

Americans today take for granted. It is a real “News from Lake Wobegon” feature, far different than radio in urban America today.

It was no small feat for KCAM to sign onto the air—having electricity and a broadcast antenna still standing—in the hours just after the great earthquake, broadcasting a signal to warn drivers on the highway heading toward the Anchorage area of the damage ahead and dangers they were to face and to give vital information to Interior Alaskans to help them survive the late winter when normal supply deliveries were largely impossible.

The station today, while operating in less challenging times, serves as a ministry of the 40-year-old Alaska Bible College. It is staffed by broadcast professionals “who love the Lord and are committed to bringing excellence in radio” to the community of about 600 residents plus visitors. It also now offers an all-music station, 88.7 FM, which is staffed by Alaska Bible College students who are involved as board operators, broadcasters, office workers, and reporters—many receiving training in broadcasting through an introductory course offered each fall semester by station manager Scott Yahr.

The station, as I know firsthand from my appearances on it, provides residents of the Copper River Valley State political news that allows them to make informed ballot choices and to know how to dress for the day ahead through its weather updates. It is a great pleasure to congratulate Scott, program director Michelle Eastty, and special projects director Roger Bovee on the station’s 50th anniversary. I know the station will be formally celebrating its golden anniversary during a celebration banquet to be held on Saturday, April 12, but I wanted in advance to wish everyone connected to the station and all of its committed listeners a happy anniversary and a wish that the station continue to broadcast vital weather bulletins, important State and community news, and music and entertainment features for many decades to come.●

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGULATORY UTILITY COMMISSIONERS

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the milestone 125th anniversary of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, the national association representing our Nation’s State utility economic regulators.

The work of our Nation’s public utility regulators often goes unnoticed and unheralded until the lights go out or our utility rates increase. But, rest assured, the work these officials do on a daily basis impacts every single one of us in the country.

State utility regulators ensure the rates we pay for utility services are fair, just, and reasonable. They help make sure the utilities deliver these

services—electricity, natural gas, water, and telecommunications—in a safe and reliable manner.

NARUC offers its members countless opportunities for education, sharing of best practices, advocacy, and much more. Since March of 1889, the Association has provided countless resources aimed at improving regulatory practices. Since just about all of us pay utility bills in some way or another, we have all benefited from NARUC’s work over the last century and a quarter.

Think about it: in 1889, the electricity industry was in its infancy. Alexander Graham Bell was still perfecting his groundbreaking invention called the telephone. We were still learning how best to transport water and natural gas.

What a difference 125 years makes. We can now electrify our homes from solar rooftops. We can carry our personal computers in our pockets on our smartphones. We are using new technologies to find abundant resources of natural gas.

The one constant has been NARUC and the quality utility regulation it promotes. I thank NARUC and congratulate it on this 125th year anniversary.

Congratulations NARUC!●

CENTRAL LOUISIANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce.

The Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce was originally founded as the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce by 250 men from all walks of life on March 30, 1914, in the Italian Room of the Hotel Bentley. Their intent was to promote the city and the region in order to attract business and facilitate growth, and they have been continuing this work for 100 years.

Over the next few decades, the Alexandria chamber would see many accomplishments toward this goal, with railroad companies like Missouri Pacific and Texas and Pacific opening terminal and repair facilities. Likewise, in 1923 Roy O Martin would open a forestry and wood products manufacturing facility. The U.S. military established a presence with Camp Beauregard, and the Alexandria VA Hospital opened to train and care for our men during World Wars I and II. Fort Polk was opened in 1941 to support our engagement in World War II, and the Fort Polk and the Joint Readiness Training Center continues to train men and women defending the United States today.

In 1956, the Alexandria chamber would merge with its neighboring chamber in Pineville, LA, to establish the Greater Alexandria-Pineville Chamber of Commerce to expand economic development initiatives across the region. During the next 30 years, LSU opened a campus in Alexandria; commercial airlines offered flights

from Esler Field; and companies such as Proctor & Gamble and Manning, Maxwell & Moore opened manufacturing plants, all in part due to the efforts of Greater Alexandria-Pineville Chamber.

In 1986, the chamber would adopt its current name, with a mission and vision to advocate for pro-business policies and provide programs that foster an environment for economic growth across the 11 parish region that it now represents, leveraging partnerships with many other organizations in the area to promote the region. The Central Louisiana chamber has also prioritized helping young people in the community. The Chamber’s Young Professionals Group is one such example of efforts to engage, retain, and involve Louisiana’s future leaders. Also, its Work Ready Network is a partnership with the Rapides Foundation, the Orchard Foundation, and the Central Louisiana Economic Development Alliance to link education, workforce development efforts, and the region’s economic needs.

Since its founding the Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce has gone on to become the largest chamber in the region with more than 1,100 member businesses representing more than 28,000 employees. The chamber been an economic, social, and political leader for central Louisiana, and I am pleased to congratulate them on a century of success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 23. An act to designate as wilderness certain land and inland water within the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in the State of Michigan, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2197. An act to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the York River and associated tributaries for study for potential inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

H.R. 2259. An act to withdraw certain Federal land and interests in that land from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws and disposition under the mineral and geothermal leasing laws and to preserve existing uses.

H.R. 3370. An act to delay the implementation of certain provisions of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4076. An act to address shortages and interruptions in the availability of propane and other home heating fuels in the United States, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 6:23 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill: