

**For Immediate Release:** Contact:Neal A. Patel

January 14, 2015 202-224-6244

**Heller and Heck Introduce Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act**

**(Washington, DC)**– United States Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) and Congressman Joe Heck (NV-03) introduced the *Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act of 2015*, legislation speeding access to public lands so accredited volunteer search groups can conduct searches for missing persons.

“No family should have to wait on the federal government when it comes to searching for a missing loved one on public lands. Congressman Heck and I have worked diligently in order to ensure Good Samaritan search and rescue groups have the tools necessary to bypass the bureaucratic red tape often hindering their efforts. I look forward to working with my Senate colleagues in order to have the Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act signed into law,” **said Senator Dean Heller.**

“Volunteer search teams assisting the families of missing persons should be able to access public lands without jumping through federal regulatory hoops,” **Congressman Heck said**. “This bill removes an unnecessary burden for Good Samaritan search groups and will help bring closure to families searching for missing loved ones like the Goldbergs. I thank Senator Heller for his leadership on this issue in the Senate, and Chairman Rob Bishop of Utah for his willingness to work with us to move the bill through the Natural Resources Committee.”

**Jodi Goldberg**, **sister of Keith Goldberg**, was pleased Senator Heller and Congressman Heck reintroduced the bill stating, “Last year we came so close to getting this bill signed into law and it was disappointing it didn't happen. But the Goldbergs are nothing if not patient and we know that 2015 is going to be the year we can say that Keith's legacy was cemented with this new law.”

**Dave Cummings, Commander of Red Rock Search and Rescue** in Las Vegas, said, "Red Rock Search and Rescue is delighted to know that Congressman Joe Heck is going to reintroduce the Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act during 2015 session. The Congressman continues to understand the value of the volunteer and the cost savings we offer to our local government. This bill will allow SAR teams "Nation Wide" like RRSAR faster access to federal lands when a family needs our help in locating/rescuing, or in some cases recovering, their loved one. Simply said, this is a common sense bill."

*The Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act of 2015 requires that a decision on issuing a permit for accessing public lands be provided to groups within 48 hours of application and that groups are not responsible for obtaining an insurance policy given they waive federal government liability.*

*###*