

124 All-Conference players, 11 Academic All-Americans, and 9 Postgraduate Scholarship winners;

Whereas, Fisher DeBerry imparted to his players the core values of the United States Air Force: Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence In All We Do; and

Whereas, the United States Air Force Academy football program under the leadership of Fisher DeBerry has served as an example of these values for its community and the entire Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States Senate honors and recognizes the numerous contributions made by the United States Air Force Academy football program over the last 27 years to Colorado Springs and the surrounding communities, the United States Air Force Academy, and the United States Air Force.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JACK VALENTI

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 182.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 182) honoring the life of Jack Valenti.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

THE PASSING OF MR. JACK VALENTI

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I wish to honor my good friend Jack Valenti, who, passed away last week on April 26.

Throughout his life, Jack Valenti wore several hats, including that of a soldier, a devoted public servant, and a pioneer in the film industry.

Jack was born on September 5, 1921, in Houston, TX and was the grandson of Sicilian immigrants. At age 15, he became the youngest high school graduate in the history of the city of Houston and began a career as an office boy with Exxon Oil.

Jack served honorably in the Army Air Corps during World War II, flying in 51 separate combat missions as pilot of the B-25 attack bomber with the 12th Air Force in Italy. He obtained the rank of lieutenant and received multiple decorations, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with four clusters, the Distinguished Unit Citation with one cluster, and the European Theater Ribbon with four battle stars.

After serving in the war, Jack attended college at the University of Houston, doing all his undergraduate work at night as he worked during the day. He earned a bachelor of arts degree in 1946 and later became the University of Houston's first graduate ever to be admitted to Harvard Business School. He received an MBA from Harvard in 1948.

In the intervening years, Jack held many positions in this town, but in 1966 Jack resigned from a top position in the White House to become only the third president of the Motion Picture

Association of America, MPAA. He held this, his most famous position, for 38 years before retiring in 2004.

As president of MPAA, Jack arbitrated one of the most famous developments—the film industry has ever come out with—the voluntary rating system. The ratings “G,” “PG,” “PG-13” and “R” have become staples, not only in the movie-going practices of every American but also in our Nation's cultural consciousness. However, more important than the societal notions and the clichéd images associated with these ratings is the real assistance that this system has provided to parents and families in evaluating the appropriateness of various movies. Indeed, the MPAA rating system pioneered by Jack Valenti has become a prime example of the effectiveness of industry self-regulation without government intervention, and I am very grateful for Jack's work in this area even when many in his industry fought him along the way.

In addition to pioneering the rating system, Jack Valenti also worked to advance the film industry into the 21st century. Indeed, during his tenure at the MPAA, he presided over unprecedented changes in the worldwide film industry, including the advancement of the digital era. I remember having several conversations with Jack as the film industry struggled to deal with the new challenges presented by digital distribution of their content. Together, Jack and I worked tirelessly to balance the competing demands of consumer's rights and the protection of one of America's largest exports—entertainment.

With Jack's help, we were able to refocus the Federal Government's resources to more effectively protect the creative genius of a great American industry—the film industry. We all know how blatantly some bad actors around the world pirate America's movies and rob the United States of jobs. Thanks to Jack's efforts, we have made great strides in this area and laid the groundwork to allow us to stamp out this criminal activity in the years ahead. Combating the theft and piracy of intellectual property was a real passion for Jack, and I was privileged to work with him in this endeavor.

Mr. President, those of us who knew Jack Valenti personally will always remember him as a charitable man who was devoted to his family. While his influence on the film industry has been famous and unmistakable, many of us will remember him more for the personal friendship we shared with him. I will miss him greatly.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 182) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 182

Whereas Jack Valenti was born September 5, 1921, in Houston, Texas, the grandson of Sicilian immigrants, Joe and Josephine Valenti, and was the youngest high school graduate in the city at age 15;

Whereas Jack Valenti married his beloved Mary Margaret in 1962, with whom he had 3 children, John, Alexandra, and Courtenay;

Whereas Jack Valenti joined the United States Army Air Forces in 1942 and flew 51 combat missions as a pilot of a B-25 attack bomber with the 12th Air Force in Italy during World War II, obtained the rank of lieutenant, and received 4 decorations, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with 4 clusters, the Distinguished Unit Citation with one cluster, and the European Theater Ribbon with 4 battle stars;

Whereas Jack Valenti received a B.A. degree from the University of Houston in 1946 after doing all of his undergraduate work at night and working during the day, and became the first University of Houston graduate to be admitted to Harvard Business School, receiving an M.B.A. degree in 1948;

Whereas, in 1952, Jack Valenti cofounded Weekley and Valenti, an advertising and political consulting agency that worked on Dwight D. Eisenhower's presidential campaign in Texas, Representative Albert Thomas's run for Congress, and John Connally's campaign for Governor of Texas;

Whereas Jack Valenti met then-Senate Majority Leader Lyndon B. Johnson in 1957, the two became close friends, and Valenti worked on Lyndon Johnson's presidential campaign during the primaries of 1960;

Whereas Weekley and Valenti handled press during President John F. Kennedy's and Vice President Lyndon Johnson's fateful trip to Dallas, Texas, in November 1963;

Whereas Jack Valenti became the first special assistant hired when Lyndon Johnson ascended to the Presidency;

Whereas Jack Valenti resigned his White House post in 1966 and went on to serve as the president of the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) for the next 38 years;

Whereas Jack Valenti, as president of the MPAA, created the voluntary film rating system that is still in place today, which provides parents with advance information they can use to determine which movies are appropriate for their children;

Whereas Jack Valenti's persona and skill combined to give the motion picture industry a strong and enduring presence in the Nation's capital, which grew year by year during his nearly 4 decade tenure at the MPAA;

