

Whereas in July 2005, Alan Reich received the George H. W. Bush Medal, an award established to honor outstanding service under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.);

Whereas Alan Reich is survived by his wife, partner, and best friend, Gay, their 2 sons James and Jeffery, their daughter Elizabeth, and 11 grandchildren; and

Whereas Alan Reich passed away on November 8, 2005, and the contributions he made to his family, his community, and his Nation will not be forgotten: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life, achievements, and contributions of Alan Reich;

(2) extends its deepest sympathies to the family of Alan Reich for their loss of this great and generous man; and

(3) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to the family of Alan Reich.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I am pleased today join with Senator HARKIN to submit a resolution commemorating the many contributions and achievements of Alan Reich, who was an inspirational figure in the disability community. Alan Reich devoted his own life to the improving the quality of life for so many others—especially individuals with disabilities. He recently passed away on November 8, 2005, at the age of 75.

Alan Reich was the founder of the National Organization on Disability. This organization is active on a local, State, and national level in efforts to seek full and equal participation for people with disabilities in all aspects of life. You see, at the young age of 32, Alan became a quadriplegic following a swimming accident. He used a wheelchair as a result of this injury. While Alan was told he would not drive or write again, he relearned both skills and went on to become an inspiration for all those in the disability community. In 1990, he received the George H.W. Bush Medal for outstanding service under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Alan Reich is probably best known for leading an effort that raised \$1.65 million to add the statue of FOR in a wheelchair to the former President's memorial here in Washington, DC. As Alan said in 2001:

The unveiling is a major national moment, the removal of the shroud of shame that cloaks disability. The statue will become a shrine to people with disabilities, but it will also inspire everyone to overcome obstacles. When you see the memorial that follows the statue, what will be in your mind is that he did all this from a wheelchair.

Alan Reich married his best friend and partner in life, Gay Forsythe Reich. They shared 50 years of marriage and were deeply committed to each other and to their 3 children—James, Jeffery, and Elizabeth—as well as their 11 grandchildren.

Alan Reich's contributions to his family, his community, and to this Nation will never be forgotten. As Chesterton said many years ago, “Great men do great things even when they're gone.” That is certainly true of Alan Reich. His legacy will live on always.

My wife Fran and I extend our deepest sympathy to Alan Reich's family for their loss.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I am honored to be the lead Democratic co-sponsor of this resolution to commemorate the life, achievements and contributions of Alan Reich.

I was greatly saddened, last week, to hear about the passing of this great and passionate advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. As many Senators know very well, Alan was the founder and president emeritus of the National Organization on Disability. Over the past 25 years, both he and the National Organization on Disability have been tremendously effective advocates for the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of American life.

The achievements of Alan Reich, and the sheer breadth of his activism and leadership, are simply remarkable. While president of the National Organization on Disability, he built a broad coalition of disability groups that successfully fought for the inclusion of a statue of President Roosevelt in a wheelchair at the FDR Memorial. He spearheaded critical research to track the progress of Americans with disabilities in key areas of life. He founded and chaired the Paralysis Cure Research Foundation; was president of what became the National Spinal Cord Injury Association; and he founded the National Task Force on Disability. Alan also led the way in taking the disability rights movement into the international arena. He chaired the World Committee on Disability, and was the first individual using a wheelchair to address the United Nations General Assembly. For these and many other achievements, Alan was awarded the George Bush Medal this past July.

I want to express my own profound respect for this remarkable individual and for all that he accomplished in his life. He played a pivotal role in the disability rights revolution that has transformed this country in important ways in recent decades. He improved the lives of countless individuals with disabilities, both in this country and throughout the world. And, perhaps best of all, he has left a living legacy in the form of the advocacy organizations he founded, which will now continue his work into the future.

Alan Reich was a wonderful advocate and a great American. He fought with all his heart to win equity, access, and opportunity for people with disabilities. He changed countless lives, and made America a much better and fairer society. For all these reasons, the United States Senate honors Alan Reich, today, with this resolution expressing our respect and appreciation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 322—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE TRIAL, SENTENCING, AND IMPRISONMENT OF MIKHAIL KHODORKOVSKY AND PLATON LEBEDEV

Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. McCAIN, and Mr. OBAMA) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 322

Whereas the United States supports the development of democracy, civil society, and the rule of law in the Russian Federation;

Whereas the rule of law and the guarantee of equal justice under the law are fundamental attributes of democratic societies;

Whereas the trial, sentencing, and imprisonment of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev have raised troubling questions about the impartiality and integrity of the judicial system in Russia;

Whereas the Department of State 2004 Country Report on Human Rights Practices in Russia stated that the arrest of Mr. Khodorkovsky was “widely believed to have been prompted, at least in part, by the considerable financial support he provided to opposition groups.”

