

a year. We have worked together to pass numerous resolutions supporting global Internet and press freedom, and highlighting restrictions in China and Iran. Many of us also authored the Victims of Iranian Censorship, or VOICE Act, which passed as part of the FY2010 Defense Authorization and was the only bill specifically regarding Iran signed into law last year.

The VOICE Act authorized funding for additional U.S. broadcasting into Iran and the development of censorship circumvention tools. This effort was spearheaded by Senators MCCAIN, LIEBERMAN, CASEY, GRAHAM and myself, while Senator BROWBACK has worked to secure funding for such technology in consecutive Foreign Operations Appropriations spending bills.

The 111th Congress, with strong bipartisan support, has done more to promote Internet freedom than any other Congress in history. We have set a standard that places cyber-journalists on equal footing with the broadcast and print press; we have funded the dissemination and use of censorship evasion technology at an unprecedented level; we have made Internet freedom a foreign policy priority and an integral part of the international agenda on human rights; and we will continue to take important policy positions on this pressing issue.

More remains to be done, and the caucus will fill that role. Internet restrictions, censorship, manipulation, and monitoring continues to rise in China, Iran, and elsewhere around the world. The annual Freedom House Freedom of the Net Report shows a decline of digital freedom every year. Nations around the world are using sophisticated censorship techniques and abusing national security laws to crackdown on access to web-based information, communication, and news.

Today, we reaffirm our commitment to this cause, and look forward to continuing to work together to promote Internet freedom around the globe.

189TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREECE'S INDEPENDENCE

Ms. SNOWE. Madam President, I rise today to commemorate the 189th anniversary of the day in 1821 when the people of Greece declared independence from the Ottoman Empire, launching the country's heroic 8-year struggle to end centuries of political, religious and cultural repression of their proud and ancient culture. This is a truly cherished milestone for the Greek people, Greek Americans, and for all the friends of Greece around the globe.

The ancient Greeks developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern is vested in the people, and it was based on this political model and philosophy that our Founding Fathers formed our democratic republic. Today, our two nations are not only faithful allies, but also close friends bound by a shared heritage of democratic values and together

we are at the forefront of freedom, democracy, peace, stability, and human rights.

Nearly two centuries after the rebirth of Greek independence, there is much to celebrate, but there are also many significant challenges which we face in the 21st century. Ongoing provocations by Turkey in the Aegean and irredentist actions by the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia thwart Greece's quest for a stable southeastern Europe free of past centuries' often devastating territorial disputes. Protecting the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople the leader of Greek Orthodox Christians around the world from persecution, and ending the illegal occupation of the north of Cyprus remain as enormous imperatives that will require constructive engagement and a strong commitment from those willing to champion human rights.

Overcoming these hurdles will require us to strengthen the relationship that exists between our two great nations, so as to defend our foundational principles and ensure our vitality in the centuries to come. On this anniversary of Greek independence, let us not only celebrate and congratulate our friends in Greece, but also rededicate ourselves to bolstering the relationship that exists between our countries.

Madam President, as the first Greek-American woman elected to both the U.S. House and U.S. Senate, I extend my warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Greece and all Greek Americans as we celebrate the 189th anniversary of Greece's independence.

RED CROSS MONTH

Mr. LEMIEUX. Madam President, I rise to commemorate Red Cross Month. The American Red Cross is an exceptional organization, dedicated to helping people in time of need and providing a level of services that no other agencies provide. Led by volunteers and guided by its Congressional Charter and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Movement, this group provides relief to victims of disaster and helps people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies.

The American Red Cross has an expansive and influential reach around the globe and in our neighborhoods at home. From assisting victims of house fires or catastrophic storms here in my home State of Florida to helping those affected by the devastating earthquake that took place in Haiti a couple of months ago, the American Red Cross is there, mobilizing our fellow Floridians in its mission to alleviate human suffering and to assist us in disaster preparedness, lifesaving training and addressing an array of emergencies. Locally, the American Red Cross is also a leader in providing aquatic safety programs—something of great importance to the State of Florida. Every day the Red Cross trains our friends and neigh-

bors in lifesaving CPR, first aid, swimming lessons, drowning prevention and water safety instruction.

