the trustee to assume a lease, covers penalty rates as well as penalty provisions, thereby overruling *In re Claremeont 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of professional capacities and retain brokers who work under a range of compensation arrangements, and eliminates the outdated trustee residency requirement in chapter 7 cases.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.

Mr. Speaker, as I continue to develop this important legislation, I encourage my colleagues to discuss this important matter with families, teachers, school staffs, employers and universities in their own congressional districts. Recommendations and suggestions are most welcome, and should be directed to my Washington office.

SMALL COMMUNITIES CDBG MULTIPURPOSE FACILITIES ACT

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce legislation that will enable small towns across our Nation to fully benefit from the community development block grant program available through the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

My bill would amend the community development block grant regulations to allow municipal employees in towns of 5,000 or less population to use not more than 25 percent of the square footage in facilities purchased, constructed or renovated with CDBG funds.

I am introducing this legislation after learning of a problem in the Village of Grady, a small community in eastern New Mexico. Strapped for adequate office space, municipal employees sought and received what they thought was appropriate Government approval to move into a small space in a facility built with CDBG funds. But lo and behold, once the move took place, a further examination of Government regulations revealed that the village is prohibited by law from occupying any space in a building built with CDBG funds. The financially strapped village is now stuck with a $13,500 expense to remain in the building.

A small town has a severely limited tax base. It cannot afford to construct separate buildings for every essential service offered its residents. It cannot afford to purchase duplicate office equipment and supplies nor to pay insurance, utilities, and maintenance expenses on several buildings.

Citizens who are hired for municipal jobs in small communities, such as clerks, policemen, firemen, and emergency medical service employees, must often share job responsibilities. Not only is it not economically feasible, but it is very difficult for these employees to work form separate buildings in terms of job communication and coordination.

Small towns must provide vital services to their residents. To do so efficiently, municipal employees must be able to conduct business in decent, affordable, and convenient facilities. We must give our small communities special consideration and enable them to make the best use of limited funding resources. A multipurpose use of facilities purchased, built or renovated with community development block grants is the only answer.

IN HONOR OF THE FAIRPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT MARCHING BAND

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Fairport Fire Department Marching Band, which celebrated its 25th anniversary on January 4, 1997.

Over the past 25 years, this group of talented musicians has spread its reputation across New York State. The band regularly participates in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Syracuse, NY, and the ''Christmas In July'' Parade in Clayton, NY. It has received numerous prizes and honors, including winning the State championship 5 of the past 7 years. The band also has had the honor of displaying its musical talent to Vice President AL GORE.

In addition to parading and competing, the players perform numerous concerts throughout the Rochester area. The Rochester community benefits immeasurably from the contributions of this dedicated and talented group of people.

I extend my congratulations to them as they celebrate 25 years of making music.

BEACON-OF-HOPE FOR ALL AMERICANS: EVY PAPILLON

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 for 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 nonelected 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 service. These are men and women who engage in activities which generate hope. I salute all such heroes and heroines as BEACONS-OF-HOPE.

Evy Papillon is one of these BEACONS-OF-HOPE residing in the Central Brooklyn community of New York City and New York State. Throughout the years, Evy Papillon has worked diligently in positions that she found to be beneficial to the community. She is directly responsible for community enhancement efforts that impact the social-human services and health care. Every Saturday, Ms. Papillon devotes her time toward feeding the homeless at her own expense. A member of Foyer Chretien since 1993, she assists Haitians and Haitian-Americans with problems regarding illiteracy and financial challenges. She also helps individuals obtain visas, gain residency, and encourages them to fulfill civic responsibilities.

Recognizing the importance of early detection of breast cancer, Evy Papillon brought the annual Community Health Fair to her church, St. Catherine's of Genoa in Brooklyn. Her socially conscious political work has brought her talents to a number of important organizations. She is one of the founding members of two organizations: Caribbean Women's Health Association and Community Action Project [CAP]. Ms. Papillon's community focus continues in her work with the Community Affairs Department of the New York City Police 67th Precinct. She is also an enthusiastic member of 100 Women for Major Owens; second vice president of the Martin Luther King Commission; member and past membership chair of the Brooklyn Women's Political Caucus, and a liaison for the Democratic Party for Haitian-American Democrats in Brooklyn.

Among the many awards and commendations received by Evy Papillon are: Kingsboro Psychiatric Center Family Care Program Award; New York City State Employees Federated Appeal Recognition Award; Director's Award, Kingsboro Psychiatric Center; and the Central Brooklyn Martin Luther King Commission Award.

Evy Papillon emigrated to the United States from Jeremie, Haiti in 1959. She is a graduate of St. Joseph's College LaChine at the University of Montreal where she received a bachelor of arts degree in nursing and attended St. Joseph's College in New York where she received a bachelor of arts in 1983, and a master of arts in 1986 in health administration.

Evy Papillon is a BEACONS-OF-HOPE for Central Brooklyn and for all Americans.

COMPREHENSIVE FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME PREVENTION ACT

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to be introducing legislation to help lead the battle to end fetal alcohol syndrome. The Comprehensive Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Prevention Act will establish a well-coordinated prevention program to help end one of the most devastating conditions afflicting our Nation's children today.

Fetal alcohol syndrome is a frustrating problem in our society today. It is completely preventable. Very simple. No alcohol. No birth defects. It sounds like it would be easy to eliminate this problem but it's not.

Fetal alcohol syndrome remains one of the top three causes of birth defects in this Nation and the leading known cause of mental retardation. In my home State of New Mexico, some parts of the State have rates of fetal alcohol syndrome from two to five times higher than the national average.

The bill being introduced in the House today is an important step in the right direction toward eliminating this problem. This legislation will help create comprehensive public education, prevention, and research programs within the Department of Health and Human Services. The bill will give us a coordinated system to begin to really reduce the incidence of this very costly birth defect.

The bottom line is that we must get Federal funds to the areas that count: to schools, to community health centers, and to clinics. In those places, the funds can be used to spread