

[REDACTED]

January 24, 2000

Mr. Brian Lamb, CEO
C-SPAN
400 North Capitol St. NW
Suite 650
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Lamb,

Upon arriving home late Saturday night, I was surprised to find a C-SPAN envelope in the mailbox. I asked my wife to open it, thinking it was only a letter thanking me for entering the American Presidents' Life Portrait Viewers Contest. It was my assumption that I did not win anything, because I saw the program which featured the Grand Prize winners and had not heard anything. When she read the contents of the letter I was thunderstruck! I had won a First Prize! My wife and I were elated and emotional, as we both knew how much President Adams, the poem, the contest and your station mean to me. **Thank you very much for the honor, recognition and award; and for the opportunity.**

I began the poem before thinking about the contest, mainly because John Adams is a hero of mine. After seeing you with Mr. David McCullough, I was inspired to enter the contest. It was my assumption that I had plenty of time, because the program did not end until mid-December. On December 1 I was stunned to see I had to finish the poem that night, and then send it via overnight mail to meet the deadline. My plan was to write it with a quill dip pen, on special parchment with a few special touches. These plans were dashed as I did not finish it until one o'clock am, of the day it was to be sent. While somewhat disheartened, I was still very happy with the work. It was exhilarating! We'll find our way down to Washington someday, and maybe then I will be able to meet you and tour your station.

Thank you for your program, and for all the wonderful services you have provided. I have learned very much over the years. In fact, it is my goal to write a politically-oriented book of poetry that will be featured on your "Booknotes" program. That would be another honor - - and a privilege.

All the best to you and your staff.

With Warmest Regards and Thanks,
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