

Whereas at the age of 29, founder Alvin Ailey first premiered the dance work, *Revelations*, on January 31, 1960, at the famed 92nd Street Y in New York City;

Whereas *Revelations* is set to spirituals and draws inspiration from Ailey's memories as a child growing up in Texas, and from the work of African-American writers such as James Baldwin and Langston Hughes;

Whereas since its premiere, *Revelations* has been seen by more than 23 million theatergoers, in 71 countries, and on 6 continents, making it the most widely seen works of modern dance;

Whereas *Revelations* was performed in front of a worldwide audience as part of the opening ceremonies of the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City;

Whereas *Revelations* has been performed for 5 U.S. Presidents, including at the inaugurations of President Carter in 1977 and President Clinton in 1993;

Whereas *Revelations* captures the faith and perseverance of the African-American people, and has influenced, and was influenced by, African-American cultural heritage and the social fabric of the United States; and

Whereas *Revelations* is beloved by people around the world, and its universal themes illustrate the strength and humanity within all of us: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate honors the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater as it celebrates the 50th anniversary of the dance work *Revelations*.

SENATE RESOLUTION 73—SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY, UNIVERSAL RIGHTS AND THE IRANIAN PEOPLE IN THEIR PEACEFUL CALL FOR A REPRESENTATIVE AND RESPONSIVE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT

Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KYL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 73

Whereas, on February 5, 2011, Mir Hossein Moussavi and Mehdi Karroubi requested permission from the Government of Iran to hold a peaceful demonstration on February 14, 2011;

Whereas Moussavi and Karroubi wrote, "In order to declare support for the popular movements in the region, particularly with those of the freedom seeking movements of the people of Egypt and Tunisia against dictatorships, we request a permit to invite the people for a rally.";

Whereas the Government of Iran denied this request and, on February 9, 2011, Revolutionary Guard Commander Hossein Hamedani said, "We definitely see them as enemies of the revolution and spies, and we will confront them with force.";

Whereas, before the planned protest on February 14, 2011, the Government of Iran placed Mehdi Karroubi and Mir Hossein Moussavi under house arrest and interrupted Internet, text message, satellite, and cell phone service inside Iran;

Whereas, on February 14, 2011, the people of Iran held demonstrations protesting the Iranian regime in Tehran, Rasht, Isfahan, Mashhad, Shiraz, Kermanshah, and Ahwaz;

Whereas, on February 15, 2011, members of the parliament of Iran called for the execution of opposition leaders Mir Hossein Moussavi, Mehdi Karroubi, and Mohammad Khatami;

Whereas, on the same day, speaker of the Parliament in Iran Ali Larijani said, "The parliament condemns the Zionist, American, anti-revolutionary and anti-national actions of the misled seditionists.";

Whereas, on February 14, 2011, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said, "What you see happening in Iran today is a testament to the courage of the Iranian people and an indictment of the hypocrisy of the Iranian regime, a regime which over the last three weeks has constantly hailed what went on in Egypt. And now when given the opportunity to afford their people the same rights as they called for on behalf of the Egyptian people, once again, illustrate their true nature.";

Whereas, on February 15, 2011, President Barack Obama saluted the "courage" of the Iranian people and said, "We are going to continue to see the people of Iran have the courage to be able to express their yearning for greater freedoms and a more representative government.";

Whereas, on February 15, 2011, European Union High Representative Catherine Ashton called "on the Iranian authorities to fully respect and protect the rights of their citizens, including freedom of expression and the right to assemble peacefully";

Whereas, on February 3, 2011, the Senate passed Senate Resolution 44, 112th Congress, reaffirming the commitment of the United States to the universal rights of freedom of assembly, freedom of speech, and freedom of access to information, including the Internet, and expressed strong support for the people of Egypt in their peaceful calls for a representative and responsive democratic government that respects these rights; and

Whereas the people of Iran also deserve support from the United States in their peaceful struggle for a representative and responsive democratic government that respects their universal rights of freedom of assembly, freedom of speech, and freedom of association, including via the Internet: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the ongoing violence against demonstrators by the Government of Iran and pro-government militias, as well as the ongoing government suppression of independent electronic communication through interference with the Internet and cellphones;

(2) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to the universal rights of freedom of assembly, freedom of speech, and freedom of association, including via the Internet;

(3) expresses strong support for the people of Iran in their peaceful calls for a representative and responsive democratic government that respects these rights;

(4) calls on the Government of Iran to release all Iranians detained or imprisoned solely on the basis of their religion, faith, ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation, or political belief;

(5) calls on the United Nations Human Rights Council to establish an independent human rights monitor for Iran; and

(6) affirms the universality of individual rights and the importance of democratic and fair elections.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I come to speak in support of the resolution submitted today by Senator KIRK, cosponsored by myself, Senator KYL, Senator BILL NELSON, and Senator CASEY.

Our resolution would add our voice to the many voices who are calling for the Iranian Government to respect the undeniable and universal rights of its people. It would condemn continuing violent repression on the part of the Ira-

nian Government; reaffirm our Nation's commitment to universal freedoms; express our support for the Iranian people in their peaceful calls for reform; call on the Iranian Government to release those detained solely on the basis of their religion, faith, ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation, or political belief; call on the United Nations to establish an independent human rights monitor for Iran; and reaffirm the universality of individual rights and the importance of democratic elections. It would amplify and strengthen the message that 24 of us sent this week in letter to Secretary Clinton urging her to work with the United Nations Human Rights Commission to establish a human rights monitor for Iran.

Recent events in Iran have continued a pattern of abuse, repression, and violation of civil and human rights that is all too familiar.

The people of Iran have rightly seen recent events in the Muslim world, including the removal of dictators in Tunisia and Egypt, as confirmation of the power of nonviolent protest. Just as they did in the aftermath of flawed elections in 2009, the people of Iran have sought to speak out against the corruption and repression in their government.

If justice is to be done, the Government of Iran would allow these protests, hear the grievances of the people, reform a government whose autocratic substance is in no way concealed by the facade of representative democracy that the regime has constructed. Instead, the Iranian Government has quashed protest, cut off access to the Internet and other means of communication, and placed opposition leaders under house arrest. Members of the ruling regime have called for the execution of opposition leaders and for violent repression of dissent.

We have seen in just a few short weeks the dramatic power of nonviolent protest. We have seen that ultimately, dictatorship will lose its iron grip. I believe we are all confident that the march of time and progress will restore to the people of Iran the rights their government denies them.

But today, as the Iranian people bear the brunt of autocracy and as dissenters face the threat of violent repression, it is important for all those who believe in universal rights to speak out against that repression and violence, to let the people of Iran know that they do not face these threats alone, and to declare that we are in support of their attempts to determine the course of their nation. I strongly support this resolution and call for its immediate passage.

SENATE RESOLUTION 74—DESIGNATES FEBRUARY 28, 2011, AS "RARE DISEASE DAY"

Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to: