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 recog-
nize and congratulate Lancaster United for Life. Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, which is
and always has been strongly pro-life, mobil-
ized quickly when an organization announced
that it intended to perform abortions there. Re-
cently, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court re-
fused 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 prayer-
ful 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 LEGIS-
LATOR 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 Repre-
sentatives where he served for more than
twenty years. It truly was an honor to serve
with a gentleman as he was a tireless advocate on be-
half of senior citizens and people with mental
illness.

Among his numerous accomplishments in
public office were the creation of a property-
taxeased 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 col-
leges and universities tuition-free.

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

He began work when he left Presbyterian
General Brigade Hospital, I assisted hos-
ton General Brigade Hospital, Mr. Wang writes that his
work ‘required me to remove skin and cor-
neas from the corpses of over one hundred
executed prisoners, and, on a couple of occa-
sions, victims of intentionally botched execu-
tions.’

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

What kind of government skin 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

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 Inter-
national Operations on June 27, by Wang
Guoqi, a physician from the People’s Republic
of China. Mr. Wang was a skin and burn spe-
cialist at the Paramilitary Police Tianjin Gen-
eral Brigade Hospital. Mr. Wang writes that his
work ‘required me to remove skin and cor-
neas from the corpses of over one hundred
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status this year.

My name is Wang Guoqi and I am a 38-
year-old physician from the People’s Repub-
lic of China. In 1981, after standard childhood
schooling and graduation, I joined the Peo-
ples’ Liberation Army. By 1984, I was study-
ing medicine at the Paramilitary Police
Paramedical School. I received advanced de-
grees 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 occa-
sions, victims of intentionally botched execu-
tions. It is with deep regret and remorse for my actions that I stand here today testi-
gy against the practices of organ and tis-
sue sales from death row prisoners.

My involvement in harvesting the skin
from prisoners began while performing re-
search on cadavers at the Beijing People’s
Liberation Army Surgeons Advanced Studies
School, in Beijing’s 304th Hospital. This hos-
pital 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 execu-
tion, the body would be rushed to the au-
topsy room rather than the crematorium, and
we would extract skin, kidneys, livers,
bones, and corneas for research and experi-
mental purposes. I learned the process of pre-
serving skin and eliminating burn vic-
tims, and skin was subsequently sold to
burn victims for 10 RMB per square centimeter.

After completing my studies in Beijing,
and returning to Tianjin’s Paramilitary Po-
lice General Brigade Hospital, I assisted hos-
pital directors Liu Lingfeng and Song Heping
in acquiring the necessary equipment to
build China’s first skin and tissue store-
house. Soon afterward, I established close
ties with Section Chief Xing, a criminal in-
vestigator of the Tianjin Higher People’s Court.

Acquiring skin from executed prisoners
usually took place around major holidays or
during the government’s anti-drug and anti-
crime campaigns, when prisoners would be executed in
groups. Section Chief Xing would notify us of
upcoming executions. We would put an
order in and on the day of the execution we 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 investiga-
tion section. Before removing the skin, we
would cut off the ropes that bound the crimina-
ls’ hands and remove their clothing. Each
criminal had identification papers in his or
her pocket that detailed the executee’s name,
age, profession, unit, address, and crime. Nowhere on these papers was
there any mention of voluntary organ dona-
tion, and clearly the prisoners did not know
how their bodies would be used after death.

We had to work quickly in the cremato-
rium, and 10-20 minutes were generally
needed 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 har-
vest skin. Each team could process up to
corpses, and they would take as much as
was demanded by both our hospital and fra-
ternal hospitals. Because the hospital
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 pro-
grams. 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 kid-
neys. But patients that we had processed
step would be to find a donor-recipient match.
In the first case of kidney transplantation in
August, 1990, I accompanied the urology sur-
geon to the higher court and prison to col-
lect blood samples from four death-row pris-
oners. 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 re-
cipient, and the prisoner’s kidneys were
deemed fit for transplantation.

One major advantage in transplanting
was demanded by both our hospital and fra-
ternal hospitals. Because the hospital
allowed us to treat so many burn victims, our
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allowed us to treat so many burn victims, our
department became the most reputable and
profitable department in Tianjin.
I hereby expose all these terrible things to the light in the hope that this will help to put an end to this evil practice.

TRIBUTE TO THE MOUNT HOPE HOUSING COMPANY, INC.

HON. JOSE E. SERRANO
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Mount Hope Housing Company, Inc. (MHHC) as they celebrate their 15th anniversary today.

The Mount Hope Housing Company, Inc. was formed in 1986 as a part of intense organizing efforts of residents and community groups in the Mount Hope neighborhood in the South Bronx. Focusing first on the pressing need for the availability of affordable housing, Mount Hope completed one of the first housing tax credit projects in the United States in 1986 and to date has rehabilitated over 1,400 housing units. As a result of this intense and comprehensive effort, one in six residents of the Mount Hope neighborhood lives in a building operated by the MHHC.

Since its founding, the MHHC has continued to enhance its abilities and expand its services to the community. In 1994, the MHHC opened a thrift shop. One year later, the Mount Hope Primary Care Center opened. And in 1996, the New Bronx Employment Service was inaugurated, followed by the Neighborhood Housing Service/MHHC Home Maintenance Training Center in 1998. And now MHHC is planning to develop a community center that will house programs for area youth like a Boys and Girls Club, affordable child care and a state of the art center for computer training.

Mr. Speaker, the Mount Hope Housing Company, Inc. is another fine example of a community organization dedicated to empowering Bronx residents and revitalizing the community, using a comprehensive, self-sustaining and long-term approach. Its success reminds all of us of the contributions local organizations have made to improving the lives of citizens in their respective communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Mount Hope Housing Company, Inc. and in wishing them continued success.

HON. MIKE THOMPSON
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to request that the testimony given by David Hoffman, President of Internews in Arcahaie, be submitted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Mr. Hoffman's valuable testimony before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations is as follows:

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Electronic media are the most powerful force for social change in the world today. As Americans, we live among the information age. Media are central to our economy, our culture, our political system and our everyday lives.

But in many countries around the world, free media can by no means be taken for granted. In Russia, President Putin has prosecuted Victor Gusinsky, whose influential television network had been critical of the government. In Ukraine, Prime Minister Kuchma has been accused of ordering the murder of a dissident journalist. In China, the government selectively censors Internet web sites that challenge the official version of events. In Iran, dozens of newspapers have been banned and their editors thrown in jail. In Zimbabwe, journalists have been beaten and jailed. In Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan, independent television stations have been suppressed.

And of course, former President Milosevic used state media as a propaganda weapon to foster hatred and violence in the Balkans. But with US government funds, Internews and other NGOs were able to provide critical support to independent broadcasters in Serbia that formed the nucleus of opposition to the Milosevic regime. In Serbia and many countries around the world, independent media have been on the front lines in the fight for freedom and democracy.

With significant funding from USAID, Internews helped develop 70 independent, non-governmental broadcasters in 23 countries. During the past ten years, we have also trained 16,000 media professionals.

In all these countries we have learned that open media are essential for holding free and fair elections, for exposing corruption and human rights abuses, for allowing the free exchange of ideas and an independent media in developing countries.

I hereby expose all these terrible things to the light in the hope that this will help to put an end to this evil practice.