

me to introduce S. Res. 356, a bipartisan measure calling upon the Government of Turkey to facilitate the reopening of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's Theological School of Halki without condition or further delay. As we approach the 40th anniversary of the forced closure on that unique institution by the Turkish authorities, I renew my call for the Government of Turkey to allow the seminary to reopen.

Founded in 1844, the Theological School of Halki, located outside modern-day Istanbul, served as the principal seminary of the Ecumenical Patriarchate until its forcible closure by the Turkish authorities in 1971. Counted among alumni of this preeminent educational institution are numerous prominent Orthodox scholars, theologians, priests, and bishops as well as patriarchs, including Bartholomew I. Many of these scholars and theologians have served as faculty at other institutions serving Orthodox communities around the world.

Past indications by the Turkish authorities of pending action to reopen the seminary have, regrettably, failed to materialize. Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan met with the Ecumenical Patriarch in August 2009. In an address to a wider gathering of minority religious leaders that day, Erdoğan concluded by stating, "We should not be of those who gather, talk and disperse. A result should come out of this." I could not agree more with the sentiment. But resolution of this longstanding matter requires resolve, not rhetoric.

In a positive development this August, the authorities in Ankara, for the first time since 1922, permitted a liturgical celebration to take place at the historic Sumela Monastery. The Ecumenical Patriarch presided at the service, attended by pilgrims and religious leaders from several countries, including Greece and Russia. Earlier this month, a Turkish court ordered the Buyukada orphanage to be returned to Ecumenical Patriarchate. If the transfer of the property occurs, this would be another welcome development, potentially paving the way for the return of scores of other church properties seized by the government. In 2005, the Helsinki Commission, which I chair, convened a briefing, "The Greek Orthodox Church in Turkey: A Victim of Systematic Expropriation." The Commission has consistently raised the issue of the Theological School for well over a decade and will continue to closely monitor related developments.

Yesterday's release of the 2010 Report on International Religious Freedom is a reminder of the challenges faced by Orthodox and other minority religious communities in Turkey. I urge the Turkish Prime Minister to ensure respect for the rights of individuals from these groups to freely profess and practice their religion or beliefs, in keeping with Turkey's obligations as an OSCE participating state.

The 1989 OSCE Vienna Concluding Document affirmed the right of religious communities to provide "training of religious personnel in appropriate institutions." The Theological School of Halki served that function for over a century until its forced closure nearly four decades ago. The time has come to allow the reopening of this unique institution without further delay.

TRIBUTE TO KEN FLANZ

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a longtime member of my staff who recently became a Senior Stennis Congressional Fellow.

Ken Flanz has been a central member of my staff since 1997, currently serving as my legislative director. In addition to advancing my legislative agenda and guiding my staff, Ken's responsibilities include foreign affairs, intelligence, Native Americans, appropriations, congressional and campaign reform, and human rights issues. Throughout his years of dedicated service, Ken has been a valued resource to many in the Senate and has contributed helpful insight. His thoughtful approach, patience, and knowledge have been instrumental to the Senate community.

Ken's achievements through the Stennis Congressional Fellows Program will serve him well and be beneficial to my office and the Senate. The Stennis Program seeks to enhance senior congressional staff members' leadership skills and communications abilities for those committed to public service. Senior fellows advance congressional staff development and serve as significant resources for Members of Congress, fellow staff, and the public. The program's emphasis on non-partisanship and the long-term effectiveness of Congress provides for an essential discourse.

I have great appreciation for Ken's experience and circumspection. He has served as a trusted adviser and has been a great asset to me and my staff. I commend Ken for this distinguished achievement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HAWAII'S 2010 LITTLE LEAGUE U.S. CHAMPIONS

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I honor and congratulate the Little League team from Waipio, HI, our 2010 Little League U.S. Champions.

On Saturday, August 28, Waipio defeated the team from Pearland, TX, to win the U.S. Championship title game. It was a resounding victory for Hawaii, who won in five innings via mercy-rule with a final score of 10-0, advancing to the final game of the World Series Championship against Japan.

Our U.S. Champions performed with the highest level of athleticism as they played the International Champions from the Edogawa Minami Little

League of Tokyo. Waipio rose to the occasion and played their hearts out. Despite their hard-fought 4-1 loss to Japan, our young men proved that they are genuine winners, exiting the World Series with their heads held high and leaving an undeniable impression of inspiration and sportsmanship.

With great pride, superior confidence, motivation and spirit, our team showed the Nation and the world what it takes to be a champion. They are: Kahoea Akau, Shiloh Baniaga, Kaimana Bartolome, Matthew Campos, Ty DeSa, Ezra Heleski, Dane Kaneshiro, Tyler Kushima, Cody Maltezo, Justice Nakagawa, Keolu Ramos, Noah Shackles, Brysen Yoshii, Manager Brian Yoshii, and Coaches Kina Akau and Jason Heleski.

Although I am proud of their achievement, I am most proud of the sportsmanlike conduct and warm aloha that these players brought to both the national and international stage. I commend the coaches, parents and families of these players, as well as their friends for the sacrifices made in support of these individuals. I thank them for their dedication to the dreams of these young players, and applaud their hard work. I wish the players all the best in their future endeavors and thank them again for being exceptional representatives of the State of Hawaii and our Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. PING-TUNG CHANG

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, today I congratulate Dr. Ping-Tung Chang, the recipient of the U.S. Outstanding Community Colleges Professor of the Year Award. This award is recognized as one of the most prestigious honors bestowed upon a professor, and this is the second time Professor Chang has won a Professor of the Year award.

To be nominated for this award requires dedication to the art of education and excellence in every aspect of the profession. Professor Chang should be proud of this accomplishment as he has been personally vested in each student and has helped shape the leaders of tomorrow.

In his 24 years at Matanuska-Susitna College, Professor Chang has taught mathematics to nearly 6,000 students and has successfully established a scholarship fund for students. Professor Chang has used innovative methods to get students excited about mathematics and problem solving. I commend him for his leadership and passion for educating.

Professor Chang, I wish you the very best in all your endeavors. Congratulations and best regards.●

REMEMBERING ANNA ELLA CARROLL

• Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, as dean of the Senate Women, I rise on this day to bring attention to the life and work of fellow Marylander Anna