

CONGRATULATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF TRACEY ALLNUTT ON WINNING THE 13TH DISTRICT OF FLORIDA CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

HON. DAN MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. DAN MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the winners of the Congressional Arts Competition—particularly to congratulate Tracey Allnutt of Sarasota Florida, a senior at Riverview High School. Next year she will be attending the Ringling School of Art in Sarasota in pursuit of a degree in art history.

A panel of judges from my congressional district evaluated the contestants' work and from this pool of contestants Tracey's was selected as the winner. Her work of art symbolizes the rising and enduring faith and patriotism of America's youth in the wake of the events of September 11th. It is fitting that this artwork will be displayed in our nation's Capitol.

I would like to use this time to honor Tracey and the other winners of the Congressional Arts Competition and encourage the youth of our nation to continue their patriotic enterprises and artistic endeavors.

COMMENDING CONTRIBUTIONS OF ROOFING PROFESSIONALS INVOLVED IN REBUILDING OF PENTAGON

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H. Con. Res. 424 Commending the Patriotic Contributions of Roofing Professionals Involved in the Rebuilding of the Pentagon.

First, I want to thank Mr. MANZULLO for introducing this resolution and bringing it to the floor. Several months ago, I gave a one minute speech recognizing the role small roofing contracting companies have played in rebuilding over an acre of the Pentagon's roof, and these efforts are certainly worthy of continued mention.

What I find most moving about this volunteer effort, is how deeply committed these roofing professionals are. Men and women have traveled from all over the U.S. to help put a roof back on the Pentagon. There are numerous stories about how they kept working through Thanksgiving and Christmas to stay on an ambitious schedule.

These men and women felt compelled to do this because to them, this is how we win, this is how we beat the terrorists. And they're right. Whether they have donated supplies, spent time at the site working, or given money, these individuals and companies should be proud of their contribution towards healing our nation.

In addition, I would also like to thank the Department of Defense for working with the National Roofing Contractors' Association to make this volunteer effort so successful.

HONORING DAN MALCOLM

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dan Malcolm, editor of American Vineyard, on the 10th anniversary of his magazine's publication.

Dan has been the patron of American Vineyard through its ten years and he has every reason to be proud of everything the magazine has accomplished. In 1993, the magazine became the highest grower circulated grape publication in the country. Then, in 1994, American Vineyard journeyed to Mexico, and the growers were both impressed by what they saw and encouraged to compete with the growers south of the border. The magazine hosted its first grape expo in Caruthers in 1996 and was pleasantly surprised by the amount of support received, over a thousand growers attended. In 1998, Dan Malcolm was honored with the Viticulture & Enology Research Center's Grape Day Industry Award. American Vineyard published their biggest issue in 2001 and the magazine is still going strong.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dan Malcolm for his vision and unending pursuit of his ambitions. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his contribution to agriculture and the community and wishing him and his family continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FLAKE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request the opportunity to record my position on rollcall votes 249, 250, 251, and 252. I was regrettably absent from the chamber on Monday, June 24, 2002 during rollcall votes 249, 250, 251 and 252. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all four votes.

TRIBUTE TO MITCH KEHETIAN

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an articulate and well-respected voice in local journalism, Mitch Kehetian, as he is honored by the Metro Detroit Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Kehetian has served the public for almost fifty years as a reporter and editor of community newspapers. In his early twenties he went to work as a reporter for the Detroit Times. He brought his reporting skills to Macomb County, Michigan at the Mount Clemens Monitor-Leader. The Monitor-Leader became the Macomb Daily and Mr. Kehetian rose through the ranks to his current position as Editorial Page Editor.

Mr. Kehetian's work can be summarized with three words: community, responsibility,

and passion. He has editorialized about the widest range of issues, always using his straightforward, commonsense approach to make a clear and concise point. He has written about a variety of local issues, from weighing in on a controversial community issue, to honoring a young person or community activist. He has written about regional issues always paying special attention to the future of the City of Detroit, about issues impacting our entire State and vital national issues including domestic policy, politics and international affairs. He has opined passionately about human rights, highlighting the plight of the Iraqi people under Saddam Hussein, the children of Afghanistan, the conflict in the Middle East, and the longstanding refusal by Turkey to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide.

In his work, especially the latter editorials, you can see an image of Mitch Kehetian himself. On April 29, 2002, Mr. Kehetian wrote, "Through the years, I've written reports about my journey to historical, Turkish-occupied Armenia in search of my Armenian roots. I found that the homeland of my ancestors lacks historical markers to tell the curious that for 3,000 years Armenians lived in what today is eastern Turkey. Through the years I've been repeatedly asked why people of Armenian heritage can't forget what happened in 1915–20, especially those of my generation who weren't even born then. I cannot forget. As a child growing up in southwest Detroit's ethnic neighborhood, I had only one grandparent, one aunt, three uncles and a handful of cousins. All the others were murdered in the Turkish genocide of the Armenian people. . . . This American of Armenian heritage cannot forget."

Mr. Speaker, I have enjoyed the opportunity to work in the same communities as Mitch Kehetian and to observe his work. He has been a voice for elevating the role of Macomb County and its place in the State of Michigan. Today, I join the residents of Macomb County, and his colleagues in the journalism profession, in saluting his distinguished career, thanking him for his years of service, and encouraging him to keep those editorials coming.

TURKEY NATO AND AFGHAN
PEACEKEEPING

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, last week, the command of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan was handed over to Turkish military forces after a successful six months, under the command of British forces.

As the Chairman of the Europe Subcommittee, I want to first congratulate and commend the British forces for the excellent work they did to establish an atmosphere of calm and security at the critical time in which the people of Afghanistan were consolidating their political and economic future. The Brits are owed a great deal of thanks.

The arrival of the Turkish command marks a new period for the ISAF operation, for the new government of Afghanistan and for Turkey itself. The leadership of Turkey, a predominantly Muslim state sends a clear message that the international campaign against

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-
TIREDMENT 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