Whereas Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has remarked that the arrest of Mr. Khodorkovsky and the dismantling of his company have “raised significant concerns” about the independence of the judiciary in Russia;

Whereas the independent non-governmental organization Freedom House has asserted that the conviction of Mr. Khodorkovsky “underscores the serious erosion of the rule of law and growing intolerance for political dissent in Russia”;

Whereas upon concluding an investigation of the facts surrounding the case of Mr. Khodorkovsky and Mr. Lebedev, the Human Rights Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe determined that the two men were “arbitrarily singled out” by the Russia authorities, violating the principle of equality before the law;

Whereas in May 2005, a Moscow court sentenced Mr. Khodorkovsky to serve 9 years in prison;

Whereas Article 73 of the Russian Criminal Penitentiary Code stipulates that except under extraordinary circumstances, prisoners serve their terms of deprivation of liberty on the territory of subjects of the Russian Federation where they reside or were convicted;

Whereas on or about October 16, 2005, Mr. Khodorkovsky was sent to prison camp YG 14/10 in the Chita Region of Siberia;

Whereas on or about October 16, 2005, Mr. Lebedev was sent to penal camp number 98/3 in the arctic region of Yamal-Nenets;

Whereas the transfer of Mr. Khodorkovsky and Mr. Lebedev constitutes an apparent violation of Russia law and hearkens back to the worst practices and excesses of the Soviet era;

Whereas a broad coalition of human rights advocates and intellectuals in Russia have appealed to Vladimir Lukin, the Human Rights Commissioner of the Russian Federation, to investigate and rectify any abuse of Russia law associated with the transfer of Mr. Khodorkovsky and Mr. Lebedev; and

Whereas the selective disregard for the rule of law by officials of the Russian Federation further undermines the standing and status of the Russian Federation among the democratic nations of the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the criminal justice system in Russia has not accorded Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev fair, transparent, and impartial treatment under the laws of the Russian Federation;

(2) the standing and status of the Russian Federation among the democratic nations of the world would be greatly enhanced if the authorities of the Russian Federation were to take the necessary actions to dispel widespread concerns that—

(A) the criminal cases against Mr. Khodorkovsky, Mr. Lebedev, and their associates are politically motivated;

(B) the transfer of Mr. Khodorkovsky and Mr. Lebedev to prison camps thousands of kilometers from their homes and families represents a violation of the norms and practices of Russia law; and

(C) in cases dealing with perceived political threats to the authorities, the judiciary of Russia is an instrument of the Kremlin and such judiciary is not truly independent; and

(3) notwithstanding any other disposition of the cases of Mr. Khodorkovsky and Mr. Lebedev, and without prejudice to further disposition of same, Mr. Khodorkovsky and Mr. Lebedev should be transferred to penal facilities with locations that are consonant with the norms and general practices of Russia law.

SENATE RESOLUTION 323—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO EXERCISE CONTROL OVER THE INTERNET

Mr. COLEMAN (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. SMITH, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. KYL, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. BUNNING, and Mr. CHAMBLISS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 323

Whereas market-based policies and private sector leadership have given the Internet the flexibility to evolve;

Whereas given the importance of the Internet to the global economy, it is essential that the underlying domain name system and technical infrastructure of the Internet remain stable and secure;

Whereas the Internet was created in the United States and has flourished under United States supervision and oversight, and the Federal Government has followed a path of transferring Internet control from the defense sector to the civilian sector, including the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) with the goal of full privatization;

Whereas the developing world deserves the access to knowledge, services, commerce, and communication, the accompanying benefits to economic development, education, and health care, and the informed discussion that is the bedrock of democratic self-government that the Internet provides;

Whereas the explosive and hugely beneficial growth of the Internet did not result from increased government involvement but from the opening of the Internet to commerce and private sector innovation;

Whereas on June 30, 2005, President George W. Bush announced that the United States intends to maintain its historic role over the master “root zone” file of the Internet,

which lists all authorized top-level Internet domains;

