# Clinton honors 'All-America Cities', cites crime bi

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton honored 10 "All-America Cities" Thursday for innovative solutions to problems ranging from youth violence to unemployment.

The 45th annual awards, given each year by the National Civic League, took on special significance this year because many programs honored resemble those in the crime bill that Clinton persuaded Congress to pass.

"The partnerships we celebrate here are a reminder that government can and must help, that businesses and volunteer organizations working with citizens themselves must do the hard work of restoring America's communities," Clinton said at a Rose Garden ceremony.

The $30 billion crime bill, which Clinton is scheduled to sign Tuesday, will strengthen those partnerships by helping funnel more cash to local communities to fight crime, build prisons and fund preventive programs, the president said.

Meantime, Attorney General Janet Reno told reporters she expects the first 20,000 of 100,000 new police officers authorized in the bill will be on the streets within 16 months. The number should reach 40,000 by October 1996, she said.

Some of this year's "All-America Cities" are:

—Porterville, Calif., for programs to deal with delinquent youth and fight gangs; a "freeze relief" effort that assisted thousands of migrant citrus workers when a 1990 crop was destroyed and a fund-raising campaign that helped a seniors group build a refrigerated warehouse to store food for the poor.

—Mount Airy, N.C., for a project to divert at-risk youth away from drugs and crime t recreation, education and culture; a free m clinic founded by a retired hospital admini and two doctors and a history museum inte keep people coming downtown.

—Philadelphia, for a "make unity work" racism campaign; an education program for youth that includes $1.4 million for schol and financial aid and a private-sector initi improve the city's downtown that has hel duce crime by 18 percent over three years.

# Farrakhan to speak a Astrodome on Sunda

HOUSTON (AP) — Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan begins Family Day 1994, a national message regarding family values, with an appearance scheduled for Sunday at Houston's Astrodome.

Organizers say plans are in the works to bring Farrakhan to several cities in the next few months as part of Family Day celebrations across the country.

But no dates or cities for the supposed tour have been scheduled, a spokeswoman said Thursday.

"It's our attempt to unite the diverse cultural, ethnic, religious and political communities throughout America to discuss, promote and implement programs that will strengthen our families," said Robert Muhammad, local organizer of Family Day 1994 and Houston's Nation of Islam minister.

Attendees will pay $15, $25 or $50 to attend the three-hour program.

Also appearing with Farrakhan will be musicians Johnny Gill, Stephanie Mills, Ic Gerald LeVert, Public Ene Eddie LeVert of the O'Jays.

The message will a crime, domestic violence abuse, poverty, homele drug abuse and illit Muhammad said.

"This is not a cure- panacea, this is simply a ning in the long road to this nation and the worl said.

Such special events can people together and bring tive publicity to controver sues, Muhammad said.

However, when rakhan spoke in Houst April 11, he was himself a of controversy.

His plan then to addre all-male audience at T Southern University an members of the school's ch of the Texas Faculty Ass tion, who threatened legal if the state-supported univ sponsored a male-only event.

That event later was m to a nearby Baptist church.

# MTV's 11th annual Video Music Awards showcase

NEW YORK (AP) — And the award for upstaging its own award program: Once again, it's MTV!

Sure, the music channel was handing out its 11th annual MTV Video Music Awards on Thursday night, with lots of big-name nominees.

The pre-party focus was on newlyweirds Michael and Lisa Marie Presley-Jackson, who opened the show with their first live television appearance as husband and wife.

"Please welcome Mr. and Mrs. Michael Jackson," the announcer intoned as the program went on the air.

"I'm very happy to be here. And just think, nobody thought this would last," Jackson said.

Jackson's sister, Janet, snagged the female video prize for "If." She resisted any temptation she may have had to comment on her brother and new sister-in-law's kickoff to the show, just offering the usual thanks instead.

The dance award went to "Whatta Man" by Salt-N-Pepa, featuring En Vogue.

Performing between the acceptance speeches was a mu cal smorgasbord: the Rolli Stones, Bruce Springste Tom Petty and the Hear breakers, the Beastie Bo Snoop Doggy Dogg, Stone Te ple Pilots, Boyz II Men, Salt Pepa, Green Day and Sma ing Pumpkins.

Another big name was master of ceremonies for whole shebang: Roseanne (f merly Barr, formerly Arn The awards were back at dio City Music Hall after years in Los Angeles.

After winning the Acade Award for "Streets of Philad phia," Springsteen collect MTV video award for video from a film to put al side that Oscar.

Aerosmith, winners of 1993 viewers' choice awa collected eight nominations the video clips "Amazing" "Cryin'," which both featu actress Alicia Silverstone.

R.E.M.'s haunting bla and-white clip for "Everyb Hurts" won six nominatio And the Beastie Boys' Star and Hutch homage "Sabota collected four nominations.

# Study finds seniors raising children face variety of problem

WASHINGTON (AP) — Low-income elderly people struggling to raise their grandchildren are being denied welfare benefits by caseworkers who refuse to acknowledge the growing numbers of three-generation families, a seniors advocacy group said in a report released today.

The report, by the American Association of Retired Persons, documents the hardships facing seniors who become parents again, often at a time when their health may be failing and their financial security at risk.

AARP's study found the number of children under age 18 living in homes headed by grandparents increased by more than 50 percent in the past two decades, from 2.2 million in 1970 to 3.34 million in 1993.

In most cases, the mother of the children is living with the family. But in one-third of such families, neither parent is present.

Social problems, such as joblessness, drug and alcohol addiction, imprisonment, death lated to street crimes and b ing, AIDS and child abuse largely to blame, the study s

AARP, the nation's larges niors group, based its stud Census Bureau data and its telephone survey of a small ple of the estimated half-m midlife and older Americans are on their own in caring grandchild.

These families, the s found, tend to be poor. More half had incomes of less $20,000, and more than a f live at or below the poverty l

Twenty-eight percent o grandparent caregivers c welfare benefits. But AARP others have trouble when seek a monthly check from to Families with Depen Children, the state-federal fare program.

The association said problem is due largely to welfare workers who "vi the law by refusing to f federal guidelines."


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