

over-the-air broadcast channels, but also subscribe to cable, or own a home satellite receiver. With telephone company entry into the video marketplace, American consumers will have additional options from which to choose their programming. Despite all these advances in technology broadcasting should remain a vital component in the information age. Broadcast television occupies a unique position in the world of telecommunications. Broadcasting is not only the only technology available to 100 percent of American households, the content it provides is free. The only cost is for a receiver.

The bill does the following: First, states that the FCC shall not prescribe or enforce rules limiting crossownership of mediums of mass communications; second, increases the aggregate national audience reach from 25 to 35 percent upon enactment. One year later allows the cap to increase to 50 percent. The bill contains a built-in safeguard; within 2 years of enactment of the bill, the FCC is to commission a study to ensure competition in the marketplace; third, the bill allows certain station ownership combinations in a market: UHF/UHF; UHF/VHF and if the Commission determines that it will not harm competition and will not harm the preservation of a diversity of voices in the local market, VHF/VHF combinations; fourth, the bill also repeals all radio ownership restrictions.

I might add that this bill will be presented as an amendment to the communications act of 1995, which has the full support of Chairman BLILEY and Chairman FIELDS and as previously mentioned, it is bipartisan.

CONGRATULATING CHERYL
STEVENS, HONOR ROLL TEACHER

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 1995

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Cheryl D. Stevens, of Roberts Elementary School in Houston, TX. Ms. Stevens has been named by the Association of Science-Technology Centers to its 1995 Honor Roll of Teachers.

The Children's Museum of Houston, which nominated Ms. Stevens for the honor roll, recognized her remarkable dedication to the world of science and teaching. Ms. Stevens excels in both at Roberts Elementary, where she teaches science to kindergarten through fifth graders. She and her students are participants in Science-by-Mail, a pen pal program designed to match fourth through ninth graders with scientists around the country. Over 20,000 kids and 20,000 teachers are involved in Science-by-Mail. In addition to Science-by-Mail's regular pen pal program, Ms. Stevens and her classes have participated in a special Science-by-Mail teleconference, Teltrain XI, a video town meeting televised around the country for scientists and students.

Ms. Stevens is also active in the Annual Meet Your Scientist Day, which will take place this year on Saturday, May 6, 1995. Over 300 school children will meet with scientists to learn more about the world of science and technology. This year, Ms. Stevens will be honored for her recognition as one of ASTC's honor roll teachers for 1995.

Ms. Stevens is a member of the Magic School Bus Advisory Committee, sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the Children's Museum of Houston. She also works actively on the Science and Technology Committee and the Building Blocks for a Healthy Classroom Conference at the museum.

Only 43 teachers were named to the 10th annual ASTC's honor roll. Each teacher has gone beyond the normal requirements of their school curriculum by using the resources of their local science center to inspire, educate, and stimulate students' interest in science and technology. I salute Ms. Stevens on her accomplishments and especially for her commitment to teaching. She is an outstanding role model for Houston's teachers and students. Her placement on ASTC's Honor Roll of Teachers is well-deserved.

OPENING OF THE SPECIAL EXHIBIT
"DEFENDING RELIGIOUS LIBERTY"

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 1995

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to speak out for religious freedom.

The worldwide religion known as the Baha'i Faith is one of the most peace-loving groups in the world—and yet one of the most consistently persecuted.

The Baha'i Faith began in Persia in the 1840's, and spread rapidly through the Middle East, where Islam has historically been dominant. Though the Baha'i Faith now has adherents all around the world, including all 50 States of the United States, its historic links to the Mideast have helped bring it repeatedly into conflict with Islam.

Islam, like most other world religions, teaches certain truths that its adherents take to be absolute. Baha'is take a different approach, seeing all religions as successive revelations, each with a partial truth.

These questions are faced, one way or another, by all men and women of conscience. And it is inevitable that many of us will come out differently on these questions. In decent societies—in free societies—we respect each other's freedom of conscience. If we seek to persuade one another, we do it in friendship, and with respect.

But in some parts of the world, force is still used to settle religious issues. In Iran, with its extremist regime, the fact that the Baha'is question Islam's claim to represent God's full and final revelation makes them a target of unceasing persecution. The fact that the Baha'i Faith arose on territory in which Islam has been dominant for some 1,400 years, and among ethnic groups with a long Islamic heritage, seems to be an unbearable irritant to the Iranian regime. They view the Baha'is as worse than mere adherents of another religion—which, in their eyes, is quite bad enough. They view them as something worse: as heretics, as conscious destroyers of Islam.