Whereas Jack Valenti presided over a worldwide change in the motion picture industry, ushered movies into the digital era, championed artists' rights, and condemned intellectual property theft;

Whereas Jack Valenti authored 5 books, including “A Very Human President”, “Protect and Defend”, “The Bitter Taste of Glory”, “Speak Up With Confidence”, and, his most recent, “This Time, This Place: My Life in War, the White House, and Hollywood”, and wrote numerous essays for the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, Reader's Digest, Atlantic Monthly, Newsweek, Cox newspapers, and other publications;

Whereas Jack Valenti was awarded with France's highly-prized Legion d'Honneur, the

French Legion of Honor, and has been honored with his own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame; and

Whereas Jack Valenti will be remembered as a dedicated family man, a philanthropist, a voice for copyright owners, a true visionary whose devotion, intelligence, creativity, and wisdom transformed the film industry, and as Hollywood's ultimate leading man: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved That the Senate honors the life of Jack Valenti, a pioneer in the fields of motion pictures and public service, a dedicated family man, and a legendary figure in the history of the United States.

NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 183.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 183) supporting the goals and ideals of National Charter Schools Week, April 30, 2007, through May 4, 2007.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today I wish to honor National Charter School Week. The role of charter schools has become increasingly important as these institutions have become one of the fastest growing innovative forces in education policy. The District of Columbia and 40 States have laws that allow charter schools. There are over 4,000 public charter schools serving more than 1.1 million students and there are many more students on waiting lists who want to attend.

As many of you know, I have been a part of that charter school growth, both here in Washington, DC, and in my home, Louisiana. Today, more than 30 percent of all DC public school students attend charter schools and are largely successful. These charter school projects are largely successful. These charter schools not only help to better educate students, but are also helping to build a better, stronger, more prosperous city.

In addition to having an impact in Washington, DC, charter schools are also helping to rebuild the school system in New Orleans. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita did not just wash away our levees—they also washed away our homes and schools. We must seize upon this opportunity and build a better, stronger school system for New Orleans and throughout Louisiana.

Charter schools are key players in this process by not only rebuilding our school system, but reinventing it. Every step in this process is based on what is best for our students, with the goal of delivering learning and achievement for all students. The new school system effectively eliminates the previous system of have and have-nots, allowing parents to choose from any school in the network, making quality school options available to all students and raising the bar for educators throughout the system.

The new Educational Network Model will organize schools, the majority of them charters, into small groups to provide support, foster collaboration and ensure accountability. This will shift the majority of money and decisionmaking to the school level, where it can be managed based on the needs of the students in each school. It will also create a lean district office focused on academic standards and performance monitoring, allowing more dollars to go to schools. Finally, it will migrate toward a single, aligned and highly-effective governing board that provides a stable leadership team with skills to oversee successful implementation of the plan.

Today, over 50 percent of our schools in New Orleans have reopened as charter schools. They have provided us with an expedient means to restart public education in New Orleans. It is my hope that we can continue this trend by utilizing the Educational Network Model for these schools and others nationwide by engaging community involvement and support through a shared services model.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD, with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 183) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 183

Whereas charter schools deliver high-quality education and challenge students to reach their potential;

Whereas charter schools provide thousands of families with diverse and innovative educational options for their children;

Whereas charter schools are public schools authorized by designated public entities to respond to the needs of communities, families, and students, and to promote the principles of quality, choice, and innovation;

Whereas, in exchange for the flexibility and autonomy given to charter schools, charter schools are held accountable by their sponsors for improving student achievement and for their finances and other operations;

Whereas 40 States and the District of Columbia have passed laws authorizing charter schools;

Whereas more than 4,000 charter schools operating across the United States serve more than 1,140,000 students;

Whereas, over the last 13 years, Congress has provided more than \$2,026,225,000 in support to the charter school movement by providing facilities, financing assistance, and grants for planning, startup, implementation, and dissemination of information;

Whereas many charter schools improve the achievement of students and stimulate improvement in traditional public schools;

Whereas charter schools must meet the student achievement accountability requirements under section 1111 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311) in the same manner as tradi-

tional public schools, and often set higher and additional individual goals to ensure that charter schools are of high quality and truly accountable to the public;

Whereas charter schools give parents new freedom to choose public schools, routinely measure parental satisfaction levels, and must prove their ongoing success to parents, policymakers, and communities;

Whereas nearly 56 percent of charter schools report having a waiting list, and the total number of students on all such waiting lists is enough to fill over 1,100 average-sized charter schools;

Whereas charter schools nationwide serve a higher percentage of low-income and minority students than the traditional public school system;

Whereas charter schools have enjoyed broad bipartisan support from the President, Congress, State governors and legislatures, educators, and parents across the United States; and

Whereas the eighth annual National Charter Schools Week, to be held April 30 through May 4, 2007, is an event sponsored by charter schools and grassroots charter school organizations across the United States to recognize the significant impacts, achievements, and innovations of charter schools: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges and commends charter schools and students, parents, teachers, and administrators of charter schools across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education and improving and strengthening the public school system;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of the eighth annual National Charter Schools Week; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to conduct appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities to demonstrate support for charter schools during this week-long celebration in communities throughout the United States.

NATIONAL CHILDHOOD STROKE AWARENESS DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 184.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 184) expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to childhood stroke and designating May 5, 2007 as "National Childhood Stroke Awareness Day."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 184) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S RES. 184

Whereas a stroke, also known as a "cerebrovascular accident", is an acute neurologic injury that occurs when the blood supply to a part of the brain is interrupted by a clot in the artery or a burst of the artery;