

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 182

Honoring the life of Jack Valenti.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 1, 2007

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. DODD, Mr. KERRY, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. COLEMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Honoring the life of Jack Valenti.

Whereas Jack Valenti was born September 5, 1921, in Houston, Texas, the grandson of Sicilian immigrants, Joe and Josephine Valenti, and was the youngest high school graduate in the city at age 15;

Whereas Jack Valenti married his beloved Mary Margaret in 1962, with whom he had 3 children, John, Alexandra, and Courtenay;

Whereas Jack Valenti joined the United States Army Air Forces in 1942 and flew 51 combat missions as a pilot of a B-25 attack bomber with the 12th Air Force in Italy during World War II, obtained the rank of lieutenant, and received 4 decorations, including the Distin-

guished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with 4 clusters, the Distinguished Unit Citation with one cluster, and the European Theater Ribbon with 4 battle stars;

Whereas Jack Valenti received a B.A. degree from the University of Houston in 1946 after doing all of his undergraduate work at night and working during the day, and became the first University of Houston graduate to be admitted to Harvard Business School, receiving an M.B.A. degree in 1948;

Whereas, in 1952, Jack Valenti cofounded Weekley and Valenti, an advertising and political consulting agency that worked on Dwight D. Eisenhower's presidential campaign in Texas, Representative Albert Thomas's run for Congress, and John Connally's campaign for Governor of Texas;

Whereas Jack Valenti met then-Senate Majority Leader Lyndon B. Johnson in 1957, the two became close friends, and Valenti worked on Lyndon Johnson's presidential campaign during the primaries of 1960;

Whereas Weekley and Valenti handled press during President John F. Kennedy's and Vice President Lyndon Johnson's fateful trip to Dallas, Texas, in November 1963;

Whereas Jack Valenti became the first special assistant hired when Lyndon Johnson ascended to the Presidency;

Whereas Jack Valenti resigned his White House post in 1966 and went on to serve as the president of the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) for the next 38 years;

Whereas Jack Valenti, as president of the MPAA, created the voluntary film rating system that is still in place today, which provides parents with advance information they

can use to determine which movies are appropriate for their children;

Whereas Jack Valenti's persona and skill combined to give the motion picture industry a strong and enduring presence in the Nation's capital, which grew year by year during his nearly 4 decade tenure at the MPAA;

Whereas Jack Valenti presided over a worldwide change in the motion picture industry, ushered movies into the digital era, championed artists' rights, and condemned intellectual property theft;

Whereas Jack Valenti authored 5 books, including "A Very Human President", "Protect and Defend", "The Bitter Taste Of Glory", "Speak Up With Confidence", and, his most recent, "This Time, This Place: My Life in War, the White House, and Hollywood", and wrote numerous essays for the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, Reader's Digest, Atlantic Monthly, Newsweek, Cox newspapers, and other publications;

Whereas Jack Valenti was awarded with France's highly-prized Legion d'Honneur, the French Legion of Honor, and has been honored with his own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame; and

Whereas Jack Valenti will be remembered as a dedicated family man, a philanthropist, a voice for copyright owners, a true visionary whose devotion, intelligence, creativity, and wisdom transformed the film industry, and as Hollywood's ultimate leading man: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Senate honors the life of Jack Va-
- 2 lenti, a pioneer in the fields of motion pictures and public

- 1 service, a dedicated family man, and a legendary figure
- 2 in the history of the United States.

