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Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Speech File Draft Files
Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1993

OA/ID Number: 13564
Folder ID Number: 13564-008

Folder Title:
Academic Decathlon 4/25/91 [OA 6032]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	16	7	7

NAME OF SPEECH & DATE OF SPEECH Academic Decathlon

Winners - 4/24/91

NAME OF WRITER : Hirschliffe

NAME OF RESEARCHER: Blymire

SPEECH SYNOPSIS: POTUS salutes the

winning high school decathlete
team - J. J. Peare high school.

POTUS discusses their use of
teamwork to achieve this goal.

POTUS then refers to this
aspect of teamwork being used in

American 2000 Combining Teachers,
Students & Community Members

to reinvent education. POTUS

ends the speech with an

inspiring quote from Pres. Lincoln

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/24/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ---

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ACADEMIC DECATHLON WINNERS

		ACTION	FYI			ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		MCCLURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		ROGICH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		SMITH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<u>SNOW</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
HOLIDAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY
 Assistant to the President
 and Staff Secretary
 Ext. 2702

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

91 APR 24 PM 2:49

April 23, 1991

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: TONY SNOW *TS*
FROM: BETH HINCHLIFFE *BH*
SUBJECT: REMARKS TO ACADEMIC DECATHLON WINNERS

On Thursday, April 25, at 11:30 a.m. in the Rose Garden, you will meet the winners of the 1991 U.S. Academic Decathlon (the team from J.J. Pearce High School in Richardson, Texas). Also present will be the two local teams that made the National Finals -- from Benjamin Banneker High in D.C. and Thomas Jefferson High in Alexandria.

Secretary Alexander, Governor Gardner and official representatives of the Decathlon will be on the steps with you. Texas Senators Bentsen and Gramm may attend.

Your remarks (7 minutes, cards) salute the achievements of the winners and also of all 35,000 national entrants in this year's Decathlon. They emphasize the goals of "America 2000," and talk of the importance of inspiring others by example and academic achievement.

Hinchliffe/Blymire
April 23, 1991 6 p.m.
DECATHLON Draft Three

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SALUTE TO U.S. ACADEMIC DECATHLON WINNERS
Thursday, April 25, 1991 11:30 a.m.
Rose Garden

A warm welcome to our very special guests. And, of course, to our newest American heroes, the 1991 Academic Decathlon champs -- the team from J.J. Pearce High School in Richardson, Texas. We're proud of you. America is proud of you.

I was looking over some of the questions you tackled, like this one: "The Earth's magnetic field is compressed on the Sun-facing side by ... what?" Well, the kids behind me know, but for the media out there, the answer is: "solar wind."

All I can say is -- I wouldn't have made it past the round where they asked me to spell "broccoli."

Congratulations Kevin, Dardy, Eugene, Misty, Christine, Craig, Wade, Amie, Frank. And coaches Dorcas and Linda -- the Norman Schwarzkopfs of Pearce High. You've done something remarkable. This year's contest began with more than 35,000 students at 3,500 high schools coast to coast -- now it's just you. I must admit, it stirs my Texas pride to hear that in this national competition's 10-year history, your school has won five times. I wish my son's Texas Rangers could have that kind of record.

I want to tell every one of the 35,000 across the nation what you've done for America. You've shown great things can be achieved by commitment. By perseverance. Hard work. And teamwork. There's something I really like about the Decathlon -- something I'm going to tell my grandkids. This isn't about

being the smartest kid in your class -- after all, each team is evenly divided among A, B and C students. No, the lesson of the Academic Decathlon is something each of us needs to take through life. It's about learning to be the best that you can be.

All right, I have a question. What do you have in common with Bruce Jenner, Rafer Johnson, and Jim Thorpe? Answer: you're all winning decathletes. The ones who mastered the ultimate test of the athlete -- and the student. You've shown your peers that it's as exciting to root for an academic team as an athletic one. That it takes skill, stamina, and mental and emotional intensity to achieve in the classroom as well as in the stadium. And by doing that, you've given them a priceless gift -- the belief in their ability to reach out and shape their own futures.

Last week, I unveiled "America 2000" -- our long-range strategy for educational excellence. It's ambitious. Far-reaching. And absolutely essential. There's a new century coming -- one with unlimited horizons. Our goal must be to make sure that our children enter this new world equipped with the skills that will let them dream dreams and know they can make them come true. "America 2000" is a challenge posed to each of us -- to reinvent American education. To reach deep within us to find answers -- so that our kids can reach out to find the stars.

That's why I'm so proud of you as messengers of this idea. Your lives and your accomplishments speak to other kids the way no words from a government leader or even a teacher can. They look at each of you -- and they see themselves. They look at you

and they see what they, too, can become.

And that's a new kind of hero. A new generation of heroes. With the good values you learn from disciplined determination. The sharp mind that's not wasted on drugs. The confidence and pride that come from stretching yourself, proving yourself. You're the ones who will help our "America 2000" dream come true.

