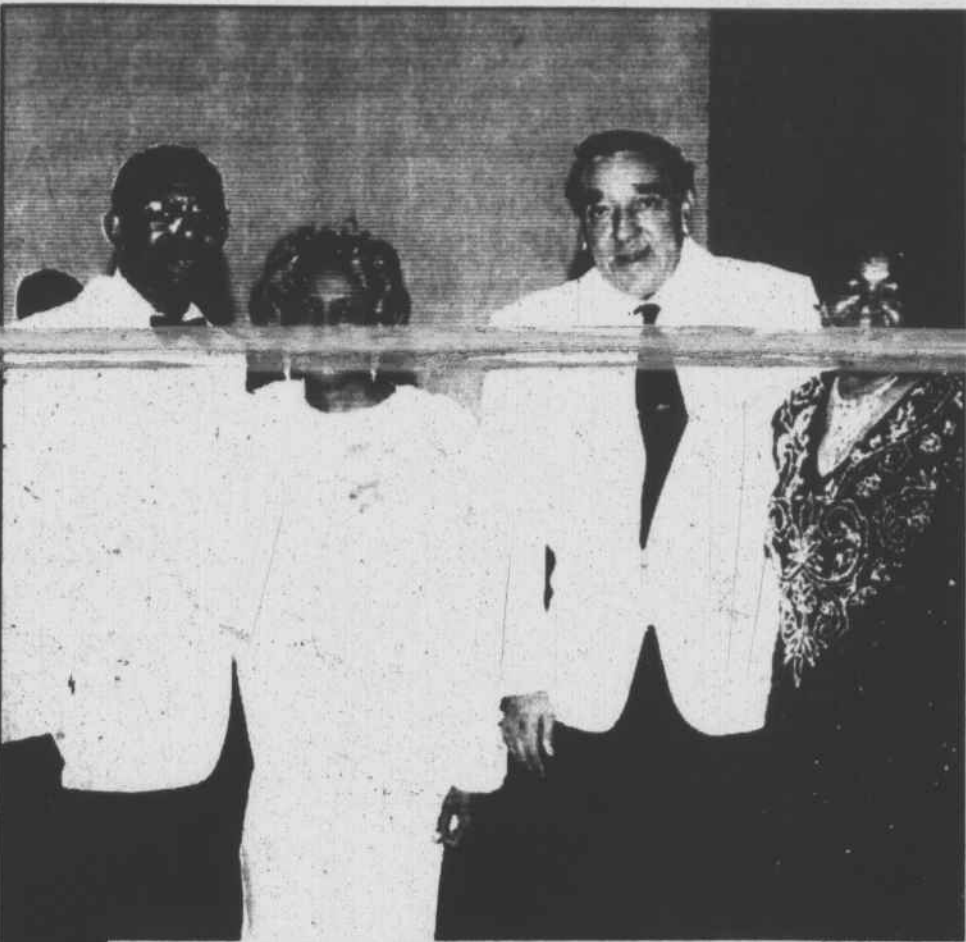


# COMMUNITY FOCUS



## Tokens of Gratitude

*Sailing elegantly into the next millennium with The Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. Top Teens of America, Inc. honor their parents at first scholarship land cruise*

### TOP TEENS

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pleased to welcome the return of former teens who have continued to excel.

Ida P. Cathey's daughter, Romanda Cathey, returned to honor her parents. Cathey, a retired educator of 36 years enjoyed getting dressed for such a unique occasion.

"It was a rich night, one of the finest occasions I have ever witnessed," she said. "My hat goes off to Lady Minnie and Lady Daisy because they have worked so untiringly with the young people in our community, and they do it with style. They do it right!"

According to Cathey, these two ladies deserve rewards of community service for all of the time and effort they put into developing self-esteem, poise, and social graces within the teens of the organization. Her daughter Romanda was the former president of the organization, and Cathey appreciated the responsibilities she was involved in.

"They are taught to give back to the community," Cathey said. She was especially thrilled to see the participation of the young men and the husbands of the Ladies of Distinction taking part in the celebration.

"As I looked at our men of tomorrow, I could see all of the promise they held," she said. It was a great honor for her to observe the speaking skills of the youth and the pride they took in themselves.

