

ROBERTA DOERING—NEW PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is a privilege to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Roberta Doering of Agawam, MA, who today becomes president of the National School Boards Association [NSBA]. Roberta has served as a member of the Agawam School Committee for 25 years and has been active in both the State and national school board associations for many of those years. She was elected to the executive committee of the national organization in 1991 and now assumes the role of president.

Her unwavering commitment to the welfare of the Nation's youth is demonstrated in her work with the schools and in other areas of service as well. She served for over 20 years on the board of directors of the Metropolitan Springfield YMCA and was the first woman president of that organization. She has also served on the board of trustees of the Springfield Library and Museum Association, and on the board of trustees of the Baystate Medical Center.

Roberta Doering deserves great credit for her service to education. Like so many dedicated citizens who serve on thousands of local school committees and boards across the country, she entered the arena because of her interest in children. She recognized the participation by citizens at the local level is vital if we are to assure quality educational programs for children and youth.

As she became knowledgeable about the Agawam system, she saw the need to do more. She explored what other communities were doing in the State, and what lessons from their experience could be applied to improve the schools in her own community. As a natural extension of her ability and interests, she became active in national education issues. Her path to the presidency reflects what so many of us in Congress understand. An active partnership among local, State, and national goals is vital to achieve educational excellence.

Roberta is clearly making a difference, and I commend her for her commitment as she begins her service as president of the National School Boards Association. I share the pride of the people of Agawam and Massachusetts that she will be serving all the Nation's children, and I wish her success in this important new undertaking.

TRIBUTE TO UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the University of Tennessee Lady Volunteers basketball team for yet another outstanding NCAA tournament. After an impressive record 34-2, the Lady Vols advanced through the NCAA tournament to face

the undefeated University of Connecticut Huskies in the championship game yesterday.

The Lady Vols were on the verge of their fourth NCAA title in the closing minutes of the final game. With only 4 minutes left, the Huskies rallied back to defeat Tennessee by 6 points—70-64.

Mr. President, I want to commend these young women, as well as their head coach Pat Summitt and assistants Mickie Demoss, Holly Warlick, and Carolyn Peck for their hard work and dedication this year. They have made the University of Tennessee, the city of Knoxville, and the entire State of Tennessee proud.

The seniors who played their last college basketball game yesterday should look back on a job well done and a season Tennesseans won't easily forget. And those team members who will be on the court next year can look forward to building upon the strong foundation they have helped establish this year.

Again, I applaud the University of Tennessee Lady Volunteers for an outstanding season, and I look forward to many exciting seasons to come.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

MOTHER OF THEM ALL

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, a popular trend among the liberal elements of the news media today is their assertions that efforts to rid the current welfare system of waste and inefficiency are heartless and cruel. Aside from being untrue, such statements ignore the extraordinary things that are going on in America today. For example, the story of Mrs. Carol Porter, co-founder of Kid-Care, Inc., a nonprofit organization that feeds needy children in Houston, TX. I was reminded of Mrs. Porter and her family's efforts on behalf of Houston's hungry children when I read a March 20 People magazine article, headed "Mother of Them All."

Mr. President, I have met with the remarkable Carol Porter on several occasions, the first of which was in October 1993 when she visited Washington to receive an award for the very work detailed in the People magazine article. Senators and staff members would be impressed, as I am, if they could spend just a few brief minutes with this wonderful lady and her husband.

Why? Two reasons come to mind:

The first is her totally unselfish attitude which puts the needs of others before her own. It began when Carol Porter was driving through Houston during the Christmas season of 1989. By chance she happened upon a group of youngsters eating out of a fast-food dumpster. It was then that she and her husband decided to operate a feeding program from their three-bedroom home.

Today, Porter and the volunteers at Kid-Care deliver 500 free meals to Houston's poor neighborhoods. Plans are underway to move into a facility enabling them to produce 4,000 meals a day,

without 1 cent of support or subsidy from the U.S. Government.

My second thought: As the U.S. Senate prepares to debate various facets of the House-passed welfare-reform proposal, Senators should keep in mind Mrs. Porter's admonition when she was asked about Government assistance. Mrs. Porter said, "I'm against people saying, 'Let the Government do it.' I say it's time for Americans to feed Americans."

Mrs. Porter's message to all of us is both needed and refreshingly clear: The Government cannot do it all, nor can it afford to. But the needs of others can be met if each of us does our part.

Mr. President, I do hope my colleagues will have time to read the article describing an extraordinary lady doing an extraordinary work. I ask unanimous consent that the March 20, 1995, People magazine article, "Mother of Them All," be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From People magazine, Mar. 20, 1995]

MOTHER OF THEM ALL: CAROL PORTER FEEDS POOR KIDS IN HOUSTON—WITHOUT A CENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT

The white van squeals to a stop in the loose gravel of a dilapidated mobile-home park in Houston. The driver blasts the horn five times, and children come running from every direction. One little boy in a blue sweatshirt races back from the van to his mother, excitedly waving a lunch bag over his head. He knows the sack contains a plain turkey sandwich, an apple, a granola bar and some juice. But he couldn't be happier with a bag of Halloween candy.

"How excited would you be if you hadn't eaten since we were here yesterday?" asks Carol Porter, 50, co-founder of Kid-Care, Inc., a nonprofit group that helps feed some of Houston's neediest children. "It's better than ice cream to these kids. It's hope."

Porter and Kid-Care's corps of up to 25 volunteers deliver 500 free meals each day to children in one of Houston's poorest neighborhoods. Every morsel is prepared by volunteers in Porter's cramped North Houston home, where extra stoves and refrigerators are shoe-horned into what used to be the family's living room and den. Remarkably, Kid-Care accepts no public funding. "I'm against people saying, 'Let the government do it,'" says Porter. "I say it's time for Americans to feed Americans."

Carol Porter, a registered nurse, and her husband, Hurt, 52, a former radio announcer—they have a son, Hurt III, 20, and a daughter, Jamillah, 10—might serve as a poster couple for the Contract with America. They are black Republicans who are dead set against welfare in its current form. "I get a lot of flak from black folks," says Carol Porter. "But I'm basing my belief structure on what I know. And I know we need welfare reform with compassion."

"I think we should do more to encourage self-reliance, and that's what the Porters are doing," says Texas Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson.

Compassion is something the Porters learned from their parents. Carol, in fact, credits her late mother, Lula Doe, with planting the idea for Kid-Care. It was Lula who, in 1984, persuaded a local supermarket not to discard its blemished produce but to let her distribute it to the poor.