You have some pretty impressive partners, too -- who'll also have a big role to play in reaching our education goals. Private businesses. For instance in this year's Decathlon, that meant the local foundation in Hawaii which bought sweaters for its team to wear in competition. Toastmasters' Clubs which trained students for the speech segment. The companies that sent in experts from within their ranks to tutor team members. And the major national corporations that underwrote scholarships for winners.

These businesses believe each of us can play a pivotal role in our kids' educational future. This amazing bond between industry and individual is the keystone of the American spirit. That spirit is the basis of the Decathlon. And it's exactly what we must bring to "America 2000." You have proven -- and now we will all continue to prove -- that together we can do great things.

Great things that will inspire others. Like what's been done at the Decathlon by kids like DC's Che-Wah Lee who won the speech gold medal telling how his parents fled China so their children could know the American Dream. Great things done by kids like Christine Liu here, the overall top student in the entire competition. By kids like Fred Klug, winner of the 1990 Caperton Award

for dedication to learning in the face of major obstacles -- Fred is permanently paralyzed, and scored 100% on the Super Quiz.

And there are great teams like Thomas Jefferson High School of Science and Technology of Alexandria, Virginia -- Rookie of the Year winner. Teams like Whitney Young Magnet High School in inner-city Chicago -- which won this year's bronze medal and became the model for other large urban schools. Teams like Tennessee's Jackson Christian School -- state winner although it has just 100 kids in the whole school.

Abraham Lincoln said: "I will study and prepare myself, and someday my chance will come." You have done that. You have inspired your countrymen to do that. Thank you, congratulations, and may God bless you in the exciting futures you have ahead.

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**SALUTE TO U.S. ACADEMIC DECATHLON WINNERS \ ROSE GARDEN
THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1991 \ 11:30 A.M.**

**THANK YOU, AND A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VERY SPECIAL
GUESTS -- SECRETARY ALEXANDER, TED SANDERS OF THE
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ACADEMIC DECATHLON; AND THE DECATHLON TEAMS FROM D.C.'S
BENJAMIN BANNEKER HIGH SCHOOL, \ \ AND ALEXANDRIA,
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**AND, OF COURSE, WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST AMERICAN
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ALL I CAN SAY IS -- I WOULDN'T HAVE MADE IT PAST THE ROUND WHERE THEY ASKED ME TO SPELL "BROCCOLI." \\
CONGRATULATIONS KEVIN, DARDY, EUGENE, MISTY, CHRISTINE, CRAIG, WADE, AMIE, FRANK. AND COACHES DORCAS AND LINDA -- THE NORMAN SCHWARZKOPFS OF PEARCE HIGH. YOU'VE DONE SOMETHING REMARKABLE. THIS YEAR'S CONTEST BEGAN WITH MORE THAN 35,000 STUDENTS AT 3,500 HIGH SCHOOLS COAST TO COAST -- NOW IT'S JUST YOU.

I MUST ADMIT, IT STIRS MY TEXAS PRIDE TO HEAR THAT IN THIS NATIONAL COMPETITION'S 10-YEAR HISTORY, YOUR SCHOOL HAS WON FIVE TIMES. I WISH MY SON'S TEXAS RANGERS COULD HAVE THAT KIND OF RECORD. \\

I WANT TO TELL EVERY ONE OF THE 35,000 ACROSS THE NATION WHAT YOU'VE DONE FOR AMERICA. YOU'VE SHOWN GREAT THINGS CAN BE ACHIEVED BY COMMITMENT. BY PERSEVERANCE. HARD WORK. AND TEAMWORK.

THERE'S SOMETHING I REALLY LIKE ABOUT THE DECATHLON -- SOMETHING I'M GOING TO TELL MY GRANDKIDS. THIS ISN'T ABOUT BEING THE SMARTEST KID IN YOUR CLASS -- AFTER ALL, EACH TEAM IS EVENLY DIVIDED AMONG A, B AND C STUDENTS. NO, THE LESSON OF THE ACADEMIC DECATHLON IS SOMETHING EACH OF US NEEDS TO TAKE THROUGH LIFE. IT'S ABOUT LEARNING TO BE THE BEST THAT YOU CAN BE. \ \ \

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To Paris
WASHINGTON
91 APR 24 P 2: 91

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And that's a new kind of hero. A new generation of heroes. With the good values you learn from disciplined determination. The sharp mind that's not wasted on drugs. The confidence and pride that come from stretching yourself, proving yourself. You're the ones who will help our "America 2000" dream come true.

You have some pretty impressive partners, too -- who'll also have a big role to play in reaching our education goals. Private businesses. For instance in this year's Decathlon, that meant the local foundation in Hawaii which bought sweaters for its team to wear in competition. Toastmasters' Clubs which trained students for the speech segment. The companies that sent in experts from within their ranks to tutor team members. And the major national corporations that underwrote scholarships for winners.

