

Working Concept Paper for AmeriCorps Alumni Continuing Service Initiative

Background

In taking the AmeriCorps pledge, each AmeriCorps member promises: "I will carry this commitment with me this year *and beyond*." Now that some 150,000 Americans have joined AmeriCorps, these former AmeriCorps members have become a great national resource, a large and influential pool of leaders for local communities and non-profit organizations.

As part of the AmeriCorps fifth anniversary commemoration, President Clinton will issue a renewed "call to service" to former AmeriCorps members and seek to expand and strengthen the continuing service for these AmeriCorps alumni. The President will announce the following specific actions: he will write to all former AmeriCorps members about their obligation and opportunities for continuing service to their community and their country; he will direct the Corporation for National Service to connect former AmeriCorps members to community service opportunities; and he will announce a strategic alliance between the Corporation for National Service and leading non-profit organizations to engage former AmeriCorps members in significant volunteer roles.

Specific Actions

The Corporation for National Service will immediately begin to develop a special registry of former AmeriCorps members who are interested in continuing volunteer service and to connect those AmeriCorps alumni with service opportunities. The goal will be to match the skills and experiences of AmeriCorps alumni with the needs of individual non-profit and educational allies.

To launch this initiative, the Corporation for National Service will create a strategic alliance with several leading non-profit organizations. These organizations, each of which has extensive experience with AmeriCorps members, will reach out to AmeriCorps alumni and provide them with significant opportunities for continuing volunteer service. Membership in the strategic alliance will be open to interested organizations that have significant volunteer opportunities. The first organizations to sign-up for this new initiative are:

The National Mentoring Partnership, including Big Brothers Big Sisters which will offer service opportunities for former AmeriCorps members who want to establish a mentoring relationship with a young person;

Habitat for Humanity which will offer opportunities for former AmeriCorps

members who want to help build homes for low-income families, or to help recruit and organize other volunteers at Habitat building sites;

The American Red Cross which will enlist the assistance of former AmeriCorps members, especially those with training and experience in disaster response, to help in disaster preparedness and recovery;

Boys and Girls Clubs which will reach out to former AmeriCorps members who have a special interest in volunteering in after-school activities for young people, especially in engaging young members of Boys and Girls Clubs in service to their communities;

America's Promise which will enlist AmeriCorps alumni who want to participate directly in the America's Promise campaign for children and youth by helping to fulfill the five basic promises made at the Presidents' Summit for America's Future; and

Points of Light Foundation and its network of over 500 Volunteer Centers which will offer to former AmeriCorps members a wide range of opportunities to connect Americans through service in communities across the country.

Organizations participating in this strategic alliance will have access to a special registry of AmeriCorps alumni that will provide a pool of experienced, potential volunteers. To participate, each member of the strategic alliance will agree to provide AmeriCorps alumni with service opportunities and to restrict their solicitation of former AmeriCorps members to service opportunities. Any non-profit organization that is interested in reaching out to AmeriCorps alumni and agrees to restrict their use of the alumni registry to service opportunities will be welcome in the strategic alliance.

The Corporation for National Service will prepare a Memorandum of Understanding between the Corporation for National Service and participating organizations spelling out the details of the relationship in the coming days.

FROM:

Melody M. Scales
Assistant to Chief of Staff
1201 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525
(202) 606-5000, ext. 191
(202) 565-2784 fax
mscales@cns.gov

CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
★ SERVICE

To:Ann O'Leary**Fax Number:**486-2878**Pages:**3

(including cover)

Date:14 Oct 99

Is Andre the definite speaker?
Was that the final say at the
meeting? Call me and confirm.

Thanks

Mel

Scales, Melody

From: Becker, Kate
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 1999 6:24 PM
To: Scales, Melody
Cc: Chambers, Andrew; Mazyck, Merlene; Peters, Fred

Here you go Melody, I hope this helps! Andre is great and would be perfect for this!! By the way, he sat with me when I wrote this and was OK with the info in this bio. Because this is personal stuff, I made certain that he understood that if he is involved in the fifth anniversary, that this info might be put out publicly.

Bio for Andre Crisp

Andre Crisp is 19 years of age and is a second year Corps Member with the Capital Region Campus of AmeriCorps NCCC.

