

Yesterday, [Congressman Pence congratulated the City of Richmond](#) and in particular the "25 young people who represented Richmond" at the [National Civic League](#)'s national competition in Tampa, FL. He also participated in a city-wide parade held in honor of the youth and the city, enjoying what the *Palladium-Item* called "[the sweet taste of pride](#)".

*As sirens blared and spectators cheered them as they rode past, the members of Richmond's All-America City delegation were honored by the city with a parade and ice cream social Monday morning.*

*Sitting atop the ladder of a Richmond Fire Department fire truck, the group was cheered by those who lined the parade route on East Main Street from its start at North 10th Street to its finish at the Municipal Building at North Fifth Street.*

*For many spectators, the honor of winning the All-America distinction Friday evening in Florida gave them hope for their city and hope for the youth of the community.*

*The fact that youth played a big part in Richmond winning the title prompted Richmond resident L.V. Baker to attend Monday's events.*

*"This is a great thing for Richmond, having the kids do everything that had to be done," Baker said. "I just wanted to come congratulate them. A job well done."*

*Being a resident of the city gave the All-America designation a special meaning for Baker, and he said it should be for everyone else who lives here.*

*However, there is one particular outcome he hopes will come from winning the title.*

*"I would say it should have an impact on the young in this city, to show what they can do as a group," Baker said.*

The great turnout for Monday's event [also served to encourage the youth delegation](#) -

*The student members of the All-America City team were happily surprised by the turnout for Monday's parade that celebrated their efforts in securing an All-America City title for Richmond.*

*Given that it was at 11 a.m. on a Monday, seeing clumps of people in nearly every block, and later seeing a good portion of the Richmond Municipal Building east lawn filled with well-wishers was good for the kids and their adult chaperones.*

*"It was just a great feeling," team member Alex Crist said. "Everyone was there for us and knowing we represented our community so well."*

*Team member Allison Miller said, "I saw a lot of people I know. It was a great feeling."*

*Many team members and chaperones climbed atop the city's ladder fire truck and perched among the ladder rails for the ride along East Main Street from 10th Street to the City Building.*

*Team members Elaine Brady, Alaina Keene and Haely Studebaker said that initially riding high on the fire truck was scarier than giving the group presentation before the All-America City judges in Tampa.*

*Accepting waves and applause from the sidewalks touched Brady as she waved back.*

*"It shows we really did make more of an impact than we thought."*

*"It felt really good to see everybody out there rooting for us," said team member Sharae Jackson.*

*Team members Joslyn White and Aisha Bowen said the parade attention made them feel like they were someone important, a celebrity.*

*"We were going to bring hope to Richmond. Definitely, we did," White said.*

*She saw several children along the route jumping up and down.*

*"Whether it was for us or for the fire truck, I liked that," White said.*

*"It's so crazy to see people coming out and supporting us," Bowen said.*

*Bowen, White and team member Dakota Collins spoke to the crowd at the ice cream social, along with Rep. Mike Pence.*

*Pence talked about how he will welcome the youth to Washington when the 2008 and 2009 All-America City winners are honored there.*

Pictures from the event are available on Congressman Pence's [Flickr page](#) and below:

