**Fill-in-the-blanks news release for Realtors**® **attending the**

**2013 Midyear Legislative Meetings & Trade Expo**

**The following “fill-in-the-blanks” news release is designed to help you gain publicity in your local paper for your attendance at the Realtors**® **2013 Midyear Legislative Meetings & Trade Expo. Place it on your company or local board/association letterhead with the blanks filled in as indicated. Include a contact name and number at the top of the release. Send the release to the appropriate editor/reporter at your newspaper. You may want to include information about how you specifically participated in the meetings, as well as a paragraph about your company and an electronic photo of yourself. Please note that the term Realtor**® **is presented below in the Associated Press format to conform to most newspapers’ style.**

This news release is also posted online at [*www.realtor.org/for-the-media/real-estate-facts*](http://www.realtor.org/for-the-media/real-estate-facts)*.*

**[Last Name] Keeps Housing First in Nation’s Capital**

**(Your city)** **(Date)** – More than 9,000 Realtors® gathered in Washington, D.C., this week during the Realtors® 2013 Midyear Legislative Meetings & Trade Expo and **[full name]** of **[full name of board/association and/or company name]** was among them. **[Last name]** and fellow Realtors® from across the country attended meetings and visited lawmakers on Capitol Hill to address critical housing and private property issues.

This year’s meetings centered on a number of pressing issues affecting real estate markets and the nation’s more than 75 million current and aspiring homeowners. Various sessions focused on mortgage finance reform, tax laws for homeownership and real estate investment, and keeping the Federal Housing Administration single-family mortgage program affordable.

“Realtors® know that homeownership is an investment in your future,” said **[last name]**. “It’s also an investment in our country because housing plays a critical role in the long- and short-term health of this nation. As the leading advocate for private property rights, homeownership and housing issues, Realtors® are committed to keeping housing first in the halls of Congress and in their communities across the country.”

**[Customize this paragraph as needed to reflect your local issues.]** While **[he/she]** was in Washington, **[last name]** met with **[names of U.S. Senators and/or Members of Congress]** on Capitol Hill to address critical issues related to today’s housing market, particularly the need to preserve the mission and purpose of the FHA, to protect homeownership tax policies and urge comprehensive restructuring of the secondary mortgage market.

“Realtors® gathered on Capitol Hill to meet with legislators about the issues that matter most to Realtors®’ businesses, communities and the consumers they represent,” said **[last name]**. “It is imperative that we continue to advocate for public policies that promote sustainable homeownership and help move the real estate market forward toward a full recovery.”

Throughout the week Realtors® participated in sessions with a number of government officials and industry experts who addressed many of today’s critical housing, mortgage finance and real estate investment issues. Richard Cordray, director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, spoke about the agency’s efforts to help the housing market recover from the financial crisis. Congressman Randy Neugebauer (R-Texas) and commentator and analyst Jeffrey Birnbaum shared their perspectives on current issues being debated in Congress and implications for the real estate industry.

Realtors® also heard from executives from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac who discussed the impact of regulations on mortgage finance markets, as well as valuation problems with Fannie and Freddie short sales and the role of appraisal management companies in the appraisal process. National Association of Realtors® Chief Economist Lawrence Yun shared his latest outlook for the economy and residential and commercial markets, and expects positive market improvements throughout 2013.

**[Last name]** also had the chance to explore the latest industry innovations and stay up to date on how new products are transforming the real estate business, as more than 125 exhibitors showcased the newest real estate products and services for the industry during the Trade Expo.

**[Your association’s boilerplate here.]**

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