

black lung; the miner was receiving black lung benefits when he died; or medical evidence offered by the miner before he died satisfies new eligibility standards. Widows who are receiving benefits and who remarry would not be disqualified from continuing to receive the benefits, and a widow would be entitled to receive benefits without regard to the length of time she was married to the miner.

V. Offsets: The practice of offsetting a miner's Social Security benefits by the amount of black lung benefits would be discontinued.

#### THE REINTRODUCTION OF THE FAIRNESS IN POLITICAL ADVERTISING ACT

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 7, 1997*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, in this past election season, spending levels for Federal elections shattered all previous records, for an estimated total of \$1.6 billion. Given the vast sums of money required to run for office, wealthy individuals have a significant advantage over ordinary citizen candidates. That is hardly representative government. The cost of running for political office in America has simply become too high, and I am determined that we find a better way.

On election night, I vowed to redouble my efforts to clean up our out-of-control campaign finance system. Today I am reintroducing the Fairness in Political Advertising Act, which would both reduce the cost of elections and level the playing field by requiring broadcast stations to make free political advertising time available to candidates, as a condition of those stations renewing their licenses. And because so many voters have expressed dismay over negative advertising, my bill would also require that the programming consist of unedited segments in which the candidate speaks directly into the camera. In this way, candidates would be directly accountable for any statements made.

My first responsibility in this Congress is to see that the people of New York's 28th Congressional District, as well as our Nation, experience fair and clean campaigns in the years to come. The Fairness in Political Advertising Act would go a long way toward reducing the influence of money on our elections. I urge Congress to enact it now.

#### A BEACON-OF-HOPE FOR ALL AMERICANS: LORRELLE HENRY

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 7, 1997*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, with the 1996 election behind us, this Nation has completed another cycle of the ongoing democratic process which makes America great. The electoral process and the public officials selected through this process are invaluable assets in our quest to promote the general welfare and to guarantee the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is important, however, Mr. Speaker, that we also give due recognition

to the equally valuable contribution of non-elected leaders throughout our Nation. The fabric of our society is generally enhanced and enriched by the hard work done year after year by ordinary volunteer citizens. Especially in our inner-city communities which suffer from long public policy neglect, local grassroots leaders provide invaluable services. These are men and women who engage in activities which generate hope. I salute all such heroes and heroines ad BEACONS-OF-HOPE.

Lorrelle Henry is one of these BEACONS-OF-HOPE residing in the central Brooklyn community of New York City and New York State. Ms. Henry served as the director of libraries for the New York City school system until her retirement. She now serves as an adjunct professor at the Borough of Manhattan Community College.

Although retired from the school system, Ms. Henry continues to work as an advocate for children. Ms. Henry serves as president of the Central Brooklyn Martin Luther King Commission; vice president of the New York City Martin Luther King Commission; treasurer of the Brooklyn Women's Political Caucus; member of ALA Caldecott Committee, which selects outstanding children's books; member of the Coretta Scott King Award Jury, which selects outstanding children's books by black authors; member of the board of directors of the Great Day Chorale; member of the Lincoln Place Block Association; and member of the Award of the Americas Committee, which selects outstanding children's books portraying Latin American and Caribbean life. Moreover, she is a recipient of numerous awards including the School Library Service Award and the New York State Martin Luther King, Jr. President's Award.

Lorrelle Henry is the oldest of two children and grew up in Harlem during the exciting times of Langston Hughes, Adam Clayton Powell, and others. Lorrelle's parents always emphasized the necessity for donating time and energy to neighbors and community. In addition, her parents encouraged their children to be political activists.

Lorrelle Henry is a native New Yorker who attended the city's public schools. She later graduated from Brooklyn College and obtained a master's in library science from St. John's University.

Ms. Henry is the mother of three children, Michelle, Gairre, and Scott. And she is the proud grandmother of Kahlil, Shaniqua, Naren, and Jordan.

Lorrelle Henry is a BEACON-OF-HOPE for all of central Brooklyn and for all Americans.

#### COMPUTER MAINTENANCE COMPETITION ASSURANCE ACT OF 1997

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 7, 1997*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to ensure that a computer owner may authorize the activation of their computer by a third party for the limited purpose of servicing computer hardware components. This is the same language that I worked with former Chairman Carlos Moorhead to include in H.R. 1861, section 7, "Limitations on Exclusive Rights; Computer Programs," during the 104th Congress. Under suspension of the rules, H.R. 1861 was passed by voice vote.