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for dedication to learning in the face of major obstacles -- Fred is permanently paralyzed, and scored 100% on the Super Quiz.

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Abraham Lincoln said: "I will study and prepare myself, and someday my chance will come." You have done that. You have inspired your countrymen to do that. Thank you, congratulations, and may God bless you in the exciting futures you have ahead.

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM
 91 APR 24 8:15 288

DATE: 4/23/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4/23/91 4:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: WINNERS OF U.S. ACADEMIC DECATHLON

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>SNOW</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 4:00 PM, TODAY, Tuesday, April 23, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*Comments on page #2
 P. J. M.*

PHILLIP D. BRADY
 Assistant to the President
 and Staff Secretary
 Ext. 2702

(Hinchliffe/Blymire)
April 22, 1991 8 p.m.
DECATHLON Draft Two

91 APR 23 AM 8:05

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SALUTE TO U.S. ACADEMIC DECATHLON WINNERS
Thursday, April 25, 1991
Rose Garden

A warm welcome to our very special guests. [ACK] And, of course, to our newest American heroes, the 1991 Academic Decathlon champs -- the team from J.J. Pearce High School in Richardson, Texas. We're proud of you. America is proud of you.

[[I was looking over some of the questions you tackled, like [SAMPLE]. All I can say is -- I wouldn't have made it past the round where they asked me to spell "broccoli."]]

Congratulations Kevin, Dardy, Eugene, Misty, Christine, Craig, Wade, Amie, Frank. And coaches Dorcas and Linda -- the Norman Schwarzhopfs of Pearce High. You've done something remarkable. This year's contest began with more than 35,000 students at 3,500 high schools coast to coast -- now it's just you. I must admit, it stirs my Texas pride to hear that in this national competition's 10-year history, your school has won five times. I wish my son's Texas Rangers could have that kind of record.

I want to tell every one of the 35,000 across the nation what you've done for America. You've shown great things can be achieved by commitment. By perseverance. Hard work. And teamwork. There's something I really like about the Decathlon -- something I'm going to tell my grandkids. This isn't about being the smartest kid in your class -- after all, each team is evenly divided among A, B and C students. No, the lesson of the Academic Decathlon is something each of us needs to take through life.

It's about learning to do the most with what you have. Learning to be the best that you can be.

All right, I have a question. What do you have in common with Bruce Jenner, Rafer Johnson, and Jim Thorpe? Answer: you're all winning decathletes. The ones who mastered the ultimate test of the athlete -- and the student. You've shown your ~~school~~ ^{PEERS / COLLEAGUES} that it's as exciting to root for an academic team as an athletic one. That it takes skill, stamina, and mental and emotional intensity to achieve in the classroom as well as in the stadium. And by doing that, you've given them a priceless gift -- the belief in their ability to reach out and shape their own futures.

Last week, I unveiled ~~our new~~ "America 2000" ~~program~~ -- our long-range strategy for educational excellence. It's ambitious. Far-reaching. And absolutely essential. There's a new century coming -- one with unlimited horizons. Our primary goal must be to make sure that our children enter this new world equipped with the skills that will let them dream dreams and know they can make them come true. "America 2000" is a challenge posed to each of us -- to reinvent American education. To reach deep within us to find answers -- so that our kids can reach out to find the stars.

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#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 23, 1991

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: TONY SNOW *TS*
FROM: BETH HINCHLIFFE *BH*
SUBJECT: REMARKS TO ACADEMIC DECATHLON WINNERS

On Thursday, April 25, at 11:30 a.m. in the Rose Garden, you will meet the winners of the 1991 U.S. Academic Decathlon (the team from J.J. Pearce High School in Richardson, Texas). Also present will be the two local teams that made the National Finals -- from Benjamin Banneker High in D.C. and Thomas Jefferson High in Alexandria.

Secretary Alexander, Governor Gardner and official representatives of the Decathlon will be on the steps with you. Texas Senators Bentsen and Gramm may attend.

Your remarks (7 minutes, cards) salute the achievements of the winners and also of all 35,000 national entrants in this year's Decathlon. They emphasize the goals of "America 2000," and talk of the importance of inspiring others by example and academic achievement.

Hinchliffe/Blymire
April 23, 1991 6 p.m.
DECATHLON Draft Three

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SALUTE TO U.S. ACADEMIC DECATHLON WINNERS
Thursday, April 25, 1991 11:30 a.m.
Rose Garden

A warm welcome to our very special guests. And, of course, to our newest American heroes, the 1991 Academic Decathlon champs -- the team from J.J. Pearce High School in Richardson, Texas. We're proud of you. America is proud of you.

I was looking over some of the questions you tackled, like this one: "The Earth's magnetic field is compressed on the Sun-facing side by ... what?" Well, the kids behind me know, but for the media out there, the answer is: "solar wind."

All I can say is -- I wouldn't have made it past the round where they asked me to spell "broccoli."

