

TRIBUTE TO MS. KATIE
PATTERSON BOOTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a woman who has stood as a giant in her community and all throughout the country. Ms. Katie Patterson Booth at the age of 95 is still mentoring, nurturing, and leading in her community of Gulfport, Mississippi.

Ms. Booth has earned a reputation of fighting for those that society would call the dispossessed, disenfranchised, and brokenhearted. Ms. Booth through her boundless energy and passion continues to volunteer in her community—often she can be found encouraging young people to stay in school and avoid gangs. She is a woman on a mission to improve the quality of life for the residents in her community.

Ms. Booth spent many years in Chicago where she also made her presence known by fighting for justice, equality and opportunity for African Americans and poor people. She worked to help establish Bethune-Cookman College. In addition, she organized and founded Jobs Corps of America while serving as the Program Developer for National Church Women United.

Ms. Booth has received numerous awards and accolades. Including the Laurel Wreath Award presented annually to an individual that made significant contributions in the community, the Admiral Award, a high honor given to a Gulfport citizen, the Harriet Tubman Award, and the Frances Hooks Award given by the NAACP.

I am pleased to honor and recognize the work of Ms. Katie Booth. She is a shining example of doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with God. On behalf of the constituents of the Seventh Congressional District of Illinois I commend Katie Patterson Booth for her commitment to education, courage, perseverance, and can do spirit.

INTRODUCTION OF THE “UNI-
VERSAL SERVICE ANTIDEFICI-
ENCY SUSPENSION ACT”

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the “Universal Service Antideficiency Suspension Act,” legislation that is necessary to address an abrupt change in the accounting requirements for the E-rate program which has led to a suspension of funds previously committed to K–12 schools and libraries around the country.

Mr. Speaker, a few months ago, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), at the behest of the Bush Administration’s Office of Management and Budget, decided to require that certain provisions of the “Antideficiency Act” (as contained in various provisions of title 31 U.S.C.) apply to the E-rate program for K–12 schools and libraries.

The result of the FCC’s decision was that millions of dollars in committed funding to

schools and libraries around the country was held up, and millions more put in jeopardy of not being released in timely fashion under the E-rate program. The decision to apply the provisions of the Antideficiency Act to the E-rate program also implicates other similar universal service programs for low income consumers and rural consumers in high cost areas.

Moreover, the FCC’s decision will likely mean an unnecessary increase in consumer fees to all residential and business consumers starting January 1st to cover the new accounting requirements. This is why this bill needs to pass before Congress adjourns for the year.

The purpose of this legislation is to suspend the requirements of the Antideficiency Act for programs within the Universal Service Fund (USF), including the E-rate program, from the date of enactment through December 31, 2005. This will rectify for a period of time the problems caused by the FACC’s decision to alter the accounting rules which govern such programs. This legislation is similar to legislation introduced in the Senate yesterday by Senator OLYMPIA SNOWE and Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER.

The E-rate program has helped transform our country’s schools and libraries. Since it was adopted as part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, it has assisted bringing the future into America’s classrooms. While in 1996 only a small handful of classrooms and libraries were Internet capable, now approximately 95 percent of all public Internet access and over 90 percent of all K–12 classrooms have Internet access. It has become part of the educational experience for millions of schoolkids across the nation.

That’s the reason why I named the program the “E-rate,” for “education rate”—because I wanted to underscore the central educational mission for the program, especially for those poorer schools or more remote classrooms which might have been adversely affected by a “digital divide” in access to the skill set these kids would need in a new economy. The E-rate has been indispensable in assisting these schools and provides discounts between 20 and 90 percent to such educational entities depending upon their resources. I know from first-hand experience from my own State that this program has proven educational importance and value to millions of kids. In the last 5 years alone, over \$180 million in supportive funding has gone to Massachusetts schools and libraries.

When I was Chairman of the Telecommunications Subcommittee in 1993, while that panel was considering proposals to revamp our nation’s telecommunications laws, I wrote to the CEOs of the top 20 telephone and cable companies at that time to request that they provide free telecommunications links to our nation’s schools. Only 3 reported their willingness to do so. As a result, I fought to make sure that our telecommunications legislation would include a requirement that such telecommunications companies better serve our schools because I felt this was vital for our educational system going into the digital era.

