

RECOGNIZING THE NEW MEMBERS
OF THE NORTHEAST GEORGIA
BUSINESS HALL OF FAME

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize three hardworking and tremendously accomplished men in our community. Mr. Randall Frost, Mr. Jim Mathis, and Mr. Paul Maney will be inducted into the Northeast Georgia Business Hall of Fame for their exemplary public service, community involvement, and business accomplishments.

Mr. Randall Frost grew up in Baxley, GA where he learned the importance of hard work, responsibility, and service to his church as well as his community. He is a managing partner with Steward, Melvin & Frost, which offers a variety of services to their clients, from litigation to tax advice. Their firm prioritizes commitment to the Gainesville community.

Mr. Jim Mathis was the CEO of the North Georgia Community Foundation which “supports nonprofit organizations by building, distributing and preserving philanthropic assets to enhance the quality of life in the region.” They have awarded more than \$50 million in grants and funding to high school students and college students through 26 scholarships.

Lastly, Mr. Paul Maney, a devoted community member and philanthropist, was an executive at IBM. Since his retirement, he has been investing in small business across North Georgia and supporting many nonprofit and civic organizations for hospitals and children groups.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize these three distinguished men for their service to their businesses and communities. They are shining examples of the hard work and dedication that comes out of northeast Georgia.

SECURING ACCESS TO NETWORKS
IN DISASTER ACT OR SANDY ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 588, Securing Access to Networks in Disaster Act, which requires the Federal Communications Commission to submit to Congress and publish on the FCC website a study on the public safety benefits, technical feasibility, and cost of providing the public with access to 9–1–1 services during times of emergency when mobile service is unavailable.

As a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, I am well aware of the importance of telephone service during disasters.

The Securing Access to Networks in Disasters (SANDy) Act seeks to ensure the resiliency of the nation’s communications networks during emergencies.

Acquiring cellphone service during a massive natural or manmade disaster is often difficult, if not impossible, and this is why this piece of legislation is so essential.

During the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks that destroyed the World Trade Center

in New York City, cellphone service was severely disrupted, forcing many callers to repeatedly dial to get through to 9–1–1 emergency services.

On that day, some of the most tragic, heart wrenching calls came from those trapped in the Twin Towers.

It is not only during terrorist attacks that cellphone services are severely disrupted, but also natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, which claimed the lives of over 1,800 people.

The SANDy Act would ensure that during an emergency, consumers’ cell phones work on other carriers’ networks if a consumer’s own network goes down.

H.R. 588 would give priority to calls to 9–1–1 services and emergency alerts.

It also would increase coordination between wireless carriers, utilities, and public safety officials by creating a directory of the contact information for relevant disaster response officials.

The bill would require the FCC to report to Congress regarding whether additional outage data should be provided in times of emergency.

In addition, the bill requires the FCC to report to Congress on the viability of providing 9–1–1 services over Wi-Fi hotspots during emergencies.

H.R. 588 would be of immense benefit to the 18th Congressional District and the greater Houston area.

On April 17–18, 2016, Houston experienced a historic flood event that claimed the lives of eight people, damaged over 1,150 households, disrupted hundreds of businesses, closed community centers, schools, and places of worship due to flood waters.

On April 25, President Obama granted the request for federal Individual Assistance for Harris County residences and business owners who were affected by severe weather and flooding.

Unfortunately, that was not the end of the story of flooding in Houston for 2016—in early June another record setting rainfall led to catastrophic flooding throughout the Houston area.

I am grateful to President Obama and the great work of those at the Department of Homeland Security who worked tirelessly to help people after both 2016 flood events.

I spoke on the House Floor several times about the Floods and the suffering caused by the waters that came through our communities—damaging homes, our schools, places of business, and our places of worship.

The flooding problems in the Houston area are frequent, widespread, and severe, with projects to reduce flood risks in place that are valued at several billion dollars.

In 2015, the Houston and surrounding area experienced widespread historic flooding.

The importance of being able to contact emergency responders in the case of natural disasters is critical in order to save the lives of those directly affected by such events.

The SANDy Act would provide telecommunication access to victims of natural and manmade disasters.

The SANDy Act amends the Stafford Act to ensure that all communications providers:

1. Have the ability to access relevant disaster stricken areas during emergencies to restore service; and
2. Are included in the universal credentialing program for essential service providers

The SANDy Act would recognize the critical role that all communications providers—broadcasters, cable, and telecommunications—serve in emergencies, but most notably, the bill would ensure consumers have access to wireless service even if their cellphone service provider’s wireless network goes down.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 588, the Securing Access to Networks in Disaster Act.

THANKING BERNARD E. BEIDEL
FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO
THE HOUSE

HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2017

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and thank Mr. Bernard E. Beidel for his dedicated and unwavering support to the United States House of Representatives.

This month, Bern celebrates his twenty-sixth year of service to this great legislative body. For his entire time with this institution Bern has served as the Director of the Office of Employee Assistance (OEA).

Through his leadership and direction, Bern’s office delivers comprehensive confidential assistance covering an array of personal and work-related issues that have the potential to impact an employee’s performance, productivity and well-being.

The idea to create the Office of Employee Assistance in the House of Representatives was rooted in the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988. This monumental legislation authorized Employee Assistance grant programs in the U.S. Department of Labor.

In February 1991, the Clerk of the House, Donald K. Anderson, hired Bern to serve as the Director of OEA. Immediately upon assuming this mantle, Bern began to build one of the most recognized and respected employee assistance programs in our Nation. In 1995, OEA was transferred to the Chief Administrative Officer, where it resides today.

Over the course of his tenure with the House, Bern and his team have had a lasting impact on individual employees within Member offices and Committees. In addition, his team serves employees who work for the House Officers, the Congressional Budget Office, and the USCP. The confidential nature of OEA’s services demand an individual who possesses integrity, character, and trust. Bern exemplifies the qualities and characteristics of his profession. But it is truly Bern’s personality that serves as a beacon for all who know him.

Mr. Speaker, based on the kindness, compassion and love that Bern has for his work and the House of Representatives, it is no surprise that I am not the first Member of Congress to honor him with a statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

First, on December 18, 2001, Bern and OEA were recognized when they received the EAP Excellence award which is jointly offered by the EAP Digest and Employee Assistance Professionals Association.

Then, on December 11, 2013, my friend and former colleague Congresswoman Candice Miller also had the distinct pleasure of recognizing Bern as the recipient of the 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award issued by the Employee Assistance Professionals Association