal investigator of the Tianjin Higher People's Court.

Acquiring skin from executed prisoners usually took place around major holidays or during the government's Strike Hard campaigns, when prisoners would be executed in groups. Section Chief Xing would notify us of upcoming executions. We would put an

Once notified of an execution, our section would prepare all necessary equipment and arrive at the Beicang Crematorium in plain clothes with all official license plates on our vehicles replaced with civilian ones. This was done on orders of the criminal investigation section. Before removing the skin, we would cut off the ropes that bound the criminals' hands and remove their clothing. Each criminal had identification papers in his or her pocket that detailed the executee's name, age, profession, work unit, address, and crime. Nowhere on these papers was there any mention of voluntary organ donation, and clearly the prisoners did not know how their bodies would be used after death.

We had to work quickly in the crematorium, and 10-20 minutes were generally enough to remove all skin from a corpse. Whatever remained was passed over to the crematorium workers. Between five and eight times a year, the hospital would send a number of teams to execution sites to harvest skin. Each team could process up to four corpses, and they would take as much as was demanded by both our hospital and fraternal hospitals. Because this system allowed us to treat so many burn victims, our department became the most reputable and profitable department in Tianjin.

Huge profits prompted our hospital to urge other departments to design similar programs. The urology department thus began its program of kidney transplant surgeries. The complexity of the surgery called for a price of \$120-150,000 RMB per kidney.

With such high prices, primarily wealthy or high-ranking people were able to buy kidneys. If they had the money, the first step would be to find a donor-recipient match. In the first case of kidney transplantation in August, 1990, I accompanied the urology surgeon to the higher court and prison to collect blood samples from four death-row prisoners. The policeman escorting us told the prisoners that we were there to check their health conditions; therefore, the prisoners did not know the purpose for their blood samples or that their organs might be up for sale. Out of the four samplings, one basic and sub-group blood match was found for the recipient, and the prisoner's kidneys were deemed fit for transplantation.

Once a donor was confirmed, our hospital held a joint meeting with the urology department, burn surgery department, and operating room personnel. We scheduled tentative plans to prepare the recipient for the coming kidney and discussed concrete issues of transportation and personnel. Two days before execution, we received final confirmation from the higher court, and on the day of the execution we arrived at the execution site in plain clothes. In the morning, the donating prisoner had received a heparin shot to prevent blood clotting and ease the organ extraction process. When all military personnel and condemned prisoners would arrive at the site, the organ donating prisoner was brought forth for the first execution.

At the execution site, a colleague, Xing Tongyi, and I were responsible for carrying