

begin the process of reconciliation and dialogue.

To bring this issue to a settlement, the leaders must be involved.

It is in the interest of both the Chinese government and the Tibetan people for the leaders to sit down and negotiate how to bring about meaningful cultural and religious autonomy for the Tibetan people and faith.

For nearly three decades, I have worked to bring this about.

The events in Tibet over the past month have been tragic.

But they renew my commitment and belief.

China has an opportunity to negotiate with a moderate leader capable of quelling the anger within the new generation of Tibetans.

I hope that China's leaders will see this as an opportunity to open the long overdue dialogue with the Dalai Lama.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 504) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 504

Whereas, beginning on March 10, 2008, Tibetans and Tibetan Buddhist monks began demonstrations in Lhasa, the capital of the Tibet Autonomous Region in the People's Republic of China;

Whereas those protests spread to elsewhere in the Tibet Autonomous Region and to Tibetan autonomous areas in the Sichuan, Gansu, and Qinghai provinces of China;

Whereas long-suppressed resentment prompted violent clashes between demonstrators and government forces in the streets of Lhasa, resulting in innocent civilian casualties, the burning of buildings, and extensive property damage;

Whereas Chinese and Tibetan sources report dozens of fatalities and the arrest of more than 1,000 protesters in the Tibet Autonomous Region and surrounding Tibetan areas of China;

Whereas Tibet is the center of Tibetan Buddhism and the Dalai Lama is the most revered figure in Tibetan Buddhism;

Whereas the Government of China continues to restrict the rights of Tibetan Buddhists to practice their religion freely;

Whereas the Dalai Lama has condemned the violence that began on March 14, 2008, and announced his continuing support for the Olympic Games to be held in Beijing, China;

Whereas the Dalai Lama has specifically stated that he does not seek independence for Tibet from China and has called for negotiations to bring about meaningful autonomy for Tibet that allows Tibetans to maintain their distinctive identity within China;

Whereas the Constitution of the People's Republic of China guarantees freedom of religious belief for all citizens, but the 2007 Annual Report on International Religious Freedom of the Department of State states that "[d]uring the period covered by this report, the Government [of China]'s respect for freedom of religion remained poor"; and

Whereas, following the demonstrations that began on March 10, 2008, the Government of China began severely restricting access to journalists and diplomats and creating a shortage of independent verification of the situation on the ground in Tibet: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the violence in Tibet and calls for restraint by the Government of the People's Republic of China and the people of Tibet;

(2) calls for a dialogue between the leadership of the Government of China and His Holiness the Dalai Lama on meaningful religious and cultural autonomy for Tibet within China and urges that these discussions take place with all deliberate speed;

(3) calls for the release of individuals who protested in a peaceful manner and for medical care for those injured and wounded in the violence that followed the protests;

(4) calls on the Government of China to cease its efforts to enter monasteries to 're-educate' monks and nuns, to respect the right of the people of Tibet to speak of the Dalai Lama and possess his photograph, and to respect and protect basic human rights, as provided in the Constitution of the People's Republic of China;

(5) calls on the Government of China to honor its commitment to allow international journalists free access to China from mid-2007 to October 17, 2008;

(6) calls on the Government of China to provide a full accounting of the March 2008 protests in Tibet, the response of the Government of China, and the manner and number of detentions and deaths that occurred following the protests; and

(7) both—

(A) calls on the United States Department of State to fully implement the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 6901 note), including the stipulation that the Secretary of State seek "to establish an office in Lhasa, Tibet, to monitor political, economic, and cultural developments in Tibet", and also to provide consular protection and citizen services in emergencies; and

(B) urges that the agreement to permit China to open further diplomatic missions in the United States should be contingent upon the establishment of a United States Government office in Lhasa, Tibet.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to consideration of S. Res. 508, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 508) congratulating the University of Tennessee women's basketball team for winning the 2008 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball Championship.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 508) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 508

Whereas, on April 8, 2008, before a crowd of over 21,000 fans, the University of Tennessee women's basketball team (referred to in this preamble as the "Lady Vols") defeated the Cardinal of Stanford by a score of 64-48 to win the 2008 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball Championship;