Last year Andre came into the program in need of his GED. He worked on service projects through the year while actively working on getting his GED by being tutored in a formal program at Roosevelt High School and in a home tutoring program in Maine while there on a spike.

Andre took the GED while in Maine and passed it with flying colors.

Andre has said that the NCCC program has changed his life. In Andre's words, "the NCCC pushes you to better yourself in life, to broaden your horizons, puts you into a diverse atmosphere and gives you a chance to find yourself and be yourself. It's a chance to open up and meet great people and push yourself past limitations and to do what you never knew you could do. I found myself as a people person. Around some of my friends (before NCCC) I couldn't be myself. In NCCC people accept you. I developed people skills, communication skills, I gained a lot of confidence in myself. NCCC is like another family, a whole other family that you will never forget."

Andre has one younger sister and one older brother. He was born in Lorraine, Ohio and lived there until he was ten years old. He moved to St. Paul, Minnesota with his mother when he was in the sixth grade. Andre's parents relationship was a rocky one and they went through periods of separation throughout Andre's years of growing up. Andre's mother worked at a YMCA in a child care center and his father was a factory worker.

When Andre was young, his family didn't have much. Andre was supported by the Boys and Girls Club when growing up. There was a foundation that adopted families for Christmas and gave Andre and his brother and sister Christmas gifts for several years during this time. His family was on public assistance for three or four years.

Andre dropped out of school in the eleventh grade because his grades were poor and he just didn't like school and he felt he was missing something by being in class. At this time in his life, Andre was involved in drugs. Instead of classes, Andre would go to a friends house, get high, play video games or just stay home and sleep.

Around this time, Andre's mother moved to Atlanta. Andre remained in Minnesota initially and lived with a friend of the family. A few months later, Andre moved to Atlanta and tried to get involved in a school system but the bureaucracy was overwhelming so he began to work at Ticketmaster.

A friend of Andre's mother was a VISTA and saw Andre trying to change his life and she told him about the NCCC. Andre applied and was accepted and was assigned to the Capital Region Campus.

Once he got in the program Andre saw that it was a chance to change his life and decided to "run with it and to better his life". He earned his GED and applied to be a second year Corps Member and was accepted hands down because of the growth that he had demonstrated through his first year and because of his leadership and motivational skills and his ability to work well on a team.

Service Projects through his first year at NCCC include:

- Disaster Relief with the American Red Cross in Puerto Rico;
- Habitat for Humanity- Lynchburg, VA (leading college students during collegiate challenge);
- DCHA (renovating a senior citizen high rise building);
- JBJ Nursing Home/SEED Charter School (providing one-on-one attention to senior citizens in a nursing home and tutoring 7th graders at a public, charter school); and
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CORPORATION
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★ SERVICE

To:Mary Ellen McGuire**Fax Number:**202-456-6244**Pages:**3

(including cover)

Date:14 Oct 99

This is Andrie's bio. It looks
pretty good. Will you please
pass it to Ann O'Leary, Lowell Weiss,
social, Shirley, etc. Also,
check your voice mail I have a
favor to ask.

Paul

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*AmeriCorps
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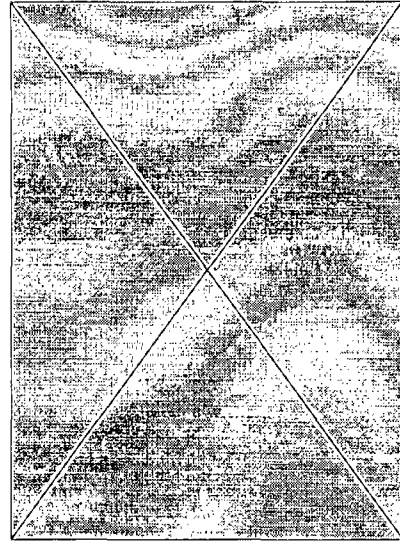
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- Morris Farms in Maine (working on an organic farm).



