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Montana Broadcasters Association Convention

Max S. Baucus

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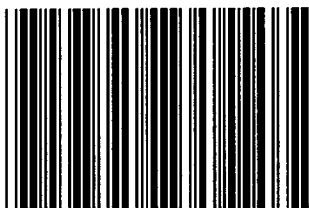
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BAUCUS

Montana Broadcasters Association Convention

Hello everybody. Sorry I can't be with you tonight. Unfortunately Senate business has kept me in Washington. I really wish I could be with you in person as you induct three new members into the Montana Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame.

As many of you heard, I've recently returned from an extended stay at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. I was there for a procedure to correct an irregular heart beat and follow-up care. The docs took great care of me. I'm feeling good. It's good to be back at work. Wanda, Zeno and I greatly appreciate all of the well-wishes you sent our way.

I commend you – all of you – for the work you do. Thanks to Greg MacDonald. Greg does a great job keeping us up to date.

And a big thank you to the Chairman of the Board Dewey Bruce. Dewey you're doing a great job – keep up the good work!

And last but certainly not least, congratulations to incoming Chairman Monty Wallis. Monty, I know it's still a ways off before you take the reigns, but congrats on your new position. I know you're going to do a great job!

You know, I always enjoy spending time with Montana's broadcasters. We have a good time when we get together. And I deeply appreciate your work on behalf of our state and our people.

Tonight three outstanding broadcasters in particular will be honored as they are inducted into the Montana Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame.

"Major" Dan Miller has spent his entire career – all 45 plus years – in Billings. Dan, you are a huge asset to the Magic City – both professionally and in your personal life as well. Congratulations on this milestone.

And there's also Jerry Black, who's been helping to build radio in Shelby for almost the past 50 years. When you think of Shelby radio – you think of Jerry Black.

Jerry, congratulations on your many years of service to the people of Shelby – you've done a phenomenal job.

And finally, there's George. My good friend George Ostrom. I've known George for as long as I can remember. He's an icon in the Flathead. And he truly does deserve this honor. I'd be remiss though if I didn't mention some of the good times I've had with George. I can remember hiking in Glacier with him.

I'm sure George and the rest of the crew we had up there will never forget when I accidentally leaned on my bear mace and it went off! Let's just say it was an interesting hike down! George you are just aces. You're a good friend. A good Montanan. Congratulations on all you've accomplished!

I always say that the most noble of human endeavors is that of public service. Whether it's service to one's community. Service to church. Or service to government. Service is the most honorable thing a person can do. All three of these men have performed a great service to their communities and to the people of Montana by keeping Montanans up-to-date and informed of the latest news and goings on. I commend them for their work and wish them the very best in future endeavors.

Finally, I just want you – as broadcasters – to know that I'm with you on your legislative issues.

You can count on my help and support on the issues you care about. Whether it's an FCC ruling. Campaign finance reform. Digital conversion. Or local-into-local satellite capability. I'm here to help and fight for you. Like I always have.

Montana's Broadcasters – radio and television -- perform an extremely important service to our state. You let folks know what's going on in our communities.

You help bring new business to Montana. And help our current businesses grow and expand. You let folks know about the breaking news of the day. How our local baseball or football team is faring. Timely weather reports and alerts. And in-depth analysis of issues Montanans care about. These are extremely important functions of broadcast.

I commend all of you for your work. You are making good use of the public's airwaves. Thanks so much for all you do.

All the best.