For those of us who have met Baha'i believers—even those of us who come from a religious perspective quite different from theirs—the notion that they would be destroyers of anything is simply absurd.

Yet Baha'is in Iran have no legal rights, despite being the largest religious minority in that country. More than 200 Iranian Baha'is, including women and teenage girls, have been executed for their faith since 1979. Thousands have faced torture and imprisonment for refusing to convert to Islam. Tens of thousands have lost their jobs, and been forced to repay past salaries or pensions. All Baha'i students were expelled from Iranian universities by 1982.

President Clinton has placed Iran's treatment of its Baha'i minority on a par with ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia. Given the professed intention of the Iranian regime to block the progress and development of the Baha'i Faith, I would have to agree with the President on this.

I salute my colleagues for sponsoring this exhibition on the persecution of the Baha'i Faith community. I hope it will inspire all who see it to stand up for religious freedom.

Thank you very much.

A SALUTE TO SMALL BUSINESS
WEEK

HON. KWESI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 1995

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues, as well as the American public, that the week beginning April 30 is National Small Business Week, and I would like to take this opportunity to discuss small and minority-owned businesses and the role they play in our economy.

Not all Americans realize how important small businesses are to our national economy. Although the definition of a small business is sometimes varied, the fact of the matter is that firms with less than 100 employees account for more than 98 percent of the Nation's enterprises. Furthermore, between September 1991 and September 1992, jobs in small business dominated industries increased by 177,700 which helped to offset the 400,000 job decrease in industries dominated by large businesses.

While nonminority men still own the lion's share of small businesses and still represent the largest number of sales, minority- and women-owned businesses are increasing in size and number. Minority-owned businesses have increased from approximately 380,000 in 1969 to 1.5 million today. Despite this increase, however, minorities are still not fairly represented in small business ownership; while minorities comprise nearly 20 percent of the total U.S. population, they own less than 9 percent of American businesses.

In addition to playing an important role in the national economy, minority- and women-owned businesses also tend to play important roles in their communities. In many poor, urban communities, minority-owned businesses are often the only commercial establishments available. Furthermore, as was demonstrated in a recent Department of labor study, minority- and women-owned businesses are more likely to hire minorities and women than are businesses owned by nonminority men. In short, minority- and women-owned

businesses fill voids in their communities and in the labor market that otherwise may be left empty.

Despite the importance of small and minority-owned businesses, they nevertheless face numerous problems. The primary obstacle facing most small businesses, regardless of their ownership, is the lack of capital. Despite numerous creative programs at the Federal, State, and local levels, the fact remains that capital is hard to come by.

This is especially true of minority- and women-owned businesses. In addition to the fact that minorities and women often lack the business connections and record of experience that has been so useful to many nonminority men in establishing their businesses, discrimination unfortunately also remains a problem. Further, many banks or lending institutions are hesitant to lend capital to minorities or women, especially if their business is going to be based in a poor, inner-city neighborhood.

As a member of the Small Business Committee as well as the Banking and Financial Service Committee, I am committed to do what I can to see that small and minority-owned businesses are provided with the tools necessary to succeed. Small and specifically, minority-owned businesses are too important to our national economy and our communities to allow them to falter. As we salute Small Business Week, I hope we will move forward with an agenda that supports the growth and development of small and minority-owned businesses.

TRIBUTE TO GERALD E. EDWARDS
OF DELTA, OH

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 1995

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Gerald E. Edwards of Delta, OH, in my district. Mr. Edwards is to be honored by his community as the 1995 Delta Citizen of the Year. The award is indeed a fitting one, as he embodies all of the best attributes of the term "good citizen."

In addition to the insurance agency that he manages and the six properties he owns and maintains, Mr. Edwards has always found the time to engage in a multitude of volunteer activities. Always one to take the lead, he is an excellent example of one who takes his civic responsibilities seriously.

Committed to his community, Mr. Edwards has served as a long-time volunteer on the Delta fire/rescue squad, including his service as a past chief of the rescue squad. He is a past president of the Delta Chamber of Commerce and past president and past district governor of the Delta Rotary Club. Equally committed to his faith, he has served as an elder of the Delta Church of Christ. Currently, Mr. Edwards serves as the president of the Delta Family FOCUS [Friends of the Community United in Service] and as president of the Delta Library Board.

