

The leader of the group is Ilie Ilascu, president of the local branch of the democratic Moldavian Popular Front, which favors reunification with Romania. Such a move is strongly opposed by the Trans-Dnestr ruling authorities, who instead favor a closer alliance with Russia and independence for the Trans-Dnestr region.

Mr. Ilascu and three others remain in prison. One prisoner has been freed, and a sixth person, an infiltrator placed by the Trans-Dnestr secret police, was released after his testimony against the others.

There are reports that these men have been subjected to torture and mock executions. Ilie Ilascu remains in isolation in a top security prison.

Despite his imprisonment, in 1994 Mr. Ilascu was elected to the Parliament of Moldova. Although he has been duly elected, Ilie Ilascu has never been able to take his seat in parliament.

According to the State Department report, a group of Moldovan doctors was refused access to Mr. Ilascu in the fall. Trans-Dnestr authorities have also refused the International Committee of the Red Cross access for the purpose of monitoring the conditions of the prisoners.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we must press officials in Trans-Dnestr to allow access to these prisoners by the Red Cross.

I am pleased the State Department focused on this serious situation in its human rights report, and hope that it will continue to raise this issue with the governments of Russia and Moldova.

We should insist that Mr. Ilascu and the other prisoners be guaranteed their internationally-recognized human rights—the right to a fair trial, due process, and freedom of expression.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF MS. EUNICE GENTRY, MISS JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Eunice Gentry on obtaining the title of Miss Jackson State University 1997–98. Ms. Gentry is a native of Jackson, MS. She is a senior communications major and the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Roosevelt Gentry.

Ms. Gentry is very active in numerous organizations at Jackson State University (JSU). Such organizations include the Mass Communications Club, JSU Student Government Association, Tiger Pride Connection, and the JSU chapter of the NAACP. Among some of Ms. Gentry's accomplishments include her position as parliamentarian for the student chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists, a \$3,000 scholarship earned in a national essay competition sponsored by the National Black Programmers Coalition of Atlanta, and her membership to the W.E.B. DuBois Honors College. Over her summer break, Ms. Gentry worked as an intern for television station KVBC, the NBC affiliate in Las Vegas, NV.

Mr. Speaker, it is with the utmost pride that I stand here before you today and acknowl-

edge Ms. Eunice Gentry, Miss Jackson State University 1997–98.

IN HONOR OF THE NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY PUERTO RICAN/HISPANIC TASK FORCE

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the New York State Assembly Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force on the eve of their 11th Annual Conference.

This Task Force has brought together a large network of government officials, community leaders and service providers who share a common goal: improving the quality of life for our Hispanic population in New York. It has managed to draw on the strengths of its participants to move forward and knock down the continued barriers of bias and discrimination.

With great tenacity, the Task Force has fought for and won a number of battles on behalf of Hispanic constituencies. From identifying problems of access by Spanish speaking women to domestic abuse services to uncovering the tracking of Hispanic students in New York schools. Always, and with great success, they have found legislative solutions to these problems that have served to improve and protect the rights of all New Yorkers.

This year's annual legislative meeting will certainly bring to the fore some very important issues facing the Hispanic communities in New York. As our state legislature begins to work on issues such as the involvement of managed care, education reform and economic opportunity, the debate will no doubt be enhanced by the contributions to be made by this Task Force. In fact, all communities will be better served by having an inclusive rapport on these important topics.

I ask my fellow colleagues if I may take this opportunity to commend this fine organization for its leadership and resolve. May the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force continue its admirable task to ensure equal access, true representation and opportunity for all constituencies in New York.

HONORING DEIDRA C. TOWNS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the skill and achievements of Deidra Towns. Her contribution to community and public service is incomparable.

A woman at the beginning of her career, Deidra's dynamic personality bespeaks a character that will stare the world down—and win. Already, she has flourished as an Administrative Assistant at Bedford-Stuyvesant Legal Services, a Managed Care Training Facilitator/Public Relations Coordinator at East New York Diagnostic and Treatment Center and as a Legislative Aid for the New York State Assembly. Currently, Deidra is the Team Leader for the Red Hook Public Safety Corps. In this po-

sition she has provided direction and structure to its AmeriCorps team. She has also planned and implemented projects designed to address public safety issues.