The mistress of ceremonies was Charlita Cardwell, former Top Teen. An alumnus of Phillips Exeter Academy and Wake Forest University, Cardwell is currently a third-year law student at the University of Pennsylvania Law School where she is president of the Black Law Students Association.

She has accepted an associate position with the law firm of Winthrop, Stimson, Putnam & Roberts in New York City where she will begin her corporate law practice in the fall. Cardwell was one of five former teens who returned to honor the contributions their parents made to their success as students and leaders in the community.

Cardwell recognized her mother Joan Cardwell with a certificate of appreciation and a money corsage as tokens of her love and gratitude.

Other teens who returned were Katina Jones, registered pharmacist; Kenyatta Manns, premed freshman at Howard University; Romanda Cathey, graduate student in clinical psychology at Alabama A & M; Melody Turner, graduate of University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Joseph Nance, Jr., sophomore at North Carolina A&T State University where he majors in electrical engineering and serves in the Army Reserves.

Katina Jones is the daughter of Henry and Mary Jones; Manns is the daughter of Belinda S. Wilson; Cathey is the daughter of Ramsey and Ida Cathey; Turner is the daughter of Larry and Lena Turner; and Nance is the son of the Rev. and Mrs. Joseph Nance.

Other parents who were honored included John and Gloria Allen, parents of Top Teen Jonathan Allen; Hubert and Queenesther Jeffries, parents of Teen Erin Jeffries; R. J. and Yetta Clark, parents of Craig Clark; Carol Green, mother of Top Teen Latoya Green; Mr. and Mrs. James Thomas, parents of Teen Bryan Harris; Dr. and Mrs. Earl White, parents of Teen Xavier White; Robert and Phyllis Kimber, parents of former Teen Robert "Marty"

Kimber; Coy and Phyllis Martin, parents of Teen LaCoya Martin; Edward and Jannette Valentine, parents of Sherita Valentine; Melanie V. Copeland-McCoy, mother of Maya McCoy, who was crowned Ms. Top Teen 1997-98; Charles and Vicki Tetterton, parents of Vannette Tetterton; Rose Stowe, mother of Corrie Stowe; Alfred and Amy White, parents of Teen Alfred "Buddy" White who is president of Top Teens of America and was also crowned Mr. Top Teen for 1997-98.

Twenty children from Hill Middle School who participate in "Teen Talk and Action" under the direction of Ervin, also attended the land cruise. Ervin's Beauty Service and Susie Drayton, wife of the Rev. Jerry Drayton helped sponsor the participation of these children.

They thought it was important for younger children to see the positive example of older teens. Ervin is also grateful to Lena Turner, director of Human Resources at Sara Lee Underwear, for the assistance of her company with scholarship opportunities for the teens.

The program committee for this event included Ervin, Staten, Lillian Satterfield, Joan Cardwell, and Wilma Wheeler. Other members of the Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. are Ladies Brenda Diggs, Bobbie Miller, Jackie Pierce, Janie Williams, and Judy Williams.

The Winston-Salem Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, was organized in 1982 by the late Thelma Koger Small. The first president was the late Dr. Callie Coaxum. The organization has four major thrusts: Top Teens of America, enhancing the status of women, enriching the lives of senior citizens, and community beautification.



Above: Minnie Ervin, president of Top Ladies of Distinction (TLOD) Winston-Salem Chapter, Inc., welcomes the parents of the Top Teens aboard the Land Cruise Ship. Top photo: (Left to right) Lord Jakay Ervin, Minnie Ervin, president TLOD, Leonard Staten, and Daisy Staten, Top Teen adviser served as coordinators for the evening aboard the land cruise ship, and the lords were the captains of the ship.



Alfred "Buddy" White, president of Top Teens and Maya McCoy were crowned Mr. and Ms. Top Teen of America 1997-98.



Lady Lena Turner of Sara Lee Underwear was recognized as a major scholarship contributor and a Top Mom by her daughter and former Teen Melody Turner.



Lady Joan Cardwell received a certificate of appreciation and a money corsage from her daughter former Teen Charlita C. Cardwell, a third-year law student, who served as mistress of ceremonies.