Perhaps most telling of his giving nature and commitment to his community is Mr. Edwards' Thanksgiving tradition of inviting members of his community who are without a traditional Thanksgiving meal to join him and his

family for theirs. This past Thanksgiving, the Edwards family baked 30 pies, peeled 50 pounds of potatoes, cooked 5 turkeys, and picked enough green beans and served enough homemade applesauce, rolls, and coffee to feed nearly 200 people in Delta, OH, who may not have been able to experience the American tradition of Thanksgiving. He is truly an inspiration to those who know him.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in honoring a man whose service and responsibility to his community should serve as a reminder to us all of the limitless ability of one man or woman to improve and contribute to the lives in their community. Gerald Edwards of Delta, OH, represents in many ways the true meaning of citizenship. His contributions to the village of Delta have earned him a most deserved designation as its Citizen of the Year for 1995. I am honored to have this opportunity to recognize his selflessness and to represent him in the Congress of the United States.

LOYALTY DAY IS A CELEBRATION
OF AMERICA

HON. MARSHALL "MARK" SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 1995

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, Loyalty Day is a time for all Americans to challenge ourselves to capture the spirit of America, and to bring it to life in everything that we do. It is observed every May 1 as a celebration of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Loyalty Day was established by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. I am proud to pay tribute to the VFW and its members, both for the sacrifices that they have made in the service of their country, and for their dedication to the principles that made this country great. The State commander for the department of South Carolina, Keith Harper, has spent many years promoting American values. He is one of the finest Americans that I know, and I hope that every Member of this House will take the time to read his comments on Loyalty Day, and to join me in saluting the VFW for establishing this holiday.

LOYALTY DAY 1995

Of all the holidays we celebrate in this country, none gets less attention than Loyalty Day. Even Labor Day is better known. So that's why I'm happy to be here today, to share with you some thoughts on Loyalty Day and what this day is all about.

Unlike the 4th of July, it does not celebrate a specific date in our history. Unlike Veterans Day, it does not recognize a certain group of individuals. Unlike President's Day, it does not honor some of our former Presidents. Unlike Memorial Day, it does not ask us to pause and remember those who did so much for our country.

What it does is this: Loyalty Day is a celebration of America. It's a celebration of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It's a celebration of what you are and what you want to be.

In a way, Loyalty Day is a challenge. It challenges each and every one of us to capture the spirit of America and bring it to life in everything we do. Loyalty Day is a trip into the future.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars take great pride in this holiday. After all, we started it.

During the dark days of the 1920's, when America was wracked by the worst depression anyone had ever seen, many Americans began to question our Government, our economy, our politics, and our very way of life.

And where there were people with questions, there were Communists running around with their own kind of answers. They say in our hard times, good times for them to overthrow our Government.

They were everywhere. They held meetings, they marched in parades, they catered to the out-of-work and the hungry, and they even tried to get American children to join their Communist youth organizations, right here in America.

The VFW fought back, our members had given too much, suffered too much, and sacrificed too much in WWI to let a bunch of Communists take America away from us.

We held our own meetings, we helped our own out-of-work and hungry, and we began to teach the children of this country what America was all about.

And on May Day we held our own parades. That was a day the Communists had claimed as their own, the one on which they celebrated their revolution. Well, we set things straight. We made it an American holiday. And when the Communists paraded down one street, we paraded up the next.

On May 1st, 1930, we held a parade in New York City that had 10,000 VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members in it. Over 100,000 people turned out to see it.

And when the parade reached Union Square, there was a patriotic rally, with speeches and dozens of bands playing the Star Spangled Banner.

Though wracked by depression, America at heart was alive and well, and in the tough times that followed, each celebration of Loyalty Day gave new hope that America would survive. And as our VFW parades grew larger, the Communists' parades grew smaller and smaller. Today they are completely gone.

In 1955, we asked Congress to proclaim Loyalty Day a national holiday, and one of our members who was a Senator from Pennsylvania introduced that legislation in Congress.

In signing the legislation, President Eisenhower said, "The prime requisite for retaining our freedom is unswerving devotion to the liberties embodied in our Constitution."

You who came here today are the kind of people he was talking about. The kind of people who know what America stands for and who take the time and make the effort to support what America stands for.

We meet here for one day to celebrate what we enjoy everyday, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Those are the ideals on which America was founded and for which millions of Americans have fought to protect and preserve.

We carry on that fight today. We fought communism on the streets of America and on battlefields all over the world. Along the way, we fought the Axis powers in Europe, and the Japanese in the Pacific.

We paid a high price for the liberty and freedom we enjoy today. Yet, even as we meet here as free people in a strong and powerful nation, the question hangs over us; who will be our enemy tomorrow?

Will they attack us on main street or from some foreign location? No one knows. But one thing is certain, you and I will be the first line of defense. Patriotism is the best weapon you can have in any battle, and patriotism is based on knowing what your country stands for, and believing in what it stands for.

Abraham Lincoln described our American government as being a government of the