

THE RAY BAUM AWARD

*A good man's life is never quite ended;
Something of it always remains to touch and illuminate other lives.*

Edward Higgins White



Aug. 18, 1955 - Feb. 9, 2018

This annual NARUC award was initiated to honor the memory of Ray Baum, who passed away in 2018. Ray was a long-time member of the National Association of Regulatory Commissioners, the go-to Staffer on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and a nationally recognized expert on utility law. This award is given to a Staff member of the NARUC Staff Subcommittee on Telecommunications that best reflects his initiative and drive towards public service.

ABOUT RAY BAUM



Whether you knew him as “country lawyer” (self-inflicted), “Spence” (former NARUC President Tony Clark) the intercarrier compensation “cattle prodder” (Communications Daily readers), the “Potential Republican Wizard of Costcutting” (David Burstein’s DSL Prime Newsletter readers), “my best friend” (everyone on the NARUC Telecommunications Committee), “Commissioner Happy” (the entire staff of the Oregon Public Service Commission), or “Dad” (various House Commerce Committee staff), the odds are high you also actually genuinely liked and respected Ray Baum and considered him a friend. He left us too soon on February 9th, 2018 while employed as the Staff Director of the House Energy & Commerce Committee. In March, the same year, a bill named in his honor, the Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Service Act of 2018, or R.A.Y. B.A.U.M.’s Act was incorporated into a larger appropriations measure (H.R. 1625), and signed by the President into law.

Ray’s two great joys in life were his family and public service. He and Kristine, his wife, had six children - Rachael Haney (Matt), Wyatt Baum (Jessica), Alexis Crellin (Brennan), Mary Baum, Andrew Baum (Rachael) and Elizabeth Roundy (Shad) - along with 11 grandchildren, His wife was the most important constant in his life. “She has been a great example of service to others and her charity never ends. She has supported me in my pursuit of politics and put up with my public service impairment.” Ray was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, serving a mission from 1976-1978 in the Cleveland, Ohio Mission. He held numerous callings including bishop. Ray was born Aug. 18, 1955, in La Grande, to General David C. and Marie J. Baum. He received his B.S. in financial and estate planning with a minor in Agricultural Economics from Brigham Young University and his Juris Doctorate from Willamette University College of Law. He entered private practice with his older brother David from 1983 through 2003. In 1989 Ray was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives and held the seat for District 58 from 1989 through 1997. During that time he held numerous leadership positions including that of House Majority Leader in 1995. In September 2003, he and the family moved to Salem, where he joined the Oregon Public Utility Commission serving as a PUC Commissioner until 2011.



When US Representative Greg Walden (R-OR) became chairman of the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, Ray in 2011 moved to Washington to work for the Energy and Commerce Committee. When Rep. Walden took over as Chair of the full Committee, Ray became the full Committee Staff Director. Walden praised Baum for “his wisdom, guidance, and humor with the members and staff lucky enough to work with him every day ... our country are better off because of Ray’s selfless service. Ray will be deeply missed, but he will not be forgotten. The Energy and Commerce Committee will strive to honor Ray’s legacy of decency and kindness through our work, and more importantly, by following the example Ray set through the graciousness and honor he showed every day.”

Ray also did a stint as the VP/Government Relations for the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB). NAB President and CEO Gordon Smith said of Baum, “In the time he spent working at NAB, he was to everyone a daily delight. His zest for life, his creative legislative mind, his infectious humor, his love for others and his determined work ethic as he battled cancer, these were an inspiration to all. I have known Ray Baum for as long as I have memory. What I observed about him unfailingly was his constant devotion to Kristine and his children, the determined discharge of his duty to God and country, his Good Samaritan heart for neighbor and humankind.”

During his nine years as an Oregon Public Utility Commission Commissioner, he served as Chair of the NARUC Telecommunications Committee, the State Chair of the FCC-State Joint Board on Universal Service, a member of the NARUC Board of Directors, the Chair of the multiyear NARUC Intercarrier Compensation Task Force, a member of NARUC’s Telecommunications Committee Task Force on Telecommunications Act Rewrite, a member of NARUC’s Washington Action Committee, and a member of NARUC’s Subcommittee on Clean Coal and Carbon Sequestration. He also testified for NARUC before both the House and Senate on intercarrier compensation and universal service issues, before a FERC en banc on ring fencing and cross-subsidies protections, and constantly met with individual FCC Commissioners, Representatives, Senators and FCC and Hill staff with his well-known “dialing for dollars” Universal Service Reform slide in tow.



Ray was a whirlwind. No one at NARUC ever saw him when he wasn’t smiling and cheerful and working. Not many of us can look back over our lives and see where we have made a real difference. Ray made a huge difference for the public and for his NARUC (and Hill and PUC family). We all miss him.

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Two years ago, immediately following Ray's funeral, a small group of former and current state Commissioners who had the distinct privilege of serving with Ray first discussed the idea of endowing a permanent memorial suitable to honor his service. The logistics ended up taking longer than expected, but two years later, it comes to fruition. We have raised sufficient funds to present the First Annual Ray Baum Leadership Award, as well as enough to permanently endow the recognition.

The award will be presented annually to a member of the NARUC Staff Subcommittee on Telecommunications, with three individuals nominated by Commissioners currently serving on the Telecommunications Committee, and the recipient selected by his/her peers.

Ray Baum Memorial Telecommunications Subcommittee Leadership Award Organizing & Fundraising Task Force

Curt Stamp & Larry Landis

Paul Alfonso

Darryl Bassett

Rachelle Chong

Tony Clark

Phillip Jones

Paul Kjellander

Bob Sahr

Ed Salmon

Elliott Smith