

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

knew some of my school peers saw me; but I meant it. And that simple repentance and open commitment to Jesus Christ changed my life. If we have accomplished anything at all in life since then, however, it has only been because of the grace and mercy of God.

As Ruth and I receive this award we know that some day we will lay it at the feet of the One we seek to serve.

As most of you know, the president has issued a proclamation for this day, May 2, 1996, to be a National Day of Prayer. Here in Washington you will see and hear of people throughout the District of Columbia praying today. It is encouraging and thrilling that here, and across the country, people have committed themselves to pray today for our leaders, our nation, our world, and for ourselves as individuals. I am so glad that before business each morning, both the House of Representatives and the Senate have a prayer led by Chaplain Ogilvie of the Senate, who has had so much to do with this event today, and Chaplain Jim Ford, who used to be chaplain at West Point when I went almost every year to bring a message to the cadets.

Exactly 218 years ago today—on May 2, 1778—the first recipient of this award, George Washington, issued a General Order to the American people. He said, “The . . . instances of Providential Goodness which we have experienced and which have now almost crowned our labors with complete success demand from us . . . the warmest returns of Gratitude and Piety to the Supreme Author of all Good.” It was a message of hope and trust, and it also was a challenge for the people to turn to God in repentance and faith.

We are standing at a similar point in our history as less than four years from now the world will enter the third Millennium. What will it hold for us? Will it be a new era of unprecedented peace and prosperity? Or will it be a continuation of our descent into new depth of crime, oppression, sexual immorality, and evil?

Ironically, many people heralded the dawn of the 20th Century with optimism. The steady march of scientific and social progress, they believed would vanquish our social and economic problems. Some optimistic theologians even predicted the 20th Century would be “The Christian Century”, as humanity followed Jesus’ exhortation to love your neighbor as yourself. But no other century has been ravaged by such devastating wars, genocides and tyrannies. During this century we have witnessed the outer limits of human evil.

Our mood on the brink of the 21st Century is far more somber. Terms like “ethnic cleansing”, “random violence” and “suicide bombing” have become part of our daily vocabulary.

Look at our own society. There is much, of course, that is good about America, and we thank God for our heritage of freedom and our abundant blessings. America has been a nation that has shown a global compassion that the rest of the world seemingly does not understand. After World War II because we had the Atom Bomb, we had the opportunity to rule the world, but America turned from that and instead helped rebuild the countries of our enemies.

Nevertheless, something has happened since those days and there is much about America that is no longer good. You know the problems as well as I do: racial and ethnic tensions that threaten to rip apart our cities and neighborhoods; crime and violence of epidemic proportions in most of our cities; children taking weapons to school; broken families; poverty; drugs; teenage pregnancy; corruption; the list is almost endless. Would the first recipients of this award even recognize the society they sacrificed to establish?

I fear not. We have confused liberty with license—and we are paying the awful price. We are a society poised on the brink of self-destruction.

But what is the real cause? We call conferences and consultations without end, frantically seeking solutions to all our problems; we engaged in shuttle diplomacy; and yet in the long run little seems to change. Why is that? What is the problem? The real problem is within ourselves.

Almost three thousand years ago King David, the greatest king Israel ever had, sat under the stars and contemplated the reasons for the human dilemma. He listed three things that the world’s greatest scientists and sociologists have not been able to solve, and it seems the more we know, and the greater our technology, the more difficulties we are in. In perhaps the best-known passage of the Old Testament, Psalm 23, he touches on the three greatest problems of the human race.

First, David said, is the problem of emptiness. David wrote: “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.” He was not talking just about physical want, but spiritual want.

I stood on the campus of one of our great universities some time ago, and I asked the Dean, “What is the greatest problem on your campus?” He replied in one word: “Emptiness.” The human heart craves for meaning, and yet we live in a time of spiritual emptiness that haunts millions.

