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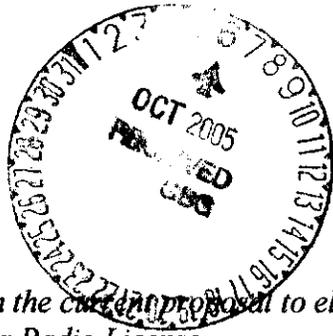
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Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554



Gentlemen:

Please consider this my comment on the current proposal to eliminate Morse Code from the testing for an Amateur Radio License.

My story begins back in July 1992 as a No-Code Technician (KD4RAH). I was a school teacher back then and became an amateur in order to motivate middle school students. I managed to get 28 students licensed before my retirement in 2000 and had several Tech Plus and one General Class operator out of the 28. During this span of time I also upgraded and worked on code in order to set a good example for the students. I saw positive changes in the students who took on the challenge of learning the code. It was a badge of honor to be earned.

This alone is reason enough to keep Morse Code in the licensing process, but I must share a fantastic story with you about a boy named Travis. The story begins one spring day in April 2004 at an elementary school where I was substitute teaching. The students were taking state tests, and I noticed Travis working on the math part of the test and he was getting the problems correct. I was amazed since we were in a special education area and Travis was a special education student. I learned from his teacher that Travis was reading at only the first grade level even though he was about to complete fourth grade. I began working with Travis 3 or 4 days a week before school ended and continued during the summer. I hit upon the idea of teaching Morse Code to Travis and he became proficient enough to pass a 5 wpm Morse Code test. I then would send him his spelling and vocabulary words and he would have to sound them out and look up in the dictionary any words he did not understand. Well to make a long story short, Travis improved his reading to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade level and tested out of special education at the end of 5<sup>th</sup> grade. He has since successfully completed the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. None of this would have been possible without Morse Code.

If all of this isn't reason enough to keep Morse Code, then no amount of reason will alter the FCC course.

Respectfully,

*Wendell H. Salmons*

Wendell Salmons

AE4PD