Congratulations Kevin, Dardy, Eugene, Misty, Christine, Craig, Wade, Amie, Frank. And coaches Dorcas and Linda -- the Norman Schwarzkopfs of Pearce High. You've done something remarkable. This year's contest began with more than 35,000 students at 3,500 high schools coast to coast -- now it's just you. I must admit, it stirs my Texas pride to hear that in this national competition's 10-year history, your school has won five times. I wish my son's Texas Rangers could have that kind of record.

I want to tell every one of the 35,000 across the nation what you've done for America. You've shown great things can be achieved by commitment. By perseverance. Hard work. And teamwork. There's something I really like about the Decathlon - something I'm going to tell my grandkids. This isn't about

being the smartest kid in your class -- after all, each team is evenly divided among A, B and C students. No, the lesson of the Academic Decathlon is something each of us needs to take through life. It's about learning to be the best that you can be.

All right, I have a question. What do you have in common with Bruce Jenner, Rafer Johnson, and Jim Thorpe? Answer: you're all winning decathletes. The ones who mastered the ultimate test of the athlete -- and the student. You've shown your peers that it's as exciting to root for an academic team as an athletic one. That it takes skill, stamina, and mental and emotional intensity to achieve in the classroom as well as in the stadium. And by doing that, you've given them a priceless gift -- the belief in their ability to reach out and shape their own futures.

Last week, I unveiled "America 2000" -- our long-range strategy for educational excellence. It's ambitious. Far-reaching. And absolutely essential. There's a new century coming -- one with unlimited horizons. Our goal must be to make sure that our children enter this new world equipped with the skills that will let them dream dreams and know they can make them come true. "America 2000" is a challenge posed to each of us -- to reinvent American education. To reach deep within us to find answers -- so that our kids can reach out to find the stars.

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You have some pretty impressive partners, too -- who'll also have a big role to play in reaching our education goals. Private businesses. For instance in this year's Decathlon, that meant the local foundation in Hawaii which bought sweaters for its team to wear in competition. Toastmasters' Clubs which trained students for the speech segment. The companies that sent in experts from within their ranks to tutor team members. And the major national corporations that underwrote scholarships for winners.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/23/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4/23/91 4:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: WINNERS OF U.S. ACADEMIC DECATHLON

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	²⁵¹³ PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SMITH <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>SNOW</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 4:00 PM, TODAY, Tuesday, April 23, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

MASTER

PHILLIP D. BRADY
 Assistant to the President
 and Staff Secretary
 Ext. 2702

(Hinchliffe/Blymire)
April 22, 1991 8 p.m.
DECATHLON Draft Two

91 APR 23 AM 8:05

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SALUTE TO U.S. ACADEMIC DECATHLON WINNERS
Thursday, April 25, 1991
Rose Garden

A warm welcome to our very special guests. [ACK] And, of course, to our newest American heroes, the 1991 Academic Decathlon champs -- the team from J.J. Pearce High School in Richardson, Texas. We're proud of you. America is proud of you.

[[I was looking over some of the questions you tackled, like [SAMPLE]. All I can say is -- I wouldn't have made it past the round where they asked me to spell "broccoli."]]

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Do we want
to do a
joke about
POTOS?
deficiency in
a 'case'
K area?
(OMB)

It's about learning ~~to do the most with what you have.~~ Learning ^(D²) to be the best that you can be.

All right, I have a question. What do you have in common with Bruce Jenner, Rafer Johnson, and Jim Thorpe? Answer: you're all winning decathletes. The ones who mastered the ultimate test of the athlete -- and the student. You've shown your ^{(peers) or colleagues} ~~school~~ that it's as exciting to root for an academic team as an athletic one. ^{Bra. d said that sch. is not parallel} That it takes skill, stamina, and mental and emotional intensity to achieve in the classroom as well as in the stadium. And by doing that, you've given them a priceless gift -- the belief in their ability to reach out and shape their own futures.

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You should also tick off the 4 tracks announced last week. Need a reference to Nat'l Educ. goals; 5 core subjects, high standards, etc. (OCA)

Step

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Name of
Lumber yard
that
which

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For the files

Document No. 231744 SS

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM / APR 24 1991 4:43

DATE: 4/23/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4/23/91 4:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: WINNERS OF U.S. ACADEMIC DECATHLON

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>SNOW</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 4:00 PM, TODAY, Tuesday, April 23, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

minor comments [Signature]

RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY Assistant to the President and Staff Secretary Ext. 2702

(Hinchliffe/Blymire)
April 22, 1991 8 p.m.
DECATHLON Draft Two

91 APR 23 AM 8:05

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

91 APR 23 P4: 26

DATE: 4/23/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4/23/91 4:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: WINNERS OF U.S. ACADEMIC DECATHLON

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>SNOW</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 4:00 PM, TODAY, Tuesday, April 23, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

91 APR 23 P4: 26

RESPONSE:

*See comments, thank.
Holly Williamson
4-23-91*

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

(Hinchliffe/Blymire)
April 22, 1991 8 p.m.
DECATHLON Draft Two

91 APR 23 AM 8:05

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SALUTE TO U.S. ACADEMIC DECATHLON WINNERS
Thursday, April 25, 1991
Rose Garden

A warm welcome to our very special guests. [ACK] And, of course, to our newest American heroes, the 1991 Academic Decathlon champs -- the team from J.J. Pearce High School in Richardson, Texas. We're proud of you. America is proud of you.

