

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. 116

Commemorating the life, achievements, and contributions of Al Lerner.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 9, 2003

Mr. DEWINE (for himself and Mr. VOINOVICH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JUNE 5, 2003

Reported by Mr. HATCH, without amendment; considered and agreed to

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## RESOLUTION

Commemorating the life, achievements, and contributions of  
Al Lerner.

Whereas Alfred Lerner (“Al” to those who knew him best) was a successful, humble, compassionate, and well respected member of his family and community whose life was devoted to civic involvement and efforts to improve the quality of education and health care available to his fellow citizens;

Whereas Al Lerner was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1933, graduated from Brooklyn Technical High School in 1951, and received a B.A. from Columbia College in 1955;

Whereas Al Lerner was a Marine Corps officer and pilot from 1955 through 1957, displaying his love of country by

wearing his Marine Corps cap long after finishing his tour of duty, and later was a director of the Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation;

Whereas Al Lerner was the son of Russian immigrants, and in 2002 received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, which celebrates immigrant heritage and individual achievements;

Whereas Al Lerner and his high school sweetheart, best friend, and partner in life, Norma Lerner, shared 47 years of marriage and were deeply committed to their 2 children, Randy and Nancy;

Whereas Al and Norma Lerner made extremely generous contributions to local and national charities, including a contribution of \$10,000,000 in 1993 to Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland, a donation of \$16,000,000 to support construction of the Lerner Research Institute, and a donation of \$100,000,000 to the Cleveland Clinic—one of the largest donations to academic medicine in the history of the United States;

Whereas Al Lerner served as president and trustee of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation where the Lerner Research Institute was established to conduct research of new treatments for cancer, coronary artery disease, and AIDS;

Whereas Al Lerner, along with his business partner Carmen Policy, reestablished a National Football League team in Northern Ohio when he purchased the expansion Cleveland Browns football organization in 1998, worked hard to make the people of Cleveland and Northern Ohio proud of their football team, and was subsequently ap-

pointed chairman of the National Football League Finance Committee;

Whereas the Cleveland Browns, on the strength of Al Lerner's leadership, reached the National Football League playoffs following the 2002 season, only 4 years after returning to the league;

Whereas Al Lerner served as founder, chairman, and chief executive of MBNA Corporation, which employs thousands of people in Ohio and is the Nation's largest issuer of independent credit cards;

Whereas Al Lerner served as vice chairman, trustee, and benefactor of Columbia College, which is now known as Columbia University, and also served as a trustee for Case Western Reserve University and New York Presbyterian Hospital;

Whereas Al Lerner helped raise funds, through his affiliation with MBNA and the Cleveland Browns, for the "Cleveland Browns Hero Fund" to aid families from the New York City Fire and Police Departments who suffered the loss of a parent in the tragic September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks;

Whereas Al Lerner was appointed in 2001 by President Bush as 1 of 15 members of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, which advises the President concerning the quality and adequacy of intelligence collection, intelligence analysis and estimates, counter-intelligence, and other intelligence activities;

Whereas Al Lerner is survived by his wife, partner, and best friend, Norma, their son Randy, their daughter Nancy, and 7 grandchildren; and

Whereas Al Lerner passed away on October 23, 2002, and the contributions he made to his family, his community, and his Nation will not be forgotten: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2               (1) honors the life, achievements, and contribu-  
3       tions of Alfred Lerner; and

4               (2) extends its deepest sympathies to the family  
5       of Alfred Lerner for the loss of a great and generous  
6       man.

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