

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 22

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 12, 2003

Received and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Honoring Czech Republic President Vaclav Havel.

Whereas Vaclav Havel, President of the Czech Republic, is widely respected throughout the world as a proponent of democratic principles;

Whereas Vaclav Havel's superb skills as a playwright and essayist helped promote democracy in Eastern Europe during the Cold War;

Whereas the plays of Vaclav Havel were instrumental in bringing international attention to the struggle for democracy in Czechoslovakia;

Whereas Vaclav Havel was imprisoned three times for his efforts to promote democratic thought and reforms in communist Czechoslovakia, yet maintained his convictions throughout;

Whereas Vaclav Havel was a cofounder of the human rights organization Charter 77 and the Committee for the Defense of the Unjustly Prosecuted;

Whereas Vaclav Havel, as leader of the Civic Forum movement, was a key figure in the 1989 bloodless overthrow of the Czechoslovakian communist government known as the Velvet Revolution;

Whereas following the Velvet Revolution, Vaclav Havel was elected by the people as President of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic in 1990, and following a peaceful split forming two separate states, elected President of the Czech Republic in 1993;

Whereas under the leadership of Vaclav Havel, the Czech Republic has been an important and valued member of the world community;

Whereas under the leadership of Vaclav Havel, the Czech Republic became a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on March 12, 1999;

Whereas during Vaclav Havel's time in office, the economy of the Czech Republic has become one of the most developed in Eastern Europe;

Whereas today, the Czech Republic is a valuable ally of the United States in the war against terrorism;

Whereas Vaclav Havel has been praised as one of the world's great democratic leaders and has been awarded many international prizes recognizing his commitment to peace and democratic principles; and

Whereas Vaclav Havel will step down as President of the Czech Republic on February 2, 2003: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) honors the life-long commitment of Czech
4 Republic President Vaclav Havel to human rights
5 and democracy;

6 (2) recognizes the exceptional achievements of
7 Vaclav Havel as playwright and president; and

8 (3) congratulates Vaclav Havel for his out-
9 standing service to the people of the Czech Republic.

Passed the House of Representatives February 11,
2003.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

Clerk.