During the Subcommittee mark-up on the bill on the 1st of March, 2004, I introduced and successfully added the E-rate provision as an amendment to the pending telecommunications legislation. That bill, H.R. 3636, later passed the House of Representatives in June, 2004, by a vote of 423–4. Unfortunately, the Senate failed to pass similar legislation in that

Congress and my legislative effort to establish the E-rate died on the Senate side prior to the 1994 elections. In the next Congress, with Republicans taking control of the House and Senate, similar efforts to pass a comprehensive Telecommunications Act were successful, and the E-rate provision was added to the Senate bill in the Senate Commerce Committee by Senator OLYMPIA SNOWE (R–ME), in an amendment that was also cosponsored by Senators ROCKEFELLER (D–WV), EXON (D–NE), KERRY (D–NE), and several others.

To administer this E-rate provision, as well as other universal service provisions from the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the Universal Service Administration Company (USAC) was established. This is the entity that received the directive from the FCC to implement new accounting rules to govern the E-rate program. USAC had previously utilized accounting rules that private sector entities use, but now USAC has been compelled to utilize government accounting rules which compel it to hold large cash reserves on its books by the end of the fiscal year to cover its commitments. Since this accounting decision came late in the fiscal year, USAC struggled to comply and was forced to freeze the E-rate program. And while USAC and the FCC believe that the program can begin again to act upon applications for E-rate funding, USAC has notified the Commission that the new accounting rules will compel it to raise the USF contribution level. This increase will likely be passed along to consumers.

While the last hours of this session are approaching, I believe that this legislation can still pass and must pass now, as a standalone bill such as this one I am offering, or as part of another package of bills—and I urge my colleagues to join in efforts to correct the problem that the Bush Administration’s OMB and the FCC have created for this invaluable program. This legislation is simply designed to rectify this situation until a long-term solution can be achieved.

SALUTE TO DEPARTING TEXAS
HOUSE MEMBERS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to seven of Texas’ finest public servants, seven men who have served our country, their native State, and their congressional districts with great honor and distinction over the years.

I am talking about Representatives CHRIS BELL, CIRO RODRIGUEZ, JIM TURNER, MARTIN FROST, CHARLES STENHOLM, NICK LAMPSON and MAX SANDLIN.

Congressman MARTIN FROST is one of Texas’ true giants, a man who has served this House and the people of the 24th District of Texas with great dignity for 26 years.

MARTIN is truly a classic. His hard work and dedication are legendary. MARTIN’s reputation as a hard-working, fair, and effective Representative is well known and well deserved. It was under his guidance that we saw the passage of the Amber Alert. This legislation was authored by Congressman FROST in response to the kidnapping and murder of a nine-year-

old girl from Arlington, Texas. His bill went on to create a "Two Strikes" law mandating life in prison after a second sex offense against a child.

Congressman FROST has a long record of leadership in Congress, bringing common sense and a practical approach to a variety of senior positions. As chairman of the House Democratic Caucus from 1999 until January 2003, and later as a Ranking Democratic Member of the House Rules Committee, MARTIN has crafted far-reaching and landmark legislation that will leave a lasting imprint on America's landscape and people.

Mr. Speaker, I also join with my fellow colleagues in recognizing the many accomplishments of CHARLIE STENHOLM who has served this body well for 25 years. His advocacy for this Nation's Agricultural community and fiscal policy has been tireless. Named "the spiritual godfather of fiscal austerity," STENHOLM has consistently fought for fiscal responsibility in the federal budget. A farmer, a third generation Texan, a father, a very proud grandfather—Congressman CHARLIE STENHOLM has effectively served the 17th Congressional district of Texas with distinction.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to pay tribute to my friend and colleague, CIRO RODRIGUEZ. He has demonstrated 7 years of exemplary service in this House and an extensive record of promoting the rights and benefits of the more than 50,000 veterans in the 28th District who answered the call to serve. Congressman RODRIGUEZ worked closely with local community leaders on a range of issues to promote the interests of the many counties, cities, towns and residents within his congressional district. I am also grateful to CIRO for his work in helping me to fight for civil rights for minorities in this country.

My other colleague, NICK LAMPSON took office to represent the 9th Congressional District in 1997. This former high school science teacher, served as the Ranking Member of the Science Committee's Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, and is a strong advocate for the Johnson Space Center and the entire NASA manned space program. He also served with me on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, where he fought for federal highway construction and repair funds, and the improvement of Houston and Southeast Texas airport facilities. His leadership has been invaluable to the committee. I am proud to call him my friend. I join with the House in expressing my sadness at his departure and my best wishes for success in all of his future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, MAX A. SANDLIN was elected to Congress in 1996. As a Member of the Ways and Means Committee MAX's main concern for the needs of older Americans was genuine and his dedication to improve rural education was and continues to be vitally important to all Americans. His constituents will miss his dedication, and so will the Members of this House.