The specific problem is when a computer is activated, the software is copied into the Random Access Memory [RAM]. This copy is protected under section 117 of the Copyright Act, as interpreted by the Fourth and Ninth Circuits Court of Appeals. This technical correction is extremely important to Independent Service Organizations [ISO's] who, without this legislation, are prohibited from turning on a customer's computer. A wave of litigation has plagued the computer repair market. The detrimental effect is that ISO's are prevented from reading the diagnostics software and subsequently cannot service the computer's hardware. The financial reality is that the multibillion dollar nationwide ISO industry is at risk.

My bill provides language that authorizes third parties to make such a copy of the limited use of servicing computer hardware components. My bill does nothing to threaten the integrity of the Copyright Act and maintains all other protections under the act.

The intent of the Copyright Act is to protect and encourage a free marketplace of ideas. However, in this instance, it hurts the free market by preventing ISO's from servicing computers. Furthermore, it limits the consumer's choice of who can service their computer and how competitive a fee can be charged.

#### BANKRUPTCY LAW TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 1997

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 7, 1997*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Bankruptcy Law Technical Corrections Act of 1997. This legislation provides a number of much-needed technical corrections and updates to our bankruptcy laws.

Many of the changes identified in the bill are designed to remedy drafting errors in the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1994, while others relate to provisions in the Bankruptcy Code which pre-date the 1994 changes. The legislation is based in part on a series of changes brought to Congress' attention by the non-partisan National Bankruptcy Conference last Congress, many of which were incorporated into S. 1559, the Bankruptcy Technical Corrections Act of 1996.

Among other things, the bill I am introducing today updates a number of definitions, clarifies that debtors' attorneys may be compensated out of the debtor's estate, clarifies the types of professional services which are eligible for administrative expense treatment, and provides that the 1994 amendments to section 525(c) apply only to bar discrimination concerning students loans and grants because of prior bankruptcies.

The bill also specifies that in 1994, when Congress overruled the *Deprizio* line of cases, we intended the new law to apply to transfers of liens in property. In addition, the bill modifies section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code to, among other things, make it clear that subsection (b)(2)(D), providing an exception to the obligations which must be cured in order for

the trustee to assume a lease, covers penalty rates as well as penalty provisions, thereby overruling *In re Claremont Acquisition Corp.*, 186 B.R. 977, 990 (C.D. Cal. 1995).

The bill also clarifies and updates a number of matters relating to trustees. Among other things, the legislation clarifies the procedure for electing private trustees in chapter 11 cases, specifies that trustees may operate in a full range of professional capacities and retain brokers who work under a range of compensation arrangements, and eliminates the outdated trustee residency requirement in chapter 7 cases.

Finally, the bill eliminates the construction of the Bankruptcy Code which prevented non-individuals from bringing actions for violations of the automatic stay, and conforms the grace period for filing security interests under section 547 to 20 days—consistent with other provisions in the Bankruptcy Code.

With a record million plus bankruptcy filings in 1996, it is essential that we act to smooth the operation of our insolvency laws. These technical changes will benefit both debtors and creditors, and it's my hope that Congress can quickly take up and pass this bill during the 105th Congress.

IN HONOR OF MARTIN LUTHER  
KING, JR.

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN  
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 7, 1997*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, later this month Americans will commemorate the birthday of an outstanding patriot and great moral leader, the late Rev. Dr. Martin King, Jr.

Rev. King is so vital in the memory of those of us who are old enough to remember him that it is hard to imagine that, had he not been so tragically murdered, he would be celebrating his 68th birthday this month. Dr. King was such a vibrant personality and so reflective of his times one can only wonder what his role would be today had he not been taken from us at such a young age.

Today, the entire Nation is in debate regarding Proposition 209 in California, with both sides claiming that theirs is the path to true racial justice. A popular current motion picture depicts the 30 year struggle to bring the assassin of Medgar Evers at long last to justice. Our talk shows and pundits have devoted a great deal of time debating the policy of the Oakland, CA, school system in treating ebonics as a separate language. Americans everywhere have been appalled throughout the past year regarding the burning by arsonists of predominantly Afro-American churches throughout the Nation but especially in the South. A few weeks ago, Dr. King's assassin lay near death in a Tennessee hospital, with people all around the world hoping that, on his deathbed, he would finally reveal the truth of that tragic day in 1968, and if he indeed acted alone.

One can only speculate on what Dr. King's comments would have been in these and other controversies.

We do know, however, that Dr. King would have reminded us in each and every one of these instances of the message he devoted his life to deliver, and which cost him his life.