As a devoted mother to her daughter, Kiara, and a loving daughter to Edolphus and Gwen Towns, there is no doubt that this young woman will leave her special mark on her community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Deidra C. Towns for all of her achievements, for being a woman who dares to be different, and for showing young women everywhere that they can do and accomplish anything.

COMMEMORATION OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY CANCER AWARENESS WEEK

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Childhood Cancer Awareness Week which will occur March 8th—March 14th in the County of Los Angeles. I would also like to acknowledge the American Cancer Fund For Children and its founder Steve Firestein for their tireless efforts to help children. Through their dedication and perseverance, they have influenced the lives of hundreds of children with cancer, while bringing awareness of this issue to our country as a whole.

Cancer is the leading cause of death by disease among children in our country. Each year, approximately 10,000 children are diagnosed with this frightening illness. A cure for cancer is an important goal that we all hope to achieve. Until that time, important services and programs like the American Cancer Fund for Children play a vital role in the lives of those afflicted with this disease.

The American Cancer Fund for Children has been established to provide financial assistance to families with children fighting cancer. When a child is sick, parents should not be restricted by financial burdens in determining what type of treatment their child receives. Funds are used for expenses such as a bone marrow transplant, housing and food. The American Cancer Fund for Children also enables parents to be with their children as they undergo treatment. This organization has also worked to meet hospital needs for patient and family services, helping to ensure the quality of care and improving the chances of survival. For instance, children participate in psycho-social services designed to foster self-esteem, encourage peer interaction and develop special patient communications.

Through his interactions with children entering the Los Angeles Orthopedic Hospital, Steven Firestein has provided them with courage and hope. He has established a national network of programs, through which he provides children with baseball caps, toys and sports cards. These small tokens do wonders to brighten a child's day.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in acknowledging the work of Steven Firestein and the American Cancer Fund for Children. They have worked to raise awareness of childhood cancer and they have motivated our community to take the first

steps toward achieving our ultimate goal of prevention.

IN RECOGNITION OF W.A. "BING"
LECROY

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding educator and citizen of the State of Alabama, the late W.A. "Bing" LeCroy. Mr. W.A. "Bing" LeCroy died on October 29, 1996, but his enthusiasm for the field of education can still be felt by everyone that he directly and indirectly touched throughout his career.

Bing LeCroy was born in Coosa County, Alabama, on April 1, 1918. Mr. LeCroy studied at Jacksonville State University and Auburn University where he received a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Administration. He later attended the University of Alabama at Birmingham for additional graduate work.

Bing left Coosa County and moved to Chilton County to begin his career as a classroom teacher. He later served as Superintendent of Education of Chilton County, State Superintendent of Education, Director of the Chilton County Area Vocational Center and Director and Coordinator of the Wallace Community College, Clanton Extension. After his many years as an Alabama educator, he became such a recognizable icon that he was known to thousands across the state as "Mr. Education."

Mr. LeCroy not only indulged in scholastic education, he also was a leader in civil education and worked tirelessly to ensure the safety and health of our children. During his administrative career in public education, he hired the first female bus driver in the State of Alabama. He also was the first proponent in the United States for mandating red stop signs on school buses, allowing for children's passage across the roads and highways.

In addition to the unparalleled dedication that Bing selflessly gave to his students, Mr. LeCroy was a devoted member of the First Baptist Church of Clanton and was a long-time member and President of Kiwanis Club.

Mr. Speaker, I am not the only person aware of Bing LeCroy's accomplishments. The thousands of students this man directly impacted will remain both a legacy and a reminder of the potential good that a teacher can achieve in a child's life. Recently, the Chilton County Board of Education recommended and approved the Chilton County Area Vocational Center be re-named the W.A. "Bing" LeCroy Career Technical Center. The re-naming of this building is a suitable memorial for a man who was known by those who love him as "Mr. Education".

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of one of Alabama's great education advocates, Bing LeCroy.

HONORING JUANITA C. BOBBITT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the skill and achievements of Juanita C. Bobbitt. Her contribution to the United Nations and women's issues is incomparable.

