

POSTMARK PROMPT PAYMENT  
ACT OF 1995

**HON. JOHN M. McHUGH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 29, 1995*

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity to remedy one of the unfair burdens placed upon the conscientious citizens of this country who pay their bills on time but, who through no fault of their own, are slapped with interest charges because of the delays of others.

Over the years, many of us have been contacted by constituents who have incurred problems with payments they have mailed and were not delivered on time. It has even been suggested that some creditors go as far as to slow down the process as payment due dates approach so as to allow interest charges to accrue. This usually results in late fees and can even affect credit ratings.

Mr. Speaker, if this sounds familiar, it is because this problem is a frequently discussed topic on Talknet, a radio show hosted by Bruce Williams. The focus of Bruce Williams' show is on the life in the real world concerns of his listeners.

Today I am introducing the Postmark Prompt Payment Act of 1995 to correct this inequity by allowing the postmark on the envelope containing the payment to be proof of timely payment. The use of the postmark has precedence in contract law. For example, the Internal Revenue Service uses the postmark on envelopes as proof that taxpayers mailed income tax returns on or before the April 15 deadline, regardless of when the IRS received the payment. If the IRS uses the postmark as proof of timely payment, then why can't the banks or credit card companies?

This legislation would not apply to any other type of payment other than on a bill, invoice or statement of account due and would only apply to payments made through the mail and excludes metered mail. Furthermore, the envelope would have to be correctly addressed to the payee and have adequate postage affixed to it.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation has 20 original cosponsors. I believe everyone who values their good credit will benefit from this legislation. Let's show the American people our resolve to remedy the payment due problem.

FALCONS THREEPEAT

**HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 29, 1995*

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, on June 4, the Montgomery Soccer Inc. Falcons U-12 girls team won its third consecutive Maryland State Cup championship, defeating the Soccer Club of Baltimore Flames, 2-1. The win qualifies the Falcons to represent Maryland in the Eastern Regional Championship Tournament in Niagara Falls this weekend. The win was especially meaningful for the Falcon players and their parents and for coach Harry Martens and assistant coach Chrissie Gardner, as the game was dedicated to the memory of E. So Kim, father of goalie Chris Kim.

Forward Laura Hur recorded the first goal of the game, with an assist by Lane Fogarty, who had an outstanding day and was voted game MVP by tournament officials. The Falcons mid fielders and defenders, Beth Hendricks, Christie Bird, Audra Poulin, Carrie Smith, Amy Salomon, Lindsey Henderson, Caitlin Curtis, Kerry Fleisher, Alexis Byrd, Tara Quinn and Megan Corey held the Flames to just three shots and no goals during the first half. The Falcons' forwards, Fogarty, Hur, Jenny Potter and Kim Sperling, kept the pressure on the Flames. Forward Jeanie Bowers was injured, but hoped to be ready for the Eastern Regionals. The Falcons reached the finals of the State Cup by winning all four of their State Cup Round Robin Tournament matches, outscoring their opponents, 23-0.

Congratulations to the Falcons and best wishes for success in the Eastern Tournament.

SALUTING LT. CLAUDIA J. CAMP,  
USCG

**HON. JACK FIELDS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 29, 1995*

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Claudia J. Camp left her position as the Coast Guard's assistant liaison officer to the House of Representatives, and I wanted to take a moment to publicly thank her for the assistance she lent to my office and staff, and for the assistance she provided to this institution and all its members.

I worked with Claudia closely from 1993 to 1995, when I served as the ranking Republican member of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. During those years, she and her fellow Coast Guard liaison officers repeatedly went out of their way to be helpful to those of us on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. Their assistance and advice helped those of us responsible for overseeing the Coast Guard's operations to better understand the needs of the men and women in the Coast Guard as they worked to carry out their many diverse missions.

Claudia graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1982, after which she entered—and graduated from—the Coast Guard's training center in Cape May, NJ. She graduated, I might add, first in her class of 120 men and women, and as the recipient of the Female Leadership Award and the Marlinspike Seamanship Award.

Following her graduation, Claudia served as a boatswain's mate aboard the Coast Guard's tall ship USCGC *Eagle*. She participated in a bicentennial voyage from the United States to Australia and back. Following her time aboard the USCG *Eagle*, Claudia served as a petty officer at the Coast Guard Station Fort Point, in San Francisco. In her position as a coxswain on a 44-foot motor life boat, Claudia regularly participated in search and rescue missions in the San Francisco Bay area, which is so infamous for its treacherous currents.

Next, Claudia attended Officer Candidate School in Yorktown, VA, graduating in the top quarter of her class in December 1990. Following her graduation, Claudia was assigned

to the USCGC *Steadfast*, based in St. Petersburg, FL. Aboard the *Steadfast*, Claudia served as a deck watch officer responsible for conning and navigation. Later, she served as the 1st lieutenant and as a maritime law enforcement boarding officer. She continued her drug interdiction and maritime safety work as an executive officer on board the USCGC *Metompink*, based in Charleston, SC. In that post, she conducted numerous fisheries boardings and drug inspections.

It was from the *Metompink* that Claudia came to Capitol Hill. I know that Claudia loves the Coast Guard, and she's participated in many of the Coast Guard's diverse missions. While answering congressional inquiries; assisting in the preparation of congressional testimony; serving as a White House social aide; explaining the Coast Guard's mission and its needs to congressional staffers and Members of Congress; planning and participating in congressional delegation visits to various Coast Guard units; and escorting the Coast Guard commandant, the vice commandant and various admirals to appointments on Capitol Hill is not quite as exciting as rescuing a vessel in distress, or boarding a vessel suspected of hauling illegal drugs, Claudia handled her duties here on Capitol Hill in the same professional, courteous and knowledgeable manner that has characterized her service throughout her years in the Coast Guard.

Mr. Speaker, I have often expressed my admiration for the men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard—and the dedication to service and to excellence with which they approach their duties. Lt. Claudia J. Camp is one such Coast Guard officer, and I appreciate this opportunity to thank her for the assistance she has provided to us on Capitol Hill, and to wish her well in her new assignment as captain of the USCGC *Matagorda*, a 110-foot patrol boat in Miami. All of us owe her, and the Coast Guard, our admiration and thanks.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

IN RECOGNITION OF KATHLEEN  
HILL BECKNELL

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 29, 1995*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a living legend from Emory, TX—Kathleen Hill Becknell, who at the age of 88 remains the active editor and publisher of The Rains County Leader. Kathleen—"Kat" as she is known to her friends—has managed the weekly newspaper since 1963 and recently was honored during the Founders Day ceremony in Emory, which I had the privilege of attending. The Texas State Senate also recognized Kathleen's contributions to the county through a resolution introduced by State Senator David Cain, who also attended the ceremony.

The Rains County Leader is the oldest business in Rains County. It began publication as the *Argus/Record* in 1896, and in 1909 Kathleen's father, Tom Hill, became the editor and owner, a position he held until his death in 1937. His son, Earl Clyde Hill, took over operations until his death in 1960, at which time Earl Clyde Hill Jr. assumed the job. In 1963 Kathleen became the editor and publisher.