Whereas the recently articulated principles of the United States on the domain name and addressing system of the Internet (DNS) are that—

(1) the Federal Government will—

(A) preserve the security and stability of the DNS;

(B) take no action with the potential to adversely affect the effective and efficient operation of the DNS; and

(C) maintain the historic role of the United States regarding modifications to the root zone file;

(2) governments have a legitimate interest in the management of country code top level domains (ccTLD);

(3) the United States is committed to working with the international community to address the concerns of that community in accordance with the stability and security of the DNS;

(4) ICANN is the appropriate technical manager of the Internet, and the United States will continue to provide oversight so that ICANN maintains focus and meets its core technical mission; and

(5) dialogue relating to Internet governance should continue in multiple relevant fora, and the United States encourages an ongoing dialogue with all stakeholders and will continue to support market-based approaches and private sector leadership;

Whereas the final report issued by the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG), established by the United Nations Secretary General in accordance with a mandate given during the first World Summit on the Information Society, and comprised of 40 members from governments, private sector, and civil society, issued 4 possible models, 1 of which envisages a Global Internet Council that would assume international Internet governance;

Whereas that report contains recommendations for relegating the private sector and nongovernmental organizations to an advisory capacity;

Whereas the European Union has also proposed transferring control of the Internet, including the global allocation of Internet Protocol number blocks, procedures for changing the root zone file, and rules applicable to DNS, to a “new model of international cooperation” which could confer significant leverage to the Governments of Iran, Cuba, and China, and could impose an undesirable layer of politicized bureaucracy on the operations of the Internet that could result in an inadequate response to the rapid pace of technological change;

Whereas some nations that advocate radical change in the structure of Internet governance censor the information available to their citizens through the Internet and use the Internet as a tool of surveillance to curtail legitimate political discussion and dissent, and other nations operate telecommunications systems as state-controlled monopolies or highly-regulated and highly-taxed entities;

Whereas some nations in support of transferring Internet governance to an entity affiliated with the United Nations, or another international entity, might seek to have such an entity endorse national policies that block access to information, stifle political dissent, and maintain outmoded communications structures;

Whereas the structure and control of Internet governance has profound implications for homeland security, competition and trade, democratization, free expression, access to information, privacy, and the protection of intellectual property, and the threat of some nations to take unilateral actions that would fracture the root zone file would re-

sult in a less functional Internet with diminished benefits for all people;

Whereas in the Declaration of Principles of the First World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva in 2003, delegates from 175 nations declared the “common desire and commitment to build a people-centered, inclusive and development oriented Information Society, where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge”;

Whereas delegates at the First World Summit also reaffirmed, “as an essential foundation of the Information Society, and as outlined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression” and that “this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and import information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers”;

Whereas the United Nations Secretary General has stated the objective of the 2005 World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis is to ensure “benefits that new information and communication technologies, including the Internet, can bring to economic and social development” and that “to defend the Internet is to defend freedom itself”; and

Whereas discussions at the November 2005 World Summit on the Information Society may include discussion of transferring control of the Internet to a new intergovernmental entity, and could be the beginning of a prolonged international debate regarding the future of Internet governance: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls on the President to continue to oppose any effort to transfer control of the Internet to the United Nations or any other international entity;

(2) applauds the President for—

(A) clearly and forcefully asserting that the United States has no present intention of relinquishing the historic leadership role the United States has played in Internet governance; and

(B) articulating a vision of the future of the Internet that places privatization over politicization with respect to the Internet; and

(3) calls on the President to—

(A) recognize the need for, and pursue a continuing and constructive dialogue with the international community on, the future of Internet governance; and

(B) advance the values of an open Internet in the broader trade and diplomatic conversations of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 324—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE OF SRI LANKA IN THE WAKE OF THE TSUNAMI AND THE ASSASSINATION OF THE SRI LANKAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND URGING SUPPORT AND RESPECT FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS IN SRI LANKA

Mr. McCAIN (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. LUGAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

S. RES. 324

Whereas, on December 26, 2004, Sri Lanka was struck by a tsunami that left some 30,000 dead and hundreds of thousands of people homeless;

Whereas the United States and the world community recognized the global importance of preventing that tragedy from spiraling into an uncontrolled disaster and sent aid to Sri Lanka to provide immediate relief;