[[I was looking over some of the questions you tackled, like [SAMPLE]. All I can say is -- I wouldn't have made it past the round where they asked me to spell "broccoli."]]

Congratulations Kevin, Dardy, Eugene, Misty, Christine, Craig, Wade, Amie, Frank. And coaches Dorcas and Linda -- the Norman Schwarzhopfs of Pearce High. You've done something remarkable. This year's contest began with more than 35,000 students at 3,500 high schools coast to coast -- now it's just you. I must admit, it stirs my Texas pride to hear that in this national competition's 10-year history, your school has won five times. I wish my son's Texas Rangers could have that kind of record.

I want to tell every one of the 35,000 across the nation what you've done for America. You've shown great things can be achieved by commitment. By perseverance. Hard work. And teamwork. There's something I really like about the Decathlon -- something I'm going to tell my grandkids. This isn't about being the smartest kid in your class -- after all, each team is evenly divided among A, B and C students. No, the lesson of the Academic Decathlon is something each of us needs to take through life.

It's about learning to do the most with what you have. Learning to be the best that you can be.

All right, I have a question. What do you have in common with Bruce Jenner, Rafer Johnson, and Jim Thorpe? Answer: you're all winning decathletes. The ones who mastered the ultimate test of the athlete -- and the student. You've shown your school that it's as exciting to root for an academic team as an athletic one. That it takes skill, stamina, and mental and emotional intensity to achieve in the classroom as well as in the stadium. And by doing that, you've given them a priceless gift -- the belief in their ability to reach out and shape their own futures.

Last week, I unveiled our new "America 2000" program -- our long-range strategy for educational excellence. It's ambitious. Far-reaching. And absolutely essential. There's a new century coming -- one with unlimited horizons. Our ~~primary goal must be to make sure that our children enter this new world equipped with the skills that will let them dream dreams and know they can make them come true.~~ "America 2000" is a challenge posed to each of us -- to reinvent American education. To reach deep within us to find answers -- so that our kids can reach out to find the stars.

That's why I'm so proud of you as messengers of this idea. Your lives and your accomplishments speak to other kids the way no words from a government leader or even a teacher can. They look at each of you -- and they see themselves. They look at you and they see what they, too, can become.

And that's a new kind of hero. A new generation of heroes.

Our goal really is achievement. You should also tick off the 4 tracks announced last week. Need a reference to the National Ed. Goals; the 5 core subjects; high standards etc...

With the good values you learn from disciplined determination. The sharp mind that's not wasted on drugs. The confidence and pride that come from stretching yourself, proving yourself. You're the ones who will help our "America 2000" dream come true.

You have some pretty impressive partners, too -- who'll also have a big role to play in reaching our education goals. Private businesses. For instance, in this year's Decathlon, that meant the local lumberyard which bought jackets for its team to wear in competition. The town Toastmasters' Club who trained students for the speech segment. The companies that sent in experts from within their ranks to tutor team members. And the major national corporations that underwrote scholarships for winners.

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Great things that will inspire others. Like what's been done at the Decathlon by kids like DC's Che-Wah Lee who won the speech gold medal telling how his parents fled China so their children could know the American Dream. Great things done by kids like Christine Liu here, the overall top student in the entire competition. By kids like Fred Klug, winner of the 1990 Caperton Award for dedication to learning in the face of major obstacles -- Fred is permanently paralyzed, and scored 100% on the Super Quiz.

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#

Brad Mitchell
X2813

Roger Porter's
Comments

(Hinchliffe/Blymire)
April 22, 1991 8 p.m.
DECATHLON Draft Two

STAFFED

91 APR 23 A 8:22

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SALUTE TO U.S. ACADEMIC DECATHLON WINNERS
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#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM
 91 APR 23 P 4: 38

DATE: 4/23/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4/23/91 4:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: WINNERS OF U.S. ACADEMIC DECATHLON

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>SNOW</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 4:00 PM, TODAY, Tuesday, April 23, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE: *See comment.*

PHILLIP D. BRADY
 Assistant to the President
 and Staff Secretary
 Ext. 2702

91 APR 23 AM 8:05

Note: Are you sure you want to joke about the President's deficiency in one of the five "core" areas? [Scully X5178]

(Hinchliffe/Blymire)
April 22, 1991 8 p.m.
DECATHLON Draft Two

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#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

91 APR 23 P2:15

April 22, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR TONY SNOW
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR
COMMUNICATIONS AND DIRECTOR OF SPEECHWRITING

FROM: JAY S. BYBEE
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Winners of U.S. Academic
Decathlon

Counsel Office has no legal objection to the presidential remarks
referenced above.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this matter.