Globally, the American Red Cross International Services Program reestablishes communication with loved ones separated by armed conflicts or natural disaster. Recently, the Red Cross provided family linkages from Haiti earthquake survivors to family members living abroad. In addition, our American Red Cross is unique in its mission to use archives located around the world to trace missing Holocaust family members.

A community-funded and supported organization, the American Red Cross provides around-the-clock emergency services, every day, 24/7. When the American Red Cross arrives on the scene, its staff and volunteers are armed with compassion and support. As we saw during the response to the earthquake in Haiti, you can always count on our Florida chapters of the American Red Cross to be in the forefront when our community needs them, time and time again.

I am proud to join with my colleagues in recognizing the Red Cross and thanking the staff and volunteers for their many contributions to our neighborhoods, communities and State.

TRIBUTE TO LANCE MACKEY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I am excited today to congratulate Alaskan dog musher Lance Mackey and his team of dogs that carried him across the Iditarod finish line for a first-place finish in Nome, AK, at 6:59 p.m. on March 16, 2010. The Iditarod is known as the toughest race on Earth. The trail spans across a significant portion of Alaska, and is roughly 1,100 miles long. The race begins in Willow, AK, and mushers cross the finish line in Nome—a small community on the coast of Norton Sound of the Bering Sea. Mackey and his team rode into Nome just 51 seconds short of 9 days on the trail—this is the second fastest time in the 38-year history of the race. He crossed the finish line with 11 of the 16 dogs he started the race with—tired but still strong after the 1,000-mile journey. This victory landed Mackey his fourth win in a row—a title no Iditarod musher has claimed before.

Mackey's trademark strategy of long runs and little or no rest has consistently landed him victories over the other faster dog teams competing against him. His lead dogs this year, or superstars as he calls them, are named Maple and Rev. Alaskans and fans of this great race are well aware that in order to race among the great dog mushers, a pair of lead dogs with endurance and good judgment is just as important as a strong musher. The Iditarod is not for the faint of heart—the trail is made up of some of the harshest terrain in North America and if the musher and his lead dogs are not in sync, there are about a million things that can go wrong. Mackey has

shown a true bond with his team of dogs year after year, and this race was no different.

Lance Mackey's story is not only amazing because of his determination and skill in the sport of dog mushing but his victories over personal life challenges which are also significant. He is a cancer survivor—a victory that preceded his success in the sport of dog mushing. Lance is a lifelong Alaskan and a friend to many. He married his high school sweetheart and they have four children together. His family cheered him on as he took first, and was by his side when he was diagnosed with throat cancer after finishing the 2001 Iditarod race, where he took 36th place. After that race, Lance did not give up. He had extensive surgery and radiation and competed again the very next year. Although he had to drop out of that race to take time off to recover from his cancer and the surgery, Mackey's dedication and love of the sport is clear. He is now cancer free.

Mackey went on to win the Yukon Quest several times, one of the two major sled dog races in Alaska. In 2007 and 2008, he won both the Yukon Quest and the Iditarod, two incredibly difficult races, with only a week and a half in between each race to rest before he moved on to the next event. For the first time in the history of the races, Lance had won both, and he did so 2 years in a row.

I would like to take a moment to highlight just how unique this sport is—not only to Alaska, but to America as well. The Iditarod and the Yukon Quest are the world's two longest sled dog races. Both races span over 1,000 miles of rugged mountains, frozen tundra, and dense forests. These races truly know how to test a man or woman's dedication and determination. Not only does the ruthless terrain of Alaska pose immense obstacles to the mushers, but weather can be a major deterrent. Temperatures on the trail during the race have dropped down to 30 below zero. I don't know how many Members in this Chamber have experienced 30 below zero weather, but I can assure you it is no cakewalk. When that wind kicks up, gusts can shoot down through valleys and across the tundra at 100 miles per hour. You can imagine what the wind chill factor is as you are racing a dog sled team across vast open spaces for 1,100 miles. To give you an idea of just how long this race truly is—the distance between this Chamber here in Washington and Miami, FL, would fall roughly 100 miles short of the length of the trail. And the Iditarod trail spans only a mere portion of our great State.

The Iditarod commemorates the diphtheria serum relay that took place in 1925. The diphtheria vaccine was needed in Nome to counteract an outbreak that was threatening the community. Alaskan mushers came together and ran a series of dog teams to Nome carrying the vaccine to save the lives of those who were infected. This

story is treasured in Alaska and each year, during the Iditarod, we remember the true spirit of the Alaska Natives and early pioneers and the obstacles they faced and ultimately overcame.

