





LAURA BUSH

welcomes you to

THE WHITE HOUSE

for the presentation of the

NATIONAL
PROMISE OF AMERICA
AWARDS



Thursday, May 13, 2004

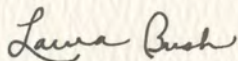
Welcome to the first annual National Promise of America Awards. We are pleased that you have joined us for this special evening.

Tonight we recognize outstanding individuals from various walks of life who share a significant common goal—the desire to help our nation's youth reach their full potential. And more than simply talking about the needs of young people, tonight's honorees are working to meet these needs through generous contributions of talent, treasure and, most importantly, time.

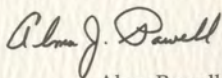
The mission of America's Promise—to provide all young people with the resources and opportunities they need to become adults of character and competence—will never be fully achieved without the dedication and commitment of every sector of our society. Corporations, nonprofits, educational and faith-based institutions, as well as private citizens, must all unite to focus on our most valuable resource for the future—our nation's youth.

Tonight we thank Leatrice "Chick" Big Crow; Jewan Garner; Joe Gibbs; Pastor Hal Johnson, Sr.; David Robinson; and Edward Rust, Jr., not only for their notable efforts on behalf of young people, but also for reminding us that each of us can play a role in nurturing the hopes and dreams of the next generation and fulfilling the promise of America.

We hope you enjoy this occasion!



Laura Bush



Alma Powell

PROGRAM

Remarks by

LAURA BUSH

ALMA POWELL

Co-chair, America's Promise

Introduction of Performers

CATHERINE B. REYNOLDS

Co-chair, America's Promise Leadership Council

Presentation of Promise of America Awards

LAURA BUSH

ALMA POWELL

Performances by

PATTI AUSTIN

KATHLEEN BATTLE

CYRUS CHESTNUT

JAMES INGRAM

NAOMI JUDD

WYNONNA JUDD

MELISSA MANCHESTER

MICHAEL McDONALD

CHRISTOPHER PARKENING

LEATRICE "CHICK" BIG CROW

In 1992, Chick Big Crow founded the SuAnne Big Crow Boys & Girls Club on the Oglala Lakota Pine Ridge Indian Reservation to honor the memory of her 17-year-old daughter, who died in an automobile accident. This was the first Boys & Girls Club to be located on a reservation. Ms. Big Crow's efforts have since inspired the establishment on Indian lands of 172 Boys & Girls Clubs, which now serve nearly 70,000 Native American youth annually across the country.

JEWAN GARNER

As a 22-year-old program manager with City Year New York, Jewan Garner oversees partnerships with two elementary schools, as well as the Harlem Children's Zone and the Children's Aid Society, to help deliver the Five Promises to disadvantaged youth. Mr. Garner draws on his two years of experience as an AmeriCorps member with City Year Chicago to help promote collaborations among a variety of sectors and to encourage more organizations and individuals to fulfill the call to service.

JOE GIBBS

As the most successful coach in Washington Redskins history, Joe Gibbs inspires players and fans with his determination and commitment to excellence. Off the field, he founded Youth for Tomorrow, a residential village that has helped more than 500 at-risk youth develop the confidence and skills needed to lead healthy, productive lives. Also a popular figure on the NASCAR circuit, Coach Gibbs and Joe Gibbs Racing support various children's charities across the country.

PASTOR HAL JOHNSON, SR.

Through his service as senior pastor of the Christian Stronghold Baptist Church, Pastor Hal Johnson, Sr., knows well faith's power to shape a community. Pastor Johnson translated this knowledge into a faith-based, public/private partnership with the Stronghold Community Development Corporation (SCDC) that blends resources from the local community, business and faith sectors to deliver the Five Promises to more than 500 youth living in low-income housing complexes in Northeast Dallas.

DAVID ROBINSON

David Robinson, a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, has made a lasting mark on the game of basketball as a three-time Olympian and all-star center with the San Antonio Spurs. Mr. Robinson now focuses his energies off the court through his endowment of The Carver Academy, an independent school that serves 300 students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, primarily from low-income African American and Hispanic families on San Antonio's diverse east side.

EDWARD B. RUST, JR.

As chairman and CEO of State Farm Insurance Companies, Edward B. Rust, Jr., exemplifies the powerful impact that corporate champions for youth can have. Key to his vision is ensuring that service learning is part of our nation's educational landscape. As one of the driving forces behind National Youth Service Day and the National Service-Learning Partnership, Mr. Rust and State Farm fuel national movements that engage millions of young people in community service activities each year.

AMERICA'S PROMISE—THE ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH

Founded in 1997 following the Presidents' Summit for America's Future, America's Promise is a national alliance committed to improving the lives of our nation's youth in the communities in which they live and grow. America's Promise asks every community, organization and individual to help fulfill Five Promises that every young person needs to grow into an adult of character and competence. The Five Promises are: caring adults in their lives; safe places to be during nonschool hours; a healthy start and future; marketable skills through effective education; and opportunities to serve.

NATIONAL PROMISE OF AMERICA AWARDS

The National Promise of America Awards were established to recognize individuals and organizations that, through their exemplary actions, are helping to fulfill the Five Promises to our nation's children and youth. By focusing their efforts on the pressing needs of young people and finding innovative ways to fill those needs, award recipients are part of the network of organizations and individuals who are making – and keeping – our nation's promise to the next generation.

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