Rev. King's message was that "hate destroys the hater more than the hated."

We have a long way to go before prejudice and intolerance are eradicated. It behooves us all on the birthday of this great American, to recall his vital and timeless message.

Martin Luther King's birthday is an appropriate time for all Americans to remember that we must continue to move forward, until the day when all of us are afforded full opportunity, and that none of us have to be concerned that race, color, creed, or ethnic heritage are a hindrance to any individual, or to our nation as a whole.

Dr. King kept urging his fellow Americans to free themselves from the shackles of hatred. Let us resolve, in these last few years of the 20th century, to recommit ourselves to the goals with which Martin Luther King inspired us all over a quarter century ago.

#### A PROPOSAL TO BRING OUR SCHOOLS INTO THE 21st CENTURY

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM  
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 7, 1997*

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss our education system and to propose legislation that I am developing to help accelerate our society's private investment in our young people.

The key to the continued success and survival of America and of individual Americans is the quality of our children's education. As we approach the 21st Century, our education system and our young people alike face tremendous challenges.

We agree that today's classrooms are supported by dedicated teachers, involved families, and bright young children. But many of our Nation's classrooms lack the important technological resources that they need to train both teachers and students in the ways of the future. Most jobs today, and a vast majority of jobs in the future, demand familiarity and skill with high technology. Technological literacy has long been a must for our scientists and engineers. But technological literacy is increasingly a prerequisite for factory production workers, law enforcement personnel, office staffs and thousands of other careers less frequently associated with technology and the present revolution in telecommunications.

How is our system of education meeting this tremendous change? Despite good intentions, it is not doing well enough. Less than one in eight of our classrooms has a phone jack. Fewer than 1 in 50 classrooms are connected to the Internet, one of the fastest-growing and most dynamic information tools of our time. Fortunately, Congress last year enacted comprehensive telecommunications reform legislation which will heavily discount the rates schools will pay for interactive connectivity.

But the challenge extends beyond needs for technological linkups and hardware. Too many of our teachers lack the hardware, software, or training to teach young people about technology, or to harness technological advancements to improve education as it has transformed commerce and communications.

Without early training in computer programming or digital technology, many of our future leaders will start off in life at a severe disadvantage.

Many private interests already make significant investments in education technology. In my San Diego County congressional district, major employers like Sony, Pacific Bell and Qualcomm invest significant time and resources into adopting local public schools. My annual High Tech Fair introduces thousands of high school students to our community's leading high-tech employers and the work they are doing for the future. An organization called the San Diego Science Alliance gathers together dozens of companies and university research organizations to expand student and teacher interest in technology, science, and research. The Detwiler Foundation, located in La Jolla, CA, has expanded nationally its innovative plan to accept donations of computers, refurbish them to the state-of-the-art, and install them in classrooms. And several major education software firms, including Jostens and the Lightspan Partnership, are working on bringing technology into classrooms from headquarters in San Diego County.

As a father, as a former teacher, coach and top gun instructor, and as the past chairman of the House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Youth and Families, I am more convinced now than ever before that the need is so great that more must be done to bring the education of our young people into the 21st Century. Congress is now investing about \$1 billion annually into education technology, but this is a drop in the bucket. Years of Government overspending, deficits and debt make a more massive direct Federal investment program unfeasible and unlikely. We should instead work to direct the innovation and energy of private enterprise to the education of our young people.

This is why I am developing legislation to expand tax incentives for American businesses to invest privately and directly in their local classrooms. Today, companies can deduct from taxable income the depreciated value of products which are donated to charitable tax-exempt organizations. Under my plan, companies such as telephone companies, computer networking firms, software companies, and perhaps even professionals in high-tech training would be offered an expanded tax incentive to donate equipment or services to local schools.

This type of tax incentive would expand private investment in the technological literacy of America's young people. It would accelerate the equipping of our young people for the high-tech environment that exists today, and tomorrow as well.

Such legislation raises important questions. Should the expanded tax credit be available for donations to private schools and homeschooling organizations, in addition to public schools? How can the credit be limited only to those donations that are part of a school's own education technology plan. It should not be an incentive for companies to dump obsolete equipment or software on schools that do not want it. What constitutes appropriate products and services that would be eligible for the expanded credit, and how should they be valued?

These issues should not stop us from taking action. The job of bringing the education of our children into the 21st Century is a tremendous task. But while the task is great, I remind my colleagues that the opportunity for this proposal to benefit our country and our children is greater still.