

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 TREASURER

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