Attachment

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/23/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4/23/91 4:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: WINNERS OF U.S. ACADEMIC DECATHLON

	ACTION FYI			ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>SNOW</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY
 Assistant to the President
 and Staff Secretary
 Ext. 2702

(Hinchliffe/Blymire)
April 22, 1991 8 p.m.
DECATHLON Draft Two

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#

OFFICE NUMBER

FAX NUMBER

FROM

Sharon

COMMENTS

OFFICE NUMBER

2930

FAX NUMBER

2618 6218

TO

Nancy

DATE

4/23

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER

6

PRECISE TRANSMITTAL SHEET



Executive Office of the President

91 APR 23 P 3: 56

Document No. 23744 SS

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/23/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4/23/91 4:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: WINNERS OF U.S. ACADEMIC DECATHLON

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minor comments
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Ext. 2702

91 APR 23 AM 8:05

(Hinchliffe/Blymire)
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Congratulations Kevin, Dardy, Eugene, Misty, Christine, Craig, Wade, Amie, Frank. And coaches Dorcas and Linda -- the Norman Schwarzhopfs of Pearce High. You've done something remarkable. This year's contest began with more than 35,000 students at 3,500 high schools coast to coast -- now it's just you. I must admit, it stirs my Texas pride to hear that in this national competition's 10-year history, your school has won five times. I wish my son's Texas Rangers could have that kind of record.

I want to tell every one of the 35,000 across the nation what you've done for America. You've shown great things can be achieved by commitment. By perseverance. Hard work. And teamwork. There's something I really like about the Decathlon -- something I'm going to tell my grandkids. This isn't about being the smartest kid in your class -- after all, each team is evenly divided among A, B and C students. No, the lesson of the Academic Decathlon is something each of us needs to take through life.

2

It's about learning ~~to do the most with what you have.~~ Learning to be the best that you can be.

All right, I have a question. What do you have in common with Bruce Jenner, Rafer Johnson, and Jim Thorpe? Answer: you're all winning decathletes. The ones who mastered the ultimate test of the athlete -- and the student. You've shown your school that it's as exciting to root for an academic team as an athletic one. That it takes skill, stamina, and mental and emotional intensity to achieve in the classroom as well as in the stadium. And by doing that, you've given them a priceless gift -- the belief in their ability to reach out and shape their own futures.

Last week, I unveiled our new "America 2000" program -- our long-range strategy for educational excellence. It's ambitious. Far-reaching. And absolutely essential. There's a new century coming -- one with unlimited horizons. Our primary goal must be to make sure that our children enter this new world equipped with the skills that will let them dream dreams and know they can make them come true. "America 2000" is a challenge posed to each of us -- to reinvent American education. To reach deep within us to find answers -- so that our kids can reach out to find the stars.

That's why I'm so proud of you as messengers of this idea. Your lives and your accomplishments speak to other kids the way no words from a government leader or even a teacher can. They look at each of you -- and they see themselves. They look at you and they see what they, too, can become.

And that's a new kind of hero. A new generation of heroes.

3

With the good values you learn from disciplined determination. The sharp mind that's not wasted on drugs. The confidence and pride that come from stretching yourself, proving yourself. You're the ones who will help our "America 2000" dream come true.

You have some pretty impressive partners, too -- who'll also have a big role to play in reaching our education goals. Private businesses. For instance, in this year's Decathlon, that meant the local lumberyard which bought jackets for its team to wear in competition. The town Toastmasters' Club who trained students for the speech segment. The companies that sent in experts from within their ranks to tutor team members. And the major national corporations that underwrote scholarships for winners.

These businesses believe each of us can play a pivotal role in our kids' educational future. This amazing bond between industry and individual is the keystone of the American spirit. That spirit is the basis of the Decathlon. And it's exactly what we must bring to "America 2000." You have proven -- and now we will all continue to prove -- that together we can do great things.

Great things that will inspire others. Like what's been done at the Decathlon by kids like DC's Che-Wah Lee who won the speech gold medal telling how his parents fled China so their children could know the American Dream. Great things done by kids like Christine Liu here, the overall top student in the entire competition. By kids like Fred Klug, winner of the 1990 Caperton Award for dedication to learning in the face of major obstacles -- Fred is permanently paralyzed, and scored 100% on the Super Quiz.

And there are great teams like Jefferson High of Alexandria, Virginia -- Rookie of the Year winner. Teams like Whitney Young Magnet High School in inner-city Chicago -- which won this year's bronze medal and became the model for other large urban schools. Teams like Tennessee's Jackson Christian School -- state winner although it has less than 100 kids in the whole school.