“Nirvana” is the Hindu word for someone who has arrived into the state of perpetual bliss. Media reports said that Kurt Cobain, the NIRVANA rock group’s leader, was the pacesetter for the nineties, and the “savior of rock and roll.” But he said the song in the end which best described his state of mind was “I hate myself and I want to die!” And at age 27 he committed suicide with a gun.

Second, is the problem of guilt. David wrote: “He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness.” Down inside we all know that we have not measured up even to our own standards, let alone God’s standard.

Third, David pointed to the problem of death. “Yea, through I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me.” Death is the own common reality of all human life. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown did not realize his time had come when he stepped on that plane in Croatia a few weeks ago.

From time to time I have wandered through Statutory Hall and looked at all those statues of some of the greatest men and women in our nation’s history. But one thing is true of every one of them: They are all dead.

Yes, these three things—emptiness, guilt, and the fear of death—haunt our souls. We frantically seek to drown out their voices, driving ourselves into all sorts of activities—from sex to drugs or tranquilizers—and yet they are still there.

But we must probe deeper. Why is the human heart that way? The reason is because we are alienated from our Creator. That was the answer David found to these three problems: “The Lord is our shepherd.” This is why I believe the fundamental crisis of our time is a crisis of the spirit. We have lost sight of the moral and spiritual principles on which this nation was established—principles drawn largely from the Judeo-Christian tradition as found in the Bible.

What is the cure? Is there any hope?

Ruth and I have devoted our lives to the deep conviction that the answer is yes. There is hope! Our lives can be changed, and our world can be changed. The Scripture says, “You must be born again.” You could have a spiritual rebirth right here today.

What must be done? Let me briefly suggest three things.

First, we must repent. In the depths of the American Civil War, Abraham Lincoln called for special days of public repentance and prayer. Our need for repentance is no less today. What does repentance mean? Repentance means to change our thinking and our way of living. It means to turn from our sins and to commit ourselves to God and His will. Over 2700 years ago the Old Testament prophet Isaiah declared: “Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon” (Isaiah 55:6-7, NIV). Those words are as true today as they were over two and a half millennia ago.

Second, we must commit our lives to God, and to the moral and spiritual truths that have made this nation great. Think how different our nation would be if we sought to follow the simple and yet profound injunctions of the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount. But we must respond to God, Who is offering us forgiveness, mercy, supernatural help, and the power to change.

Third our commitment must be translated into action—in our homes, in our neighborhoods, and in our society.

Jesus taught there are only two roads in life. One is the broad road that is easy and well-traveled, but which leads to destruction. The other, He said, is the narrow road of truth and faith that at times is hard and lonely, but which leads to life and salvation.

As we face a new millennium, I believe America has gone a long way down the wrong road. We must turn around and go back and change roads. If ever we needed God’s help, it is now. If ever we needed spiritual renewal, it is now. And it can begin today in each one of our lives, as we repent before God and yield ourselves to Him and His Word.

What are YOU going to do?

The other day I heard the story of a high school principal who held an assembly for graduating seniors, inviting a recruiter from each branch of the service: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines to each give a twelve minute presentation on career opportunities they offered to the students. He stressed the importance of each staying within their allotted time.

The Army representative went first, and was so eloquent that he got a standing ovation, but went eighteen minutes. Not to be outdone, the Navy presentation was equally superb, but took nineteen minutes. Air Force then gave a sterling presentation, which lasted twenty minutes. By now, the principal was irate, and admonished the Marine recruiter that he had only three minutes before the students had to leave for the next class!

During the first two minutes of his shortened time, the Marine didn’t say a word, but individually and carefully studied the faces of each student. Finally, he said, “I’ve looked across this crowd and I see three or four individuals who have what it takes to be a United States Marine. If you think you are one of them, I want to see you down front immediately after this assembly.”

Who do you think drew the biggest crowd?

This afternoon, as I look out across this distinguished group gathered here, I see more than a few men and women who have what it takes, under God, to lead our country forward “through the night” into the next millennium—individuals who represent civic and governmental authority—as well as doctors, lawyers, clergy, artists and media.

