

Program. His service to my constituents in the Eighth Congressional District of Missouri and to countless other communities was the embodiment of public service at its finest! Alvin, we greatly appreciate your commitment to bettering America's small communities.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for inclusion into the RECORD a copy of a letter sent to the President and Agriculture Secretary Glickman from myself and Mr. DE LA GARZA recognizing the achievements of Alvin Brown.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 17, 1996.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We are writing to express our sincere appreciation for the work and accomplishments of Mr. Alvin Brown in his capacity as Director for Community Development with the Department of Agriculture. As Director of this office, Mr. Brown administered the Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community Program set forth by your Administration with great distinction and effectiveness. His assistance and expertise were extremely important to many communities including the ones designated in our respective Congressional districts.

Throughout his tenure as Director, Mr. Brown traveled extensively throughout the designated communities to provide technical assistance and creative solutions to the tasks at hand. His services were particularly valuable to rural areas such as the ones that we represent. Speaking from first-hand experience in working with Mr. Brown, he provided an invaluable service to our constituents as they sought to work through the guidelines of their new designation. He personally took the time to visit our respective Enterprise Communities and has continued to offer guidance for enhancing economic development opportunities.

Alvin Brown is an exemplary public servant. As Members of Congress with newly designated Enterprise Communities in our district, we are mindful and greatly appreciative of the efforts put forth by Mr. Brown.

Sincerely,

BILL EMERSON,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Department
Operations, Nutrition, and Foreign
Agriculture.

E (KIKI) DE LA GARZA,
Ranking Democrat,
House Committee on Agriculture.

CONGRATULATIONS VENICE HIGH
STUDENTS ON NATIONAL
SCIENCE BOWL VICTORY

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, as a kindergarten-through-high school graduate of the Los Angeles Unified School District, I am particularly proud to congratulate five LA Unified students from my district who recently won the prestigious National Science Bowl contest.

Noah Bray-Ali, David Dickinson, Le My Hoang, Candice Kamachi, and Christopher Mayor, all students at Venice High School, claimed a first place victory earlier this month in this contest, which tests students' knowledge of computer science, biology, physics, chemistry, and other topics in a grueling 2 day competition. The contest is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy.

As a member of both the Science and National Security Committees of the House, I have a keen appreciation for the value of science education. It is clear from the hearings these committees convene on the challenges facing our Nation in the 21st century that our future economic prosperity and security depend on cutting-edge scientific advancements. And, in order to make those advancements, we need to continue to teach and train students who will become our future scientists and engineers. I am pleased that Venice High and other schools in LA Unified are prepared to fill that need.

The Venice High students faced many obstacles in their way to victory. They competed against 54 other high schools from around the Nation representing 39 different States. Most amazingly, they successfully competed even though they started their school year without a physics teacher and had to rely on self-discipline and the help of a substitute teacher for the first few months of the school year.

In addition, these students faced many of the challenges students everywhere face as a result of dwindling resources and the sometimes dangerous atmosphere that students encounter on their way to school. Venice High has, in recent years, experienced problems with gang violence, but with strong support from family and teachers, the students have been able to pursue their goal of academic excellence.

I also wish to congratulate Coach Richard Erdman, and Walter Zeisle of the Department of Water and Power, whose agency generously sponsored the student's trip to Washington.

A TRIBUTE TO THE MOTHERS OF
ST. PAUL AME CHURCH

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, this weekend mothers all over the country will be honored. On Saturday, in my district, a special tribute is being paid to the mothers of the St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church in East Orange, NJ, pastored by the Reverend Donald C. Luster.

In the African-American community, our female elders are honored with the title of mother. The women being honored by St. Paul's are all at least 80 years old and have served their families, our community, and the church faithfully for many, many years. These women have seen history in the making. They have made sacrifices so that others would be better off.

Our communities were better off because of women like these who treated all children like their own. It was not unusual for "Miss Rose" to reprimand you for something you did wrong and then tell your mother about it when she came home from work. These women were the strength of our communities. In many cases, they were, and still are, our salvation.

Mr. Speaker, reading the biographies of these women is like reading a copy of Who's Who. The group contains business owners, educators, a nurse, those active in politics, and seamstresses but most important, they are all mothers. They are mothers who love

their children, their grandchildren, their great grandchildren, and their great-great grandchildren. And all of these children love them.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues will join me as I offer my best wishes to all mothers, especially to the honorees—Mrs. Ophelia Love Achoe, Mrs. Armeller Brown, Mrs. Lucretia F. Counts, Mrs. Edith Cowan, Mrs. Ethel Green, Mrs. Alma Powell Gamble, Mrs. Alma Jones, Mrs. Luella Powell Koonce, Mrs. Era Worthy, Mrs. Florence V. Luster, Mrs. Daisy Tolliver—and their families.

THE HOPE FOR AMERICA

HON. ROBERT K. DORNAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, here are words of wisdom to save our souls.

THE HOPE FOR AMERICA

Remarks by Dr. Billy Graham, Congressional Gold Medal Presentation, Capitol Rotunda, Washington, DC, Thursday, May 2, 1996

Mr. Vice President; Speaker Newt Gingrich; Majority Leader Bob Dole; Senator Strom Thurmond; Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate; distinguished guests and friends.

Ruth and I are overwhelmed by the very kind words that have been spoken today, and especially by the high honor you have just bestowed on both of us. It will always be one of the high points of our lives, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for this unforgettable event. We are grateful for all of you in the Senate and House who have had a part in it; and President Clinton for his support in signing the resolution.

As we read the list of distinguished Americans who have received the Congressional Gold Medal in the past—beginning with George Washington in 1776—we know we do not belong in the same company with them, and we feel very unworthy. One reason is because we both know this honor ought to be shared with those who have helped us over the years—some of whom are here today. As a young boy I remember gazing at that famous painting of Washington crossing the Delaware. Only later did it occur to me that Washington did not get across that river by himself. He had the help of others—and that has been true of us as well. Our ministry has been a team effort, and without our associates and our family we never could have accomplished anything.

I am especially grateful my wife Ruth and I are BOTH being given this honor. No one has sacrificed more than Ruth has, or been more dedicated to God's calling for the two of us.

However, I would not be here today receiving this honor if it were not for an event that happened to me many years ago as a teenager on the outskirts of Charlotte, North Carolina. An evangelist came through our town for a series of meetings. I came face-to-face with the fact that God loves me, Billy Graham, and had sent His Son to die for my sin. He told how Jesus rose from the dead to give us hope of eternal life.

I never forgot a verse of Scripture that was quoted, "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12, KJV). That meant that I must respond to God's offer of mercy and forgiveness. I had to repent of my own sins and receive Jesus Christ by faith.

When the preacher asked people to surrender their lives to Christ, I responded. I had little or no emotion; I was embarrassed to stand with a number of other people when I