~~You are the new American heroes.~~

Abraham Lincoln said: "I will study and prepare myself, and someday my chance will come." You have done that. You have inspired your countrymen to do that. Thank you, congratulations, and may God bless you in the exciting futures you have ahead.

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(Hinchliffe/Blymire)
April 22, 1991 8 p.m.
DECATHLON Draft Two

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SALUTE TO U.S. ACADEMIC DECATHLON WINNERS
Thursday, April 25, 1991
Rose Garden

A warm welcome to our very special guests. [ACK] And, of course, to our newest American heroes, the 1991 Academic Decathlon champs -- the team from J.J. Pearce High School in Richardson, Texas. We're proud of you. America is proud of you.

[[I was looking over some of the questions you tackled, like [SAMPLE]. All I can say is -- I wouldn't have made it past the round where they asked me to spell "broccoli."]]

Congratulations Kevin, Dardy, Eugene, Misty, Christine, Craig, Wade, Amie, Frank. And coaches Dorcas and Linda -- the Norman Schwarzhopfs of Pearce High. You've done something remarkable. This year's contest began with more than 35,000 students at 3,500 high schools coast to coast -- now it's just you. I must admit, it stirs my Texas pride to hear that in this national competition's 10-year history, your school has won five times. I wish my son's Texas Rangers could have that kind of record.

I want to tell every one of the 35,000 across the nation what you've done for America. You've shown great things can be achieved by commitment. By perseverance. Hard work. And teamwork. There's something I really like about the Decathlon -- something I'm going to tell my grandkids. This isn't about being the smartest kid in your class -- after all, each team is evenly divided among A, B and C students. No, the lesson of the Academic Decathlon is something each of us needs to take through life.

It's about learning to do the most with what you have. Learning to be the best that you can be.

All right, I have a question. What do you have in common with Bruce Jenner, Rafer Johnson, and Jim Thorpe? Answer: you're all winning decathletes. The ones who mastered the ultimate test of the athlete -- and the student. You've shown your school that it's as exciting to root for an academic team as an athletic one. That it takes skill, stamina, and mental and emotional intensity to achieve in the classroom as well as in the stadium. And by doing that, you've given them a priceless gift -- the belief in their ability to reach out and shape their own futures.

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That's why I'm so proud of you as messengers of this idea. Your lives and your accomplishments speak to other kids the way no words from a government leader or even a teacher can. They look at each of you -- and they see themselves. They look at you and they see what they, too, can become.

And that's a new kind of hero. A new generation of heroes.

With the good values you learn from disciplined determination. The sharp mind that's not wasted on drugs. The confidence and pride that come from stretching yourself, proving yourself. You're the ones who will help our "America 2000" dream come true.

You have some pretty impressive partners, too -- who'll also have a big role to play in reaching our education goals. Private businesses. For instance, in this year's Decathlon, that meant the local lumberyard which bought jackets for its team to wear in competition. The town Toastmasters' Club who trained students for the speech segment. The companies that sent in experts from within their ranks to tutor team members. And the major national corporations that underwrote scholarships for winners.

These businesses believe each of us can play a pivotal role in our kids' educational future. This amazing bond between industry and individual is the keystone of the American spirit. That spirit is the basis of the Decathlon. And it's exactly what we must bring to "America 2000." You have proven -- and now we will all continue to prove -- that together we can do great things.

Great things that will inspire others. Like what's been done at the Decathlon by kids like DC's Che-Wah Lee who won the speech gold medal telling how his parents fled China so their children could know the American Dream. Great things done by kids like Christine Liu here, the overall top student in the entire competition. By kids like Fred Klug, winner of the 1990 Caperton Award for dedication to learning in the face of major obstacles -- Fred is permanently paralyzed, and scored 100% on the Super Quiz.

And there are great teams like Jefferson High of Alexandria, Virginia -- Rookie of the Year winner. Teams like Whitney Young Magnet High School in inner-city Chicago -- which won this year's bronze medal and became the model for other large urban schools. Teams like Tennessee's Jackson Christian School -- state winner although it has less than 100 kids in the whole school.

You are the new American heroes.

Abraham Lincoln said: "I will study and prepare myself, and someday my chance will come." You have done that. You have inspired your countrymen to do that. Thank you, congratulations, and may God bless you in the exciting futures you have ahead.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 25, 1991

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN SALUTE TO U.S. ACADEMIC DECATHLON WINNERS

The Rose Garden

11:37 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Please be seated. Thank you. What a day. I was going to apologize for keeping you waiting, but now I think I'll take credit for giving you the time in the sun here. (Laughter.) It is beautiful and we are just delighted to have you all here. I want to especially recognize this gentleman in the front row, Ted Sanders, who's doing such a wonderful job at our Department of Education; Bob Suarez of the U.S. Academic Decathlon; and the teams from D.C.'s Benjamin Banneker High School, and Alexandria, Virginia's Thomas Jefferson High School of Science and Technology.

