

April 6, 2009

WHAT ACADEMY AWARD?

## Washington in Washington for award

It's always nice to see two grown men lug it out, especially when it's **Denzel Washington** in a manly clinch with Justice **Clarence Thomas**.

And so it was Friday night, when Washington was presented his most recent honor from the justice — the **Horatio Alger** Association Distinguished American Award.

Washington came into town Friday as one of 11 recipients — other notables included **Steven Wynn**, owner of many celeb-favorite Vegas resorts, and music producer **David Foster** — to receive the award for "succeeding in spite of adversity and of encouraging young people to pursue their dreams through higher education."

Joining the actor at Constitution Hall for the ceremony was his wife, **Pauletta**, and daughter **Katia** — a few of the hundred in attendance who listened to him speak about the importance of education and hear him repeat to the crowd, "Keep God first," which seemed to be his motto for the evening.

He told the crowd that he had always believed the Boys & Girls Clubs of America was the most important club he belonged to before being inducted into the prestigious association.

Sounds as if Oscar has nothing on Horatio.