Whereas that victory marked the second national title for the Lady Vols in 2 years, and the 8th national title of the Lady Vols in the last 20 years;

Whereas the University of Tennessee became the first school to accomplish back-to-back national titles twice, having previously achieved that feat during its 3-peat from 1996 through 1998;

Whereas the Lady Vols were successful due to the leadership of Head Coach Pat Summitt, the Nation's all-time winningest National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball coach among men's and women's teams, with 983 wins over 34 seasons at the University of Tennessee;

Whereas Joan Cronan, the Women's Athletics Director of the University of Tennessee, has—

(1) shown vision and leadership throughout her 25-year career at the University of Tennessee; and

(2) created 1 of the most visible and respected athletic programs in the country;

Whereas the Lady Vols compiled an impressive overall record of 36 wins and 2 losses, avenging 1 of those losses against Stanford in the championship game;

Whereas the Lady Vols were guided all season long by—

(1) the leadership of the seniors on the team, including—

- (A) Nicky Anosike;
- (B) Alberta Auguste;
- (C) Shannon Bobbitt; and
- (D) Alexis Hornbuckle; and

(2) the outstanding play of the 2008 Naismith Trophy winner, Candace Parker;

Whereas Candace Parker, while playing with an injured shoulder, tallied 17 points, 9 rebounds, and 4 steals, and was selected as the Most Outstanding Player for the 2008 tournament, becoming—

(1) the 4th player in history to achieve that honor 2 years in a row; and

(2) the 5th member of the University of Tennessee women's basketball team to be so honored, following in the footsteps of—

- (A) Chamique Holdscrow, who was honored in 1997 and 1998;
- (B) Michelle Marciniak, who was honored in 1996;
- (C) Bridgette Gordon, who was honored in 1989; and
- (D) Tonya Edwards, who was honored in 1987;

Whereas Shannon Bobbitt, who at only 5 feet, 2 inches, is the shortest player ever to play on the University of Tennessee women's basketball team, and whose 3 first half 3-pointers and transition defense helped establish an early lead, finished the game with 13 points, and was named to the 2008 All-Tournament Team;

Whereas Nicky Anosike, who finished the game with 12 points, 8 rebounds, and a game-high 6 steals, was named to the 2008 All-Tournament Team;

Whereas Alberta Auguste scored 7 points to go along with 7 rebounds;

Whereas Alexis Hornbuckle, whose dogged defense helped hold the Stanford team to a season-low 48 points and a season-high 25 turnovers, finished with 6 points and 3 assists;

Whereas freshman Vicki Baugh provided a nice boost off the bench with 8 points and 4 rebounds; and

Whereas Head Coach Pat Summitt's Lady Vols set an example off the court as well, by continuing to sustain a remarkable graduation rate, with every student athlete who has completed her eligibility at the University of Tennessee graduating or working toward all of the requirements for graduation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Tennessee women's basketball team for—

(A) being champions on and off the court; and

(B) the victory of the team in the 2008 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball Championship (referred to in this resolution as the "NCAA women's basketball championship");

(2) recognizes the significant achievements of the players, coaches, students, alumni, and support staff whose dedication and hard work helped the University of Tennessee Lady Volunteers win the NCAA women's basketball championship; and

(3) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit for appropriate display an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) Dr. John D. Petersen, President of the University of Tennessee;

(B) Joan Cronan, Women's Athletics Director of the University of Tennessee; and

(C) Pat Summitt, Women's Basketball Head Coach of the University of Tennessee.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2008

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, April 10; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, that there then be a period of morning business for up to 60 minutes, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each and the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half; and that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 3211, as under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. DURBIN. Tomorrow, following morning business, the Senate will proceed to a series of up to three rollcall votes as early as 10:40 a.m., and upon disposition of the housing bill, the Senate will consider the Energy Committee's lands bill. We also expect to vote on a number of judicial nominees tomorrow. Therefore, Senators should expect a busy day of voting tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. DURBIN. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:40 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, April 10, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.