

State Senator Robert Mayer The Mayer Memo

Senator Robert Mayer - Serving Butler, Dunklin, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Ripley, Stoddard & Wayne Counties



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Southeast Missourians Respond Well to Ice Storm

It was a very busy week in the Missouri Senate during the last week of January with the State of the State address and committee meetings and hearings well underway in the Senate halls to consider proposed legislation and the important and urgent needs of our state. My attention was also turned to the devastating ice storm that dealt a strong blow to southeast Missouri on Jan. 26-27.

As soon as I could, I left the Capitol and kept apprised of relief updates by phone as I made the long trip home to Stoddard County, where I was met with an incredible scene of heavy ice, downed lines and trees, and a dark landscape. I made another such trip about this same time last year when a similar ice storm of lesser degree hit our area.

Southeast Missouri has been struck by more weather-related emergencies in recent years than I know we care to count, but as always, there was a quick and efficient response by our state and local agencies, emergency personnel, and communities. This storm affected everyone, and I do so appreciate the patience, calm, and understanding of citizens of the 25th District as utility companies still work to restore power and heat and bring other important services back on line.

During this weather crisis, more than 2,200 people from a 13-county area in central and southeast Missouri sought shelter in dozens of area warming centers and shelters while others chose to tough it out at home. Emergency management has become a regular part of our life in the bootheel these days, and I'm thankful that many of our residents are so well prepared to deal with an emergency situation.

I do want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who assisted or still may be assisting with vital relief efforts in our area. I also want to thank the citizens of southeast Missouri for again showing such grace under trying times and selflessly helping their neighbors in need.

As always, if you have comments or questions about this week's column or any other matter involving state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can

reach my office by phone at 1-877-291-5584.

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