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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 27, 2003

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No. 03-50

AS GPO'S ONLINE SERVICES SURGE IN POPULARITY, HOUSTON BOOKSTORE TO CLOSE

With more than a quarter of a million titles available online and free of charge, and with public retrievals exceeding 32 million every month, **GPO Access** (www.gpoaccess.gov), a service of the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), has become one of the principal tools for providing public access to official U.S. Government information. As a result, the GPO is phasing out its 4 remaining brick-and-mortar bookstore operations outside Washington, DC, an action that will significantly reduce costs. On Thursday, August 28, 2003, the GPO's Houston bookstore, at Suite 120, 801 Travis Street, will close its doors to the public, the latest in a series of changes marking the GPO's transformation into a primarily electronic information disseminating agency.

"The GPO is charting a course to remake itself as an agency committed to excellence and the use of new technologies in meeting the information demands of the 21st century," said Public Printer of the United States Bruce R. James. "Our bookstores have provided a great service to the public, but the business of Government information production and delivery is changing, and we are not only changing with it, we will help lead that change."

In addition to providing online access to Government information via **GPO Access**, the GPO is actively transitioning its Federal Depository Library Program, serving 1,200 libraries nationwide, to a predominately electronic basis. GPO also offers an online bookstore at <http://bookstore.gpo.gov>. The online bookstore's sales catalog includes all titles available for sale and can be searched by publication title, subject, or keywords. All titles can be ordered securely online using Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover/Novus credit cards, and customers have a rapid delivery option via FedEx.

Customers can also order Government publications from the GPO toll free by telephone from 866-512-1800, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern time; by fax from 202-512-2250; or by mail from Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954.

Houston-area residents can also continue to locate and use U.S. Government books as well as online Government information free of charge in any of their local Federal depository libraries open to the public. In the Houston area, Federal depository collections are located at:

Houston Public Library
500 McKinney Avenue
(832) 393-1313

North Harris College
Library
2700 WW Thorne Drive
(281) 618-5707

Rice University
Fondren Library
6100 Main Street
(713) 348-5483

South Texas College of Law
Fred Parks Law Library
1303 San Jacinto Street
(713) 646-1712

Texas Southern University
Thurgood Marshall School of Law
3100 Cleburne Avenue
(713) 313-7125

University of Houston
M.D. Anderson Library
4800 Calhoun Boulevard
(713) 743-1050

University of Houston
O'Quinn Law Library
4800 Calhoun Boulevard
(713) 743-2300

University of Houston, Clear Lake
Alfred R. Neumann Library
2700 Bay Area Boulevard
(281) 283-3910

Since June 2001, GPO has closed bookstores in San Francisco, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, Birmingham, Cleveland, Columbus, Dallas, Seattle, Portland OR, Kansas City, Milwaukee, Detroit, Pueblo CO, Denver, Los Angeles and New York, as well as one of its three stores in the Washington, DC, area.

Headquartered in Washington, DC, the GPO has approximately 3,000 employees in multiple locations nationwide. It is responsible for the production and distribution of information products and services for all three branches of the Federal Government. In addition to its own production facilities, the GPO deals with thousands of private sector vendors throughout the country to produce print and other information products for the Federal Government ranging from Supreme Court decisions to IRS tax forms and crop reports for the Department of Agriculture. The GPO also distributes Government publications to the public via a sales program and through a nationwide network of more than 1,200 Federal depository libraries. GPO's Web site, **GPO Access**, provides online public access to more than 250,000 Federal Government titles.

For more information about the GPO, go to the agency's Web site at **www.gpo.gov**.

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