Justin Cenicerros

Hometown: Fabens, Texas

AmeriCorps programs: NCCC-Washington, DC Campus, 1997-1998; Team Leader 1998-99 **"AmeriCorps gave me the initiative to do things I never thought I could do, to be the person I always wanted to be. It's made me realize that life is what you make of it. When you take responsibility and grab initiative, you can make things happen."**

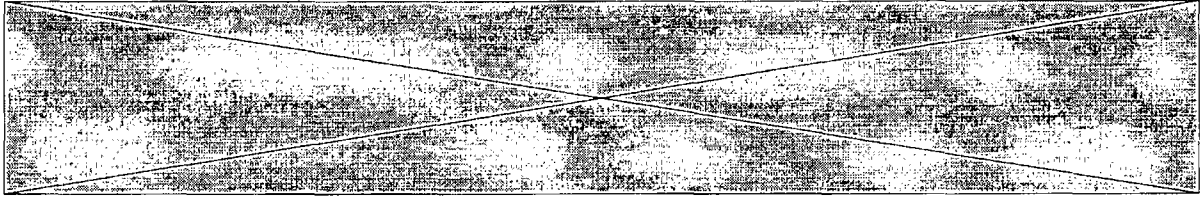
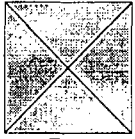
Hi. My name's Justin Cenicerros, and I've just finished two years with AmeriCorps*NCCC, first as a corps member, and then a team leader. And I'm going on for a third year with AmeriCorps, this time with the Rapid Response Corps, an AmeriCorps program in Dallas.

Trying to pick a favorite project is hard. I really enjoyed our work in Philadelphia at the Village of Arts and Humanities. We helped the community build urban gardens and farms, flower beds, benches, and more to rehabilitate the neighborhood. I got to go back in my second year, and could then really see how much the people benefited- they showed us how the farm has grown, and how they're able to sell the produce and put the money back into the community.

We've also been involved in many disaster relief projects. It's some of the best project work we have, being able to bring assistance immediately to people who are in such great need. Other projects? We've restored meadows in Fairfax, Virginia; renovated low-income housing in Pennsylvania; tutored kids in Washington, DC. We've worked with chain saws to reduce encroaching forest, built habitats for small animals, painted and done other renovation work... it's been a great variety for me and my team.

I've learned great technical skills in construction, carpentry, environmental work and even artistic skills. I've also been able to test how far I can push myself, how much I can take on, extend myself into areas I never thought I'd experience, travel... it's got it all. But the real satisfaction is the smile on the face of a kid that you tutor and the comfort in being part of a team. Those unspoken rewards are the real gift of AmeriCorps.

Your favorite project?



Joining AmeriCorps : What We're About : Josh Borus

5th Anniversary of AmeriCorps Possible Policy Deliverables

Messages of the day:

- Celebration and success of AmeriCorps in first five years
- National need to continually renew and reinvigorate our civic life by committing to service, responsibility, and citizenship

Possible ways to amplify the message:

- Hill strategy (CNS is working on a series of “hearings,” morning messages, etc.)
- Media strategy – is there a way to highlight AmeriCorps stories on the morning shows (e.g. Today Show, Good Morning America) or evening news shows (e.g. a piece on 60 minutes?). We could possibly try to plug the award presenters (e.g. Colin Powell) and the awardees into the shows
- Have we ever done an AmeriCorps book/video tape/radio spot to highlight interesting success stories? What are we doing to spread the success stories of AmeriCorps on the 5th anniversary?

Goal of policy deliverables:

- Policies that will build-on, strengthen, and help to sustain AmeriCorps and national service beyond the Clinton Administration

Possible Options for Specific Policy Deliverables:

The policy deliverables could focus on two ends in a life of service – (1) those students just beginning a life of service through the newly proposed AmeriCorps High School component and (2) those who have committed to service by completing AmeriCorps and are recommitting to continually provide service to their communities through the new and expanded AmeriCorps Alum program.

Options for an expanded AmeriCorps High School component

Broad message around participation of high school students: In the wake of Littleton with the entire Nation focused on the lives of teenagers, survey after survey has found that teenagers feel more alone and alienated than ever before – disconnected from parents, teachers, mentors, community members, and peers. Research and evaluation of community service and service learning, however, show that through service students gain a greater sense of participation, responsibility, and citizenship. The good news is that community service and civic action is increasing – a record number of college freshmen reported volunteering their time during their last year of high schools – 74 percent up from 62 percent ten years ago. We must continue to support and expand opportunities for high school students to engage in community action and civic life by participating in community service focused on the needs of their own communities.