And, of course, welcome to our newest American heroes, the 1991 Academic Decathlon champs -- the team's from J.J. Pearce High School in Richardson, Texas. We're proud of you. And, I think, America is proud of you.

I was looking over some of the questions you tackled, like: "The Earth's magnetic field is compressed on the sun-facing side by what?" Well -- (laughter) -- the kids behind me know, but for the media out there, the answer is: solar wind. (Laughter.) You guys remember that.

All I can say is, I wouldn't have made it past the round where they asked me to spell "broccoli." (Laughter.)

But congratulations to Kevin, Dardy, Eugene, Misty, Christine, Craig, Wade, Amie and Frank. And coaches Dorcas and Linda -- the Norman Schwarzkopfs of Pearce High. (Laughter.) That's what we refer to you as around here. (Laughter.) You've done something remarkable. This year's contest began with more than 35,000 students at 3,500 high schools coast to coast -- and now it's just you.

I must admit, it stirs my Texas pride a little to hear that in this national competition's 10-year history, your school has won five times. And I wish our son's Texas Rangers might be achieving the same kind of record in their field.

But I want to tell every one of the 35,000 across the nation, seriously, what you've done for this country. You've shown great things can be achieved by commitment. By perseverance, hard work, and teamwork.

And there's something I really like about the Decathlon -- something I'm going to tell my grandkids about. This isn't about being the smartest kid in your class -- after all, each of them is evenly divided among A, B and C students. The lesson, rather, of the Academic Decathlon is something each of us needs to take through life. It's about learning to be the best you can.

All right, I have a question. What do you have in common with Bruce Jenner, Rafer Johnson, and Jim Thorpe? All --

STUDENT: -- wearing Gold Medals.

THE PRESIDENT: That's it. (Laughter.) All winning. All winners. All winning decathletes. And the ones who mastered the

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ultimate test of the athlete and the student. You've shown your peers that it's as exciting to root for an academic team as an athletic one. And that it takes skill, stamina, and mental and emotional intensity to achieve in the classroom as well as in the stadium. And by doing that, you give them a priceless gift -- the belief in their ability to reach out and shape their own futures.

Last week, along with the Secretaries from the Department of Education -- Secretary Sanders was there and Secretary Alexander, our new Secretary -- I unveiled America 2000 -- our long-range strategy for educational excellence. It is ambitious. And it is far-reaching. And absolutely essential. There's a new century coming -- one with unlimited horizons. And our goal must be to make sure that our children enter this new world equipped with the skills that will let them dream dreams and know that they can make them come true.

America 2000 is a challenge posed to each of us -- to literally reinvent American education. To reach deep within us to find answers -- so that our kids can reach out to find the stars.

And that's why I'm so proud of you as messengers of this idea. Your lives and your accomplishments speak to other kids the way no words from a government or even a teacher can. These kids look at each of you and they see themselves. They look at you and they see what they, too, can become.

And that's what a new kind of a hero is. A new generation of heroes. With the good values you learn from disciplined determination. The sharp mind that's not wasted on drugs. The confidence and pride that come from stretching yourself, proving yourself. You're the ones who will help our America 2000 dream come true.

You have some pretty impressive partners, too, who will also have a big role to play in reaching our education goals. Private businesses. For instance, in this year's Decathlon, there was the local foundation in Hawaii which bought sweaters for its team to wear in competition. The Toastmasters Club which trained students for the speech segment. The companies that sent in experts from within their ranks to tutor the team members. And the major national corporations that underwrote scholarships for the winners.

These businesses believe that each of us can play a pivotal role in our kids' educational future. This amazing bond between industry and individual is the keystone of the American spirit. That spirit is the basis of the Decathlon. And it's exactly what we must bring to America 2000. You've proven -- and now we'll all act to continue to prove -- that together we can do great things.

Great things that will help inspire others. Great things like what's been done at the Decathlon by kids like D.C.'s Banneker High's Che-Wah Lee. Che-Wah Lee won the speech Gold Medal telling how his parents fled China so their children could know the American Dream.

Great things done by kids like Christine Liu here at Pearce High, the overall top student in the entire competition.

By kids like Fred Klug, winner of the Decathlon's 1990 Caperton Award for dedication to learning in the face of major obstacles -- Fred is permanently paralyzed, and scored 100 percent on the Super Quiz.

And there are great things being done by teams like Thomas Jefferson High School of Science and Technology in Alexandria -- Rookie of the Year winner. Teams like Whitney Young Magnet High School in inner-city Chicago, which won this year's Bronze Medal and became the model for other large urban schools. Teams like Tennessee's Jackson Christian School -- state winner, although it has just 100 kids in the whole school.

Abraham Lincoln said; "I will study and prepare myself, and someday my chance will come." You've done just that. And you've inspired your countrymen to do just that.

Thank you, and congratulations. And may God bless you in the exciting futures out there ahead of you. Thank you very, very much. (Applause.)

END

11:45 A.M. EDT