Again, Ruth and I are deeply humbled by this award, and we thank you for all that it represents.

We pledge to continue the work that God has called us to do as long as we live.

Thank you.

MEXICO AT A CRITICAL JUNCTURE

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to share with my colleagues a brilliant analysis of the political and economic crisis in Mexico. The essay discusses the multiple causes that triggered the Mexican crisis, explains the measures that the Mexican Government has implemented to overcome the crisis and offers insights of the position our Government should adopt to help this troubled developing nation to flourish again.

This report was written by C. Allen Ellis—a well-known international specialist who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and diplomatic skills and whose opinion is respected in our country, Mexico and in the international financial circles. Among the multiple duties of his professional life, Mr. Ellis has served as an advisor to senior political, diplomatic, and financial authorities of the United States and Mexico. He also participated in the North American Free Trade Agreement process as advisor to key members of the United States Congress, the Government of Mexico and Mexico, private sector interests. And most importantly, Mr. Ellis is an active member of the North American Institute, an international think tank based in the heart of my district in Santa Fe, NM. I believe that my colleagues will benefit greatly from Mr. Ellis' report.

MEXICO AT A CRITICAL JUNCTURE

(By C. Allen Ellis)

THE 1994-1995 CRISIS

The years 1994-1995 were two of the most turbulent years in Mexico's modern history since the Revolution of 1910. An indigenous uprising in the southeastern state of Chiapas, which could represent a flashpoint for the vast number of our southern neighbor's rural and urban poor, continued to fester. Luis Donaldo Colosio, the presidential candidate of the country's dominant political party for 65 years, the Partido Revolucionario Institucional ("PRI"), was assassinated March 23, 1994 as he initiated his campaign, and a possible conspiracy and its participants is an issue which the judiciary and law enforcement branches of the government have been unable to resolve to date.

A relatively unknown substitute and politically inexperienced PRI candidate, Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León, was elected President September 1, 1994, in what observers and participants alike concluded was a model democratic election in Mexico.

The above dramatic events, along with a continuing rise in international interest rates, and a massive acceleration in Mexico's balance of trade and current account deficits, resulted in a growing erosion of confidence by foreign and Mexican investors alike in Mexico and in its capital market, which the bulk of capital flows earlier had found attractive, notably in the form of "Tesobonos", short-term, high-yielding, essentially dollar-denominated instruments.

The Government of Mexico's reliance on "Tesobonos" and on escalating short-term internal financing to meet its short and

long-term financial needs, was compounded by the failure of the outgoing administration of President Carlos Salinas to address the challenging issue of an over-valued currency. The international financial community would have accepted a devaluation prior to its leaving office, given its confidence in Mexico's outgoing political leadership and financial authorities, but the decision was made to avoid this unpalatable choice.

President Ernesto Zedillo and his inexperienced political and financial team were thus confronted, three weeks after taking office, with the fateful necessity to devalue. It was, inevitably, a failure, given its having to be attempted before the new administration had established its political and financial credibility compounded by its handling of the devaluation proper.

The result of the above-described confluence of events was a crisis year 1995 in which Mexico experienced its worst recession since 1932 with a fall in its gross domestic product of 6.9% inflation in excess of 50%, its currency devalued by a third against the dollar, at least 15,000 business failures, additional millions of unemployed or underemployed and a shattering loss of confidence by the Mexican people at all levels of society in the workings of their traditional political system and in their political and economic governance.

Fortunately for Mexico, and in the national self-interest of our own country, President William Clinton, his financial team and the Federal Reserve Board were joined by the international financial community and key members of both parties in our Congress in approval of timely and massive financial assistance to Mexico. This was in response to the economic stabilization program adopted by President Zedillo and Treasury Secretary Guillermo Ortiz, in close consultation with Secretary Robert Rubin and his team at Treasury working in tandem with the international financial agencies.