Ms. Bobbitt was raised in the Bedford-Stuyvesant community of Brooklyn. Her undergraduate degree from Brooklyn College of the City University of New York as well as her Masters degree from New York University and Harvard University, successfully prepared her for a United Nations career that has spanned nearly four decades.

As a consultant to governments and an expert in public administration and management, she has travelled to Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Europe. She is fluent in French and Spanish. Recently, she was responsible for managing a group of professionals to formulate and implement programs in developing countries and economies in transition devoted to social, rural and community development, poverty alleviation, and the advancement of women. She is currently leading the Gender Advisory Services Unit in the Division for the Advancement of Women within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Most recently, Ms. Bobbitt organized a workshop on behalf of the United Nations to examine the ways to enhance the partnership among entrepreneurs, government, and the business community. As a result of Ms. Bobbitt's workshop, the Lausanne Enterprise was created to serve as an international mechanism to further develop women's entrepreneurship worldwide as a result of Ms. Bobbitt's workshop.

As an active member of her community, Ms. Bobbitt has served on various academic committees. She is also a long-standing member of St. George's Episcopal Church and a Golden Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., a Public Service Sorority.

Ms. Bobbitt has been able to reach these incredible goals and also be the proud mother of one son, Edmund Michael Bobbitt, a Harvard graduate and entrepreneur.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Ms. Juanita C. Bobbitt for all of her achievements, for being a woman who dares to be different, and for showing young women everywhere that they can do and accomplish anything.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET BRINGS
BACK DEFICIT SPENDING

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, last week the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released an analysis that shows that the President's FY1999 Budget submission would result in a \$5 billion deficit, even with the \$130 billion in new taxes his plan proposes. President Clinton's Budget not only comes as a disappointment, it blows a hole in the agreement he made with Congress last year and breaks the promise he made to American taxpayers.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I admit that these figures do not come as a shock. Considering that the President's proposal includes 85 new programs, costing at least \$150 billion over the next five years, we shouldn't be surprised that the numbers in his budget don't add up. Mr. Speaker, the President's budget puts us right back on the path to deficit spending. To top it off, this plan raises taxes to the highest level since 1945. That is totally unacceptable.

The CBO analysis projects that by 2000, the deficit would return to \$5 billion under the President's plan. If no changes were made to the Balanced Budget pact agreed to last summer, however, the CBO reported that there would be a higher surplus each year through 2003.

Mr. Speaker, this is one more indication that Bill Clinton is not sympathetic to the American taxpayer. It took a Republican Congress to create and pass the Balanced Budget Agreement, and it's going to take a Republican Congress to protect it. Bill Clinton has only given lip service to balancing the budget, but is apparently not willing to be a partner in that effort.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
OF AMANDA DAVIS

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to laud the accomplishments of Amanda Davis, a senior at Eastern Illinois University (EIU). Amanda is from Mt. Vernon, Illinois, a town I represented during my first two terms in Congress, and she served as an intern in my Washington, D.C. office last summer. She possesses maturity beyond her years and a character made up of the finest qualities: intelligence, integrity, and a desire to help those around her. I believe her example is one to be emulated by not only her peers, but by the entire nation.

The first thing you notice about Amanda is her seriousness. She is not a frivolous person, and immerses herself in the projects she undertakes. In my office, this trait manifested itself in everything from her thorough Capitol tours to her tireless research into numerous legislative issues. An accomplished scholar, the list of her academic achievements, awards, and activities is truly staggering. I will list just a few: recipient of the Herbert F. Hueller and Jennifer Woods Scholarships, Honors student and regular member of the Dean's List, high school valedictorian, co-editor of and contributor to The Vehicle, EIU's literary magazine, and membership in numerous honor societies. She is perhaps most passionate about women's issues, especially as related to the correctional system and literacy. Her work on these subjects has resulted in numerous papers that she has presented at professional conferences across the nation. Somehow, Amanda finds time to volunteer as a tutor for illiterate adults and a crisis hot-line worker at a battered women's shelter. Her unrelenting pursuit of knowledge and her penchant for helping others is a powerful combination, and it will lead her to accomplish great things in the future.