

Bronx Community College, which will hold its 26th Anniversary Hall of Fame 10K Run on Saturday, May 1, 2004.

The Hall of Fame 10K Run was founded in 1978 by Bronx Community College's third president, Dr. Roscoe C. Brown, and today continues to be an event of great significance. Each year, amateur and professional runners alike from all five of New York's boroughs and the entire tri-state area come together to run in the Bronx. Participants include teams from municipal agencies along with faculty, staff and students of Bronx Community College and other nearby schools.

It is indeed one of the Bronx's most anticipated yearly events and has contributed to a strong sense of community within the Bronx. The race also places an emphasis on physical fitness and achieving athletic goals. Historically, its mission has been to highlight the Hall of Fame for Great Americans, a national institution dedicated to those who have helped make America great.

The 10K race tradition continues under the stewardship of Bronx Community College's current president, Dr. Carolyn G. Williams. Dr. Williams has endorsed the race since her inauguration and has not only continued the tradition started by Dr. Brown, to promote physical fitness and highlight higher education, but has added raising awareness of important community issues.

I can recall the high level of energy and community involvement each of the 20 plus years I ran in the Hall of Fame 10K race. The race has attracted well over 400 runners each year and I am sure this year will see an even larger number of participants.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the individuals and participants who make the Bronx Community College's Annual Hall of Fame 10K Run possible.

INTRODUCING THE FAIR MINIMUM WAGE ACT OF 2004

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 30, 2004

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, today I am joining with 75 of my colleagues to introduce the "Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2004"—legislation that will give hard-working Americans a much needed raise. These minimum wage employees—many of whom work full-time, year-round—earn no more than \$5.15 an hour. The vast majority do not even receive enough pay in their pockets to lift them above the poverty line.

According to a very stark alarming report, 48 percent of all African American men in New York City are unemployed. Without a job, they do not earn any wages. This bill is not the vehicle to help give the unemployed jobs, but it underscores the importance of increasing the minimum wage. How can we allow full-time minimum wage workers to live in poverty? Last time I looked, we were not a third world nation. Those with jobs at the bottom of the pay scale deserve fair compensation for their labor.

More than a quarter of the constituents I represent in Brooklyn are minimum wage workers. They include the very same child care and nursing home workers, dish washers

and laundry workers, taxi drivers, hotel clerks and mail room workers everyone relies upon. Far too many of them are single mothers or fathers, with children to support. According to a recent Russell Sage Foundation study, they are included among a staggering 29 percent of all working families in America who cannot earn enough to keep a basic living standard. That means that close to one out of every three working families in America are just not making ends meet. Some are barely hanging on.

Why do the Republicans continue to nickel and dime these hard-working Americans in low-wage jobs? The last increase in the minimum wage was in 1997. This Democratic bill would give them a pay raise in 3 easy steps: from \$5.85 an hour in the two months following enactment, to \$6.45 an hour a year after that. On the following year's anniversary, the minimum wage would finally reach \$7.00 an hour.

Why do Republicans reject this bill, giving workers at the bottom of the pay scale a much needed raise? Republicans tout tired old arguments, such as "only teens work for the minimum wage;" or, "it will hurt small businesses and the economy." In truth, recent history proves exactly the reverse. Once the dust settled after the 1997 increase in the minimum wage, more than 10 million new jobs were created and over half of them (6 million) were in minimum wage service jobs.

The dividing line between the political parties could not be greater on this issue. There's a saying—"No Shame in My Game"—that minimum-wage workers use sometimes. It is a kind of shorthand that signals a tough and resilient work ethic among the working poor, despite the low wages, lack of benefits and poor conditions. These workers are absolutely correct: there is no shame in their work ethic and daily efforts. The only shame is in the Congressional game, if the Republicans continue to block this bill and our efforts to give minimum wage workers a long-delayed, essential raise.

TRIBUTE TO SHERRY ANN LITTMAN: A COMMUNITY TREAS- URE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 30, 2004

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and recognize the accomplishments of a truly great lady, Mrs. Sherry Ann Littman, who passed away on April 11.

Sherry Littman can perhaps best be described as a person of untiring energy and a great big heart, who also had a strong ethic of community service and cared deeply about the opportunities, welfare and well-being of other people. She was an activist and a respected advocate for her Eastern Shores community in the City of North Miami Beach, but her interests extended far beyond the city limits.

When Sherry Littman saw a need, particularly among people without the resources to address that need themselves; she flung herself into the task. One example is hunger and malnutrition. Almost 25 years ago, when Sherry and her husband, former North Miami Beach Councilman Jules Littman, saw gaps in

the social services network in South Florida, they founded a nonprofit organization known today as Stop The Hunger. Today, Stop The Hunger serves a half-million meals a month to children and adults all over Florida.

