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

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 182) 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 across—the violent film 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 voluntary rating system and the cliché 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 economic growth 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. 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 American 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 devoted 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 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 decision-making 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. Eventually, 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 New Orleans 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 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, 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;

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 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 critical planning 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 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311) in the same manner as traditional 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 significant impacts, achievements, and innovations of charter schools: 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:


The resolution (S. Res. 183) was agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD, with no intervening action or debate.

Resolved, That the Senate

(1) acknowledges and commends charters schools and students, parents, teachers, and administrators of charter schools across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education 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 and 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.”

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 neurological impairment 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;