

JOINT RESOLUTION INTRODUCED RECOGNIZING AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS -- HON. MIKE KREIDLER (Extension of Remarks - May 20, 1993)

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HON. MIKE KREIDLER **in the House of Representatives**

THURSDAY, MAY 20, 1993

- Mr. KREIDLER. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing, along with my colleague, Representative **Jim Cooper** of Tennessee, a joint resolution to recognize the achievements of amateur radio operators and to declare that regulatory support for these radio operators should be national policy. This resolution is fully supported by the American Radio Relay League, the principal representative of amateur radio operators who provided invaluable assistance in the development of this joint resolution.
- I am introducing this resolution because I feel that the amateur radio service must be recognized for the important role it plays when disasters strike. Their role was brought to my attention in January of this year, when a severe windstorm struck western Washington causing damage to trees, buildings, and telephone lines, making public safety and other necessary communications nearly impossible. Fortunately, a group of radio amateurs stepped in to handle important messages for the authorities and public until communications were back to normal. This was not an isolated incident. In disasters like Hurricanes Hugo and Andrew, Typhoon Iniki, the Loma Prieta earthquake, and the Mt. St. Helens eruption, ham operators have been there to help.
- Amateur radio operators have also provided an important service internationally, in the face of other types of disasters. I was pleased, although not surprised, to see that many recent reports from war-torn Bosnia have been transmitted by amateur radio operators. They have played a crucial role in keeping the lines of communications open--literally--for citizens of the former Yugoslavia.
- I have recently discovered that the help offered by amateur radio operators in these emergencies is not the walkie-talkie communications you may think of when you hear the term `ham' radio operators. In fact, the technologies they use are highly sophisticated. For example, they've been very active in the development and use of low earth orbit satellite technology.
- It is about time for the Congress to recognize these achievements. With about 600,000 licensed amateur radio operators licensed in the United States alone, I'm sure that every Member of the House has had similarly favorable experiences with the amateur community and will support this joint resolution.

Whereas Congress has expressed its determination in section 1 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151) to promote safety of life and property through the use of radio communication;

Whereas Congress, in section 7 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 157), established a policy to encourage the provision of new technologies and services;

Whereas Congress, in section 3 of the Communications Act of 1934, defined radio stations to include amateur stations operated by persons interested in radio technique without pecuniary interest;

Whereas the Federal Communications Commission has created an effective regulatory framework through which the amateur radio service has been able to achieve the goals of the service;

Whereas these regulations, set forth in part 97 of title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations clarify and extend the purposes of the amateur radio service as a--

(1) voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications;

(2) contributing service to the advancement of the telecommunications infrastructure;

(3) service which encourages improvement of an individual's technical and operating skills;

(4) service providing a national reservoir of trained operators, technicians and electronics experts; and

(5) service enhancing international good will;

Whereas Congress finds that members of the amateur radio service community has provided invaluable emergency communications services following such disasters as Hurricanes Hugo, Andrew, and Iniki, the Mt. St. Helens eruption, the Loma Prieta earthquake, tornadoes, floods, wild fires, and industrial accidents in great number and variety across the Nation; and

Whereas Congress finds that the amateur radio service has made a contribution to our Nation's communications by its crafting, in 1961, of the first Earth satellite licensed by the Federal Communications Commission, by its proof-of-concept for search and rescue satellites, by its continued exploration of the low Earth orbit in particular pointing the way to commercial use thereof in the 1990s, by its pioneering of communications using reflections from meteor trails, a technique now used for certain government and commercial communications, and by its leading role in development of low-cost, practical data transmission by radio which increasingly is being put to extensive use in, for instance, the land mobile service: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS OF CONGRESS.

Congress finds and declares that--

(1) radio amateurs are hereby commended for their contributions to technical progress in electronics, and for their emergency radio communications in times of disaster;

(2) the Federal Communications Commission is urged to continue and enhance the development of the amateur radio service as a public benefit by adopting rules and regulations which encourage the use of new technologies within the amateur radio service; and

(3) reasonable accommodation should be made for the effective operation of amateur radio from residences, private vehicles and public areas, and that regulation at all levels of government should facilitate and encourage amateur radio operation as a public benefit.

END

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