I know I speak for our entire community in extending our heartfelt sympathies to Sherry's husband, Jules, her daughter, Phyllis Diskin, her son, Paul Levin and her four grandchildren.

No one whose life was touched by Sherry Littman could ever forget her. What is even more remarkable about her, however, is that she will be dearly missed by countless thousands of people who never met her, but whose lives were nonetheless touched by her life and work.

CONGRESSIONAL UKRAINIAN CAUCUS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 30, 2004

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to request that the following letter be inserted in the RECORD.

CONGRESSIONAL UKRAINIAN CAUCUS,
Washington, DC, March 26, 2004.

Hon. VIKTOR YANUKOVYCH,
Prime Minister of Ukraine.

DEAR PRIME MINISTER YANUKOVYCH: As members of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus and long time supporters of Ukraine's independence and economic growth, we are writing to express our concern regarding an investment issue that involves U.S. taxpayer funds.

The Congress established the Western NIS Enterprise Fund (WNISEF) as a private equity fund to invest in small- and medium-sized private enterprises in Ukraine (Moldova and Belarus) in 1994. WNISEF was capitalized initially with \$150 million by the U.S. Government, with the key aspect of spurring foreign investment in Ukraine. Since its foundation, the Fund has fulfilled its mission as envisioned by Congress, making cumulative investment commitments of more than \$73 million in 22 companies in Ukraine, as well as \$3.8 small business loans to 67 Ukrainian small businesses. The Fund has attracted additional capital to these businesses of well over the amount it has invested itself.

However, these accomplishments are now at risk of being overshadowed by an investment dispute that threatens Ukraine's foreign investment reputation and U.S.-Ukrainian economic relations.

WNISEF recently filed an arbitration case against Ukraine arising out of Ukraine's violation of the Fund's rights under the U.S.-Ukraine Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT). It is a disturbing investment issue implicating the fundamental value of rule of law, contract and treaty obligation enforcement.

The case involves a WNISEF loan to the Ukrainian company, Sonola JSC (Kirovohrad). After Sonola defaulted on payments of the loan, WNISEF sought to collect the loan and, as in accordance with the dispute settlement language of the loan agreement, filed a claim for arbitration with the American Arbitration Association, New York, USA. The arbitrator, and subsequently the New York courts, upheld WNISEF's claim against Sonola of \$3.8 million.

Unfortunately, WNISEF has been unable to enforce the international arbitration award in Ukraine's courts—twice filing a petition

for recognition and enforcement of the award to the Kirovohrad Oblast Court of Appeal during 2001-2002. The Supreme Court of Ukraine has refused the Fund's appeal, casting doubts as to the fulfillment by Ukraine of its obligations under international agreements.

WNISEF has now been forced to file an action against Ukraine to the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (Washington, D.C.), alleging that the actions of the Ukrainian judiciary have violated international law, including Ukraine's obligations under two important international agreements to which Ukraine is party.

We would like to ensure that the Fund is treated fairly under the terms of the U.S.-Ukraine Bilateral Investment Treaty. If WNISEF is not provided basic protection under Ukrainian law, how can other potential foreign investors have any confidence in Ukraine's foreign investment climate?

The Fund has repeatedly expressed its willingness to resolve the dispute by way of negotiations and reaching an amicable agreement. In order to prevent the potential negative effects for Ukraine due to a hearing of this case at the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes, we urge you to facilitate a prompt resolution of this dispute.

Reducing investor risk and increasing investor confidence are the keys to attracting additional foreign capital to Ukraine, which will in turn create jobs, modernize factories and bring numerous other benefits to the Ukrainian people.

It is our hope that American companies doing business in Ukraine maintain full confidence in the Ukrainian system and continue to contribute to its economic development. A prompt resolution of the WNISEF investment dispute will enhance U.S. confidence in Ukraine's commitment to foreign investment protection.

Sincerely,

MARCY KAPTUR,
Co-Chair.
CURT WELDON,
Co-Chair.

RECOGNIZING CLARE ADKIN, JR.

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 30, 2004

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Clare Adkin, Jr., for being recognized as one of five finalists in the National Council on Economic Education (NCEE)/NASDAQ National Teaching Awards.

These awards are presented to teachers in grades 6-12 for creative, original and effective efforts in applying economic content and reasoning skills to instruction on market economies, personal finance, financial markets, entrepreneurship, and the capital formation process. Since 1949, NCEE has developed and implemented programs that equip teachers to get economic and personal finance education into the classroom. The NASDAQ Stock Market Educational Foundation, whose goal is to expand understanding of capital formation and financial markets, sponsors the National Teaching Awards.