My other colleague from Texas, CHRIS BELL represented our State on the Financial Services Committee. CHRIS has worked tirelessly on issues of importance to Texas residents. CHRIS is a kind and caring loving being and a good legislator. He has served Texas' Twenty Fifth District with distinction.

Another House Member I find it hard to say goodbye to is JIM TURNER. He represents the good people in the 2nd District of Texas, and

he is the Ranking Member of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security. Before, he was elected to Congress he served in the Texas Senate with me. In the Texas Senate, he was recognized as an outstanding legislator by a number of statewide organizations for his leadership in health care, criminal justice, education and on behalf of Texas children. He also served in the Texas House for 10 years. As the Ranking Member of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security and Terrorism Subcommittee, JIM worked hard to protect the safety and security of the American people in the war on terrorism. In addition, his work in Congress focused on promoting economic development and forestry in East Texas. He continues to work for senior citizens through his sponsorship of legislation to lower prescription drug costs.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I bid farewell to my friends and colleagues. However, I know in my heart that their dedication to the American people will not end here. I wish them the best for their future endeavors and with whatever challenges may lay ahead.

RECOGNIZING THE BOY SCOUTS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today voted with my colleagues in support of H. Res. 853, recognizing the Boy Scouts of America for the public service the organization performs for neighborhoods and communities across the United States.

Although I voted in support of this resolution, I remain concerned by the Boy Scouts continuing discrimination against gays and lesbians.

An organization that purports to teach children "principles which are conducive to good character, citizenship, and health", as indicated by this resolution, and which "teaches the core values of duty to God and country, personal honor, respect for the beliefs of others, volunteerism, and the value of service and doing a 'good turn' daily" does a disservice to children when it teaches them that it is okay to discriminate against someone based on their sexual orientation.

While we as a Congress can and should support the good deeds done by individual Boy Scouts and troops throughout the country, we should not overlook or tacitly condone the discriminatory policies and attitudes of the larger organization or its administrators.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF SGT. MORGAN WILLIAM STRADER

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service and sacrifice of Sergeant Morgan William Strader, formerly of Brownsburg, Indiana, who was tragically killed in the line of duty on November 12, 2004 while serving his country in Iraq. His father lives in my district.

Sgt. Strader loved his country. He recognized the impending danger of serving his country in Fallujah. Notwithstanding, he chose to serve. Our city, state and country have much pride for the young 23 year old.

Morgan Strader grew up in Brownsburg, Indiana where he attended school through the seventh grade. He moved to Crossville, Tennessee in the eighth grade where he was active on the high school track team and wrestling squad. Upon graduation he left to join the Marines.

Morgan served with the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment in Iraq from February to June of last year, and returned to Camp Pendleton, California, where he was assigned to military police duty pending his discharge in July. But Sgt Strader couldn't bear the thought of his unit returning to Iraq without him, says his father, Gary Strader, of Speedway Indiana. Instead, he asked that his enlistment be extended for another year, and returned with his unit to Iraq in July.

As his battalion prepared for the battle in Fallujah, Sgt Strader developed a skin condition that made him eligible to be sent home. But Morgan Strader "decided he wasn't coming home," his father recalls. "He said, 'Dad, the guys in my unit aren't experienced in this. I need to help them.'" He was killed in the battle of Fallujah on Friday, November 12.

Morgan Strader loved fishing with his grandpa. He had a strong faith in God and he loved serving in the Marine Corps. Sgt Strader's father describes him as "a Marine from the day he was born . . . His grandfather was in the Army during Korea. He latched onto that and loved it."

His high school English teacher Angela Bradley testifies to his keen sense of humor and strong moral values. "All Morgan ever talked about doing when he was in high school was to be a Marine and to be a minister."

Sgt Strader is survived by his grandparents Lonnie and Estelle Morgan of Hebbertsburg, Tennessee; his mother Linda Morgan of Dumfries, VA; his father Gary Strader of Speedway, Indiana; his uncle Jimmy and aunt Teresa Barnett of Westel, Tennessee; and his cousins Austin Barrett and Angel Morgan.

Morgan William Strader will be deeply missed. His strength and service to his country, friends, family, and God will be remembered always by all whom he inspired and loved.

The citizens of the Seventh District of Indiana extend our deepest gratitude for his sacrifice and dedication to public service.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 2986, INCREASING THE PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose this resolution.

The Republican leadership is trying to have it both ways. When President Bush took office in 2001, he inherited a budget that was in balance and actually had a surplus. There was no need to increase the debt limit, because