Today, the Iditarod is no longer run as a relay, but it is a race of individual dog sled teams. The Alaskan wilderness the teams travel through is as exceptionally beautiful as it is difficult. Mackey said after his win that this was the most tiring race yet for his team, and also the toughest in terms of competition. Rookie musher Pat Moon crashed after hitting a tree and falling unconscious and Bruce Linton of Kasilof, AK, who is diabetic, reported that his insulin froze while mushing along the Yukon River. Sixteen of the original seventy-one mushers dropped from the race this year. Many dogs, including five from Mackey's team, were dropped from the race and sent to Anchorage to await their mushers to return. Hans Gatt of Whitehorse, Canada, also a Yukon Quest winner, trailed Lance Mackey by only an hour. He was followed by Jeff King, a four-time Iditarod winner.

Mackey says that what he does well is understand his team, allowing for calculated risks that can change a race in an instant. He said:

I don't think that I do anything with my running to jeopardize the dogs, or the future of the dogs. I gamble but I'm not going to win the Iditarod at the expense of my team.

Lance Mackey, like all mushers, cares deeply for the health and condition of their four-legged athletes. Last year the Anchorage Daily News stated while covering the race:

A musher doesn't win by making dogs run. He wins by making dogs want to run.

Lance describes working with his dogs this way:

The biggest challenge working with a large team of dogs is the individual personalities. Like a classroom full of kids, all with issues, wants, questions, some barking wildly to get my attention, and then there are some who just do what needs to be done and require only a nod or a smile. Every dog is different. Every need is different. That is what I love. The reward is seeing them all come together as a team working for a common goal.

I had the opportunity when I was up in the State for the ceremonial start of the Iditarod to go around and talk with the mushers and visit with the dogs. You can really tell how close the mushers are with their teams and when they come together as a team they can truly go the distance. We should acknowledge and respect them.

On Tuesday, March 16, thousands gathered at the famous burlwood arch on Front Street in Nome, AK, to cheer on Lance Mackey as his dogs carried him to victory over his talented competitors from all over the world. It is my honor today to stand before the Senate to congratulate Lance Mackey and his team, and to recognize this amazing race. The only one of its kind. Lance continues to be a world-class musher and a true Alaskan hero, along with his remarkable team. I join Alas-

kans in congratulating Lance Mackey on yet another Iditarod victory.

RECOGNIZING MIDDLETON, IDAHO

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, today I congratulate and acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the founding of the city of Middleton, ID. On April 10, 2010, the citizens of Middleton will gather at Roadside Park to commemorate the 100th year of its founding. This is a very historic and special day for this western Idaho community.

From its early days as a settlement in 1863, Middleton's history has embodied the frontier spirit and entrepreneurship that makes the United States a promised land of opportunity. After a gold rush struck Boise Basin, Middleton became the earliest settlement in what is now Canyon County. Middleton was named for its location on the old Oregon Trail midway between Boise City and Olds Ferry on the Snake River.

Primarily an agricultural community, Middleton became a center for milling in the West in 1871 when J.M. Stephenson and J.C. Isaacs opened their flour mill. The turn of the century brought the Idaho Northern Railway to Middleton and with it a bank, hotel and other business development. A few short years later, the town was officially incorporated on April 10, 1910.

Today, Middleton remains rooted in agriculture with potatoes, sugar beets, corn, mint, grains and dairy among its products. At the same time, it is one of Idaho's fastest-growing communities with greater portions of the Treasure Valley workforce moving there to enjoy the amenities of country living and small-town friendliness.

In 2006, Middleton celebrated the election of a hometown girl, Donna Jones, Idaho's first female State controller. Donna was raised in Middleton, went to school there, and married in the historic Methodist church.

Middleton gained national prominence in the summer of 2007, when the community came together to build a home for the Stockdale family on the television show "Extreme Makeover Home Edition." Over the course of a week, hundreds of volunteers worked side by side in 100-degree heat to accomplish the task, demonstrating the true spirit of their community.

Middleton has much to celebrate and look forward to in its next century as it provides important goods and services at home and abroad. Congratulations to the city of Middleton for 100 years of service and success.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING MIDGE COSTANZA

• Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Midge Costanza, a dear friend and great American who passed away this week. This woman of