Mr. Adkin was chosen for this honor because of the innovative teaching technique he developed to illustrate and explain various complex economic concepts such as opportunity cost, diminishing marginal utility, and ra-

tional ignorance. Using five-by-eight index cards, Mr. Adkin created "Economic Concept Cards," which provide a definition or explanation of an economic concept as well as a narrative description or example and a sample question demonstrating the student's mastery of the concept. After developing the cards, students use them to prepare for tests, including the AP Economics exam, and many students keep the cards to use to study for college economics classes.

At the Cary Academy, Mr. Adkin taught Advanced Principles of Economics, Basic Economics, Great Court Cases, and The Sixties: the Tumultuous Decade. He also served as chair of the Cary Academy History Department. In 2003, Mr. Adkin retired from teaching after a 39-year career.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Adkin for this national achievement. It is a fitting recognition for someone who devoted nearly four decades to teaching, and who developed effective and engaging techniques for teaching students about economics.

INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY RIGHTS: THE PROPOSED U.N. CONVENTION

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 30, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, please insert the attached statement into today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD under Extensions of Remarks.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on March 30th, the Congressional Human Rights Caucus held a groundbreaking Members' Briefing entitled, "International Disability Rights: The Proposed UN Convention." This discussion of the global situation of people with disabilities was intended to help establish disability rights issues as an integral part of the general human rights discourse. The briefing brought together the human rights community and the disability rights community, and it raised awareness in Congress of the need to protect disability rights under international law to the same extent as other human rights through a binding UN convention on the rights of people with disabilities.

Our expert witnesses included Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Mark P. Lagon; the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Ecuador to the United Nations, Ambassador Luis Gallegos; the United Nations Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Johan Schölvinn; the distinguished former Attorney General of the United States, former Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and former Governor of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Dick Thornburgh; the President of the National Organization on Disability (NOD), Alan A. Reich; Kathy Martinez, a member of the National Council on Disabilities (NCD); and a representative of the United States International Council on Disabilities (USCID) and Executive Director of Mental Disability Rights International, Eric Rosenthal.

As I had announced earlier, I intend to place the important statements of our witnesses in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, so that all of my colleagues may profit from their expertise, and I ask that the statement of Mr. Alan Reich be placed at this point in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Mr. ALAN A. REICH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I come before you today in my capacity as Chairman of the World Committee on Disability. There are 600 million men, women, and children with disabilities in the world. Disability knows no political boundaries. Eighty per cent live in developing countries and are doubly disadvantaged by poverty and hunger. The numbers are increasing dramatically. Population growth, war injuries, landmines, HIV/AIDS, malnutrition, disease, substance abuse, accidents, and environmental damage all contribute to this increase. Prejudice abounds. Many are consigned to the shadows of beggary. Anyone can join the disability community in an instant. No one is immune.

While economic and social conditions vary among countries, all of us with disabilities are united by the pursuit of a common goal: full and equal participation in the life of our respective societies. And, we all yearn to end the hurtful discrimination that exists in all our countries. Is not access to employment, education, religious worship and basic services our human right? Surely it is. Mr. Chairman, I commend you and the Human Rights Caucus of our Congress for recognizing disability as a human rights issue and for calling on our nation, which consistently and forcefully provides leadership on human rights issues, to advance the United Nations Convention on Disability Rights.

Disability is a silent crisis; it has not received the attention that this body and the United Nations itself have historically accorded other human rights issues. Indeed, we ourselves shaped the United Nations as the global forum for human rights law and policy. The time has come to end the marginalization of disability in the quest for universal human rights. As president of the National Organization on Disability, I thank you for this significant contribution.

We also are most thankful to those nations who have pressed this cause as an issue of human rights within the U.N. Paradoxically and unfortunately, the United States cannot yet be counted among those countries that have come forward to lead this effort. This is evidenced not only by the U.S. position on the Convention, but also—in a most visible way—by the composition of the U.S. delegation to the U.N., which unlike the delegations of so many other countries, does not include a single individual with a disability!

It is very important that the United States take an active leadership role in securing an effective U.N. Convention. It is not sufficient for us to be a passive participant, any more than it would be for Ecuador, whose distinguished U.N. Permanent Representative Ambassador Luis Gallegos is with us today. Ambassador Gallegos' own involvement in disability matters came about through his nation's winning the World Committee's \$50,000 Franklin Delano Roosevelt International Disability Award two years ago. He then quickly assumed leadership of the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee for the U.N. Convention, and it has been a privilege to work with him as he has generated support throughout the world and has guided this endeavor within the U.N. Its successful adoption by the general assembly and the world most certainly will be attributable to Ambassador Gallegos and his dedicated hard work.

Mr. Chairman, for more than a quarter century the United Nations slowly but progressively has recognized the need to confront the disability crisis and has taken important actions. The General Assembly in 1976 proclaimed 1981 as the International Year of Disabled Persons. At the end of the year, I had the privilege of addressing the General Assembly, the first person in a wheelchair ever to do so, to urge adoption of