

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

(EAPA). This illustrious award is given to an EAPA member who has made significant contributions to the employee assistance profession. In addition to this accolade, Bern was also the recipient of the EAPA Member of the Year in 2002.

Prior to his time in the House of Representatives, Bern served as a drug specialist in the United States Coast Guard, where he had the opportunity to hone his acute understanding of employee assistance. He continued his career in public service with the New Jersey State Police where he established the organization's employee assistance program.

Based on his background with the New Jersey State Police, it is no surprise that Bern was instrumental in establishing a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Capitol Police in 2000. Because of this important agreement, the men and women who guard our campus have access to the outstanding services provided by the CAO's Office of Employee Assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored and humbled to stand before you and recognize Bern for his outstanding contributions and overall impact to the House of Representatives. I also want to thank his current staff Lisbeth McBride, Jennifer Lavan, Paul Tewksbury, Margot Hawkins-Green and all of the other staff members who have served under Bern's tutelage during the past quarter century.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge Bern's family. As you know, public service is an honorable and noble calling requiring great sacrifices to our time. Therefore, I would like to thank Bern's family, including his wife Donna, their daughters, sons-in-law, and grandchildren Jessica and Mather Hinders (Lily and Emmett) and Cynthia and Jonn Aitken (Alexander) for their generous devotion, unwavering support, and unconditional love.

Mr. Speaker, this legislative body and our grateful Nation owe Bern and his entire family a debt of gratitude.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING FRAUD ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2017

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2017

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to reintroduce the Human Trafficking Fraud Enforcement Act of 2017 with my colleague Rep. TED POE.

In March 1931, the infamous gangster, Al Capone, was ultimately indicted for tax fraud. Today the IRS Criminal Investigations division continues to play a vital role in proving criminal activity and fraud. I believe that the IRS can play a similar role in cracking down on criminals profiting from human trafficking and prostitution.

This bill authorizes \$4 million to establish an office within the IRS to prosecute sex traffickers for violations of tax laws. The office would focus on the willful failure of traffickers to file returns, supply information, or pay tax where the taxpayer is an "aggravated" non-filer. In addition, the office would coordinate closely with existing task forces focused on sex trafficking offenders in the Department of Justice.

The bill also amends the Internal Revenue Code to increase criminal monetary and other penalties for attempts to: evade or defeat tax, willful failure to file a tax return, supply information, or pay tax, aggravated failure to file tax returns, fraud and false statements, and underpayment or overpayment of tax due to fraud. This offense will carry a maximum sentence of 10 years and a maximum fine of \$50,000.

The Human Trafficking Fraud Enforcement Act of 2017 also establishes a new felony offense for an aggravated failure to file to include failure to file with respect to income or payments derived from activity which is criminal under Federal or State law. This will target those involved in the promotion of commercial sex acts—pimps and traffickers—and not conduct of exploited persons in prostitution.

Last, this bill directly benefits those who are victimized by the traffickers by revising current IRS Whistleblower provisions so that women and girls who choose to come forward to cooperate in an investigation will be eligible to participate in the whistleblower program and may ultimately be granted up to 15% of any fines levied against the trafficker.

We must use every tool possible to take down traffickers, who have often proven elusive to apprehend and prosecute. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation.

HONORING THE CAREER OF MR. LARRY PISTORESI, SR.

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and career of Mr. Larry Pistoresi, Sr., lifelong resident and deeply involved community member of Chowchilla. Mr. Pistoresi's unflinching drive to improve his community has been an inspiration to countless others who have crossed his path. His genuine character and love for the people of Chowchilla will be deeply missed by those fortunate enough to have known him.

Larry Pistoresi, Sr. was born in Berenda, California and raised in Chowchilla, where he spent his childhood and teenage years attending local schools. After graduating from Chowchilla High School in 1942, Mr. Pistoresi served in the United States Air Force for 3 years, and returned to Chowchilla to work as a car salesman with his father, Pete. After surmounting great success as a car salesman, Mr. Pistoresi eventually joined Pistoresi Chevrolet in partnership with his father, and brother Monte. After selling Pistoresi Chevrolet, Mr. Pistoresi continued working as a car salesman at Steve's Chevrolet until he celebrated his 92nd birthday.

As a public figure and role model for the people of Chowchilla, Mr. Pistoresi's track record has excelled above and beyond what most would consider as impressive. Mr. Pistoresi joined the Chowchilla Rotary Club in 1949 when he was 25 years old, and did not miss a single meeting for 68 years. He was a founder of the Board of Directors of the Chowchilla District Memorial Hospital, which was created in 1954, and has served under virtually every position on the Board, including

Director, President, and permanent Chair of the Finance Committee. Mr. Pistoresi also served in the Chowchilla Chamber of Commerce since 1970, where he had perfect attendance for 46 years.

To list every accomplishment and public service provided by Mr. Pistoresi would require far more time than we have here today. However, it should be stated firmly that few people, if any, have served the community of Chowchilla in the same capacity, and with the same fervor as Mr. Pistoresi did throughout the course of his long, fruitful life. He is remembered by his family and friends, including his wife of 44 years, Velma, his sons Larry Pistoresi, Jr., Jerry Danieli, and Kent Danieli, his sisters Violet and Irene, his brother Monte, and many members of his extended family, 10 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and career of Mr. Larry Pistoresi, Sr., one of the most recognizable and hard-working figures in the community of Chowchilla. The level of devotion he has provided to the people around him has proven to be an unparalleled catalyst for the growth and advancement of Chowchilla.

RECOGNIZING DR. JOHN SMITH

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 Dr. John Smith for his work as the Senior Health Services Advisor for Gainesville's own Fieldale Farms—one of the largest independent poultry producers in the world.

Dr. Smith holds a degree in veterinary medicine from the University of Georgia, a master of science in medical microbiology, and a master of avian medicine in poultry. He joined Fieldale Farms in 1991 and has continuously dedicated himself to the poultry and egg industry since that time. In 2004, Dr. Smith received USPOULTRY's Lamplighter Award for exemplary service to the poultry and egg industry. He has been an active member of the USPOULTRY Foundation Research Advisory Committee for 16 years, and has taken many steps in order to foster the success of Georgia's poultry industry.

Each year, the Workhorse of the Year collar is awarded to an individual who has shown steadfast service and valuable leadership to USPOULTRY and the poultry industry.

Dr. Smith was awarded the Workhorse of the Year Award at the International Poultry Expo in Atlanta as a direct result of his loyalty, dedication, and leadership within the USPOULTRY organization and Fieldale Farms. The presentation of these awards to Dr. Smith shows that his service has benefited the poultry industry in northeast Georgia and at a national level. I commend Dr. Smith for service that has strengthened a local community and respected industry.