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National Weather Service Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley hosts Congressman Blake Farenthold (R-TX, 27th District)

U.S. Congressman Blake Farenthold, who represents much of coastal South Texas from Corpus Christi to Brownsville, visited the National Weather Service (NWS) in Brownsville during the afternoon of June 13th. The Representative, his wife Debbie, and several staff members were treated to a presentation by Meteorologist-in-Charge (MIC) Steve Drillette on the NWS, including an overview of the agency, the Weather Ready Nation initiative, and the many ways NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley serves more than 1 million people across the southmost portion of Texas. Mr. Farenthold, a self-proclaimed “tech geek”, asked a number of questions on topics ranging from NOAA Weather Radio to hurricane forecasting.

Following the presentation and discussion, MIC Drillette and staff gave Mr. Farenthold and his guests a tour of the operations area. The tour included an overview on how digital forecasts are created using the Interactive Forecast Preparation System, a sample of the NOAA Weather Radio broadcast, and a primer on how a radiosonde collects data across the Nation and across the globe. Each of the visitors were given an NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley bag filled with items, including the 2012 Texas Hurricane Guide, Rio Grande Valley Edition.

“Having our District Representative visit the NWS Office in Brownsville allowed our staff show how they serve people in the Rio Grande Valley, 24 hours a day and 365 days a year,” said MIC Drillette. “Mr. Farenthold seemed quite impressed with the workings of the Weather Forecast Office.” Mr. Farenthold and his guests thanked everyone for their dedication to serving residents in his district, and for the hospitality of the staff.



*Science and Operations Officer **Douglas Butts** explaining how A radiosonde measures wind, pressure, temperature, and humidity To U.S. Representative Blake Farenthold (TX-27th District).*



*Meteorologist-in-Charge **Steve Drillette** and Forecaster **Kirk Caceres** (seated) describing how digital forecasts are made to Mr. Farenthold.*

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources. Visit <http://www.noaa.gov>.

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On the internet:

National Weather Service, Rio Grande Valley: <http://weather.gov/rqv>