THE PRESENT ECONOMIC SCENARIO

At the recent Mexican Bankers Convention held March 15-16 the mood of the assembled banking representatives and senior government officials was realistic, if not somber. It was in striking contrast to the prior gathering in October 1994 where outgoing President Carlos Salinas presided and lauded his Treasury Secretary for his abilities and loyalty.

President Zedillo in his address to the 1996 assemblage reiterated that the economic austerity program of his administration would be continued. Treasury Secretary Ortiz thereafter described the slowing in the fourth quarter of 1995 of the economy's free-fall in the second and third quarters. He predicted that a slow recovery, and fall in Mexico's continuing inflation, would begin in the second quarter of 1996, making possible achievement of the 3% growth rate target for the year with moderating inflation.

However, the assembled Mexican and foreign bankers remained particularly troubled by the continuing crisis in the banking system where prevailing interest rates of 40% and higher, similar bad debt levels as a percentage of loans, and a growing non-payment mentality by borrowers, even when able to repay, were of increasing concern.

Our country's 1995 trade deficit of \$15.4 billion with Mexico was the first year since 1990 that imports exceeded exports, and was principally due to Mexico's deep recession, the devaluation of its currency and our own booming demand. Our exports to Mexico, in a total of \$46.3 billion, were down approximately 9% from their 1994 level but still 11% higher than in 1993, the year before NAFTA took effect. Despite earlier dire forecasts by Ross Perot and others of the effect NAFTA would have on employment, the Department

of Labor has reported that between January 1994 and February 1996 it certified for assistance 58,600 workers whose loss of jobs could be attributed to NAFTA, far fewer than had been predicted.

PRESIDENT ERNESTO ZEDILLO AND HIS POLICIES.

President Zedillo has begun his six-year term to end in the year 2000 embarked on a program to open and democratize Mexico's one-party political system, reform the authoritarian nature of its presidency, enhance the role of the legislative and judicial branches of government, and decentralize its federal-state relationships, all the while confronting Mexico's shattered economy and banking system. He has chosen a herculean course which, if successful, could dramatically change Mexico and result in its political modernization.

Many Mexicans, particularly among traditional political figures and their counterparts in the private sector, question whether this is the right course for Mexico and do not believe President Zedillo and his team have the experience, political skills and public support to accomplish the fundamental transformation involved. Notwithstanding there appears to be a gradual realization that President Zedillo, given his resolute and stubborn nature, will stay his present course. However, to assure the long-term success of this program his administration and he must develop greater political support at all levels within Mexico.

The importance of Mexico to our own country merits increasing appreciation here, not only as our partner with Canada in NAFTA, but as proof of the world's leading industrial democracy and a troubled developing nation, with which it shares a 3,000 mile border, can address their many common problems and prosper together.

IN HONOR OF ZUBERI MCKINNEY

HON. DOUGLAS "PETE" PETERSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. PETERSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on March 6, 1966, Zuberi McKinney, the beloved son of the U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Gene C. McKinney, died as a result of a tragic automobile accident in Tallahassee, FL. Zuberi was 18 years old and attending his first year of college at Florida A&M University. Sergeant Major and Mrs. McKinney are long time residents of the Second Congressional District of Florida which I serve.

I lost my 17-year-old son several years ago in an accident very similar to that experienced by the McKinney family and know only too well the pain a family suffers having sustained a loss of this magnitude. It is a pain that never goes away, however there is comfort in that loved one's memory.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I wish to enter into the RECORD the words of Zuberi McKinney's parents as they celebrate Zuberi's 19th birthday. The composition speaks for itself in terms of compassion and grief, but it also speaks eloquently of a strong, close, loving family. A family whose bonds cannot be broken even in death.

IN HONOR OF ZUBERI MCKINNEY

Our Dear Son,

You've heard us say to you many times how we will always be proud of you and love you, No Matter What.

Today Dad and I were reminiscing about the Earthly life you have had and we have had because of you.