

the lender may require the borrower to sell or otherwise assign the license.

I believe the "Small Business Spectrum Ownership Opportunities Act embodies the essence of this statement by making economically disadvantaged small business owners not only consumers of technology but also producers of technology. I hope that all my colleagues will join me in supporting this important initiative.

LOCALISM REFORM IN
BROADCASTING ACT OF 2005

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the ever-growing problem of radio and television stations that seem to have forgotten that the American public owns the airwaves on which they broadcast. Those stations also appear to have lost sight of the public interest obligations they assumed when they were awarded those airwaves, which today are collectively worth hundreds of billions of dollars.

To cite evidence of this lack of responsibility, a recent Poynter Institute study found that in the month leading up to Election Day 2004, local issues and races garnered just 8 percent of the local evening newscasts in 11 of the nation's largest TV markets. Stated another way, ninety-two percent of the news broadcasts studied contained no stories about races for the U.S. House, state senate or assembly, mayor, city council, law enforcement posts, judgeships, education offices, or regional or county offices.

Our citizens and constituents deserve more from broadcasters than canned weather and news, and local reporting of fires and murders. They deserve the vital information about issues of national and local importance that will allow them to make decisions about how our democracy should operate. Therefore, today I am introducing with my colleague JOHN J. DUNCAN, Jr., the Localism Reform in Broadcasting Act of 2005 to increase broadcasters' accountability to the public they serve.

The bill will have slight impact on stations meeting their public interest obligations, but it will give citizens greater leverage dealing with stations that do not. It would reduce the license term for broadcasters from 8 years to 3, thereby requiring broadcasters to provide the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) with information every 3 years why their license should be renewed. Broadcasters would be required regularly to post information about their local public affairs programming on their Internet site. The FCC would be required to review at least five percent of all license and renewal applications. During license renewal proceedings, the FCC will be able to review not only the performance of the station seeking approval, but also the performance of all stations owned by the licensee. Finally, the FCC would be required to complete its open proceeding on whether public interest obligations should apply to broadcasters in the digital era.

I think we all would prefer that broadcasters honor their responsibilities without being forced to do so by Congress. However, owner consolidation is growing, more and more stations are being run by absentee landlords in

corporate offices far away, and their record is going from bad to worse. It is now up to us to put local back into local broadcasting, by giving citizens more control over content in what is—again, I repeat—their airwaves. This legislation is a step in the right direction to make that happen, and I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort.

HONORING JOHN SCHAEFFER

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Schaeffer who has recently been named the Boyertown Area Educator of the Year, by the Berks and Montgomery County Newspapers.

John Schaeffer began his teaching career in the Boyertown Area School District 35 years ago and has since continued to touch students' lives and inspire them to be the best that they can be.

As a math teacher, Mr. Schaeffer excelled at reaching out to his students by utilizing his own teaching philosophy and practice. From the very beginning, Mr. Schaeffer realized that each student learns the same material at a different pace. Mr. Schaeffer decided that the best approach would be one of simplicity. He deliberately tries to make things simple for his students so they can learn the basics and, once the foundation had been laid, he would develop their knowledge base in greater detail. Mr. Schaeffer is also keenly aware that each child's learning style and ability is different from their classmates. He works to adapt his teaching style to help each child individually in order to achieve their goals. This skillful enhancement of the learning process has worked remarkably well for both Mr. Schaeffer and his students as he encouraged his students.

John Schaeffer is also considered a great educator because of the time and effort he exerts to create a personal relationship with each of his students. He shows care and empathy for his students which, in turn, allows him to create relationships built on trust and understanding with his students. Mr. Schaeffer feels that gaining this trust is an important step in the learning process. Mr. Schaeffer wisely spoke, "I think the teacher's role has had to change because you have to show you care for them as a kid, and then you deal with the math problem."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring John Schaeffer for his many years of exemplary service and distinguished contributions to the Boyertown Area School District and its students over the past 35 years. He has touched countless lives and made an incredible impact on both the students and parents in Boyertown. I am honored to stand before you to congratulate and celebrate John Schaeffer on his many impressive accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE OF WESTSIDE WOMEN

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, although Women's History Month has just ended, while

riding back on the airplane from Sri Lanka, I was thinking of the community where I live and decided to write this article about some of the women who have helped shape the Westside of Chicago. Obviously, there are many additional women who I could have featured and, hopefully, I will have an opportunity to do that some day.

NEEDED: A NEW GENERATION OF COMMUNITY LEADERS

The recent passing of Ms. Leola Spann jarred my thoughts and inspired me to write to put these thoughts down on paper. Ms. Spann was a delightful, committed, dedicated, visionary, hardworking woman of great integrity. She was willing to work hard for what she believed. She revitalized the Northwest Austin Council and kept it alive and thriving until she could work no more. Now we face the question: Who will be the next Leola Spann?

The Westside of Chicago has been rich with people like Leola Spann. Mary Volpe for many years lived, ate, slept, dreamed her commitment to the Northeast Austin Organization. She worked in a bi-racial environment as her community was experiencing transition, yet she never wavered, and remained steadfast until she could go no more. Who will be the next Mary Volpe?

Illinois Daggett moved with her husband, Jerry and their children, from the Near Westside to Austin at the beginning of its great transition: a period of block-busting, panic peddling, racial turmoil and community instability. She immediately established herself as an activist and community leader. She became a seriously fierce advocate for education, mental health and community stabilization. She founded, and operated for several years, the Austin Developmental Center, was a WVON "On Target" radio talk show host and a social service professional. Unfortunately, Illa was injured by an insane man at her job on the Near Northside where she was running a City of Chicago Community Service Center. As a result of her injuries Illa has been in a coma for the last fifteen or so years. Who will be the next Illinois Daggett?

The death of Pope John Paul II has caused me to think of Nancy Jefferson, who used to be called the Mother Theresa of the Westside. Nancy was a crusading nurse and social worker who became Executive Director of the Midwest Community Council. In this role Nancy became a premier protector and promoter of the Westside of Chicago which had been the last port of entry for large numbers of African Americans migrating to Chicago from the rural South. Nancy and the Midwest Community Council set up social service programs, organized block clubs and other self help activities, got people actively involved in politics, was credited with helping to elect Jane Byrne Mayor, was one of the architects of the Harold Washington campaigns and was instrumental in getting Leroy Martin appointed Superintendent of Police. Who will be the next Nancy Jefferson?

Obviously this is a call for new leadership. Nobody appointed these women, nobody moved out of their way, nobody decreed that these women should lead. They simply stepped up to the plate, did what they did, led where they went, and made valuable contributions to the community.

You can too!