Option A

- **President highlights the FY2000 High School proposal:** Expanded funding in FY2000 for AmeriCorps (\$533 million up \$106 million from FY99) would support a new initiative to expand AmeriCorps to 10,000 high school students serving full time in the summer and part-time (5 hrs/week) during the school year. These high school students will tutor, mentor, staff after-school programs and provide special assistance to at-risk children in summer programs such as Head Start. In exchange, students will be eligible for an AmeriCorps education award, and receive the equivalent of minimum wage for their full-time summer service.

(Note: If the budget is resolved by the end of October, it is likely that AmeriCorps will not have received enough funding to support this initiative. Do we call for more funding in FY2001 or can we creatively allocate discretionary funds in CNS to support this initiative?)

Option B

- **President Announces Call to Action for High School students to help tackle problem of national significance.** Instead of calling for an across the board bump up in AmeriCorps to support an overall high school initiative, the President could focus the efforts of high school students around a specific social problem. For example, in an effort to end social promotion and ensure that all children can read by the end of the third grade, we need to engage the entire Nation in providing support and help to students to learn to read. High School students could act as valuable tutors to students as they practice the reading skills they learn in school. This effort would give the AmeriCorps high school initiative a more tangible goal and tie it to the CNS Reads campaign and to the President's goal of ending social promotion. It may also be easier to allocate funds within existing initiatives.

Start with a grand kick-off summer of service? (Shirley – I know you cautioned against the “summer of service” – is it worth trying again?)

Option C

- **President encourages communities to make community service a mandatory requirement for high school graduation.** This notion is quite controversial in the field due to poor implementation. Is it possible to point to good models? Is it possible to offer support, technical assistance, or resources to communities that are trying to implement such a policy?

Options for an expanded AmeriCorps Alums program

> H-money 28.5 million
45 million

Broad message around participation of AmeriCorps Alums: Individuals who have successfully completed AmeriCorps are dedicated to serving their communities and will continue to do so throughout their lives. The AmeriCorps Alums are a resource to our Nation. It is our

SPV

don't want to
start up to buy /
expensive
funding

responsibility to ensure that the Alums have structured ways to connect to community service opportunities and can continue to serve their communities.

Option A

- **President announces a package that includes a variety of programs and ways of connecting alums.** This package could potentially be modeled on the Peace Corps programs for Returning Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs).

[Background: The Peace Corps currently has four main programs for their RPCVs including: (1) a Fellows program where the volunteers work in schools and communities that have a specific need for their skills and experiences, while they study toward a related academic degree; (2) a World Wise Schools programs where volunteers connect with teachers in American classrooms to help them with visits, lesson plans, videos and teacher guides based on their experiences in the field; (3) a Crisis Corps where RPCVs use their experiences from the Peace Corps and use them in a short-term assistance capacity during domestic humanitarian crisis and natural disasters; (4) a Partnership program which pairs RPCVs with current volunteers in the field to help donate gifts-in-kind to the village and offer mentorship and support.]

Option B

- **President announces new "AmeriCorps Reserves" (modeled on Military) for domestic issues – e.g. natural disasters, national social problems.** Alums could be provided with incentives to come back and "serve" for a limited period of time or, like the reserves, could commit to service over a period of years on weekends and after work. [Would it be possible to offer the AmeriCorps alums financial incentives (like the Military does) or would we ask that they volunteer their time? Anything in return?]

In order to support this project, a network/web of resources throughout the country could act as conduits to connect AmeriCorps alums to local projects focused on the particular problem (a recent example is the partnership between FEMA and current AmeriCorps members during Hurricane Floyd). AmeriCorps State offices could partner with America's Promise to act as a resource and clearing house for AmeriCorps alums to respond to the National call to action.

The first announcement could focus on the National need for help on the issue of preventing youth violence by asking AmeriCorps alums to participate in a National Mentoring project. [How would it work with the National Campaign? It could be a partnership between the National Mentoring Coalition, AmeriCorps, America's Promise, etc. and act as a contribution to the Campaign.]

Letter from POTUS → AmAlum
new call to service
Set up new website

Creating & living legacy

Timing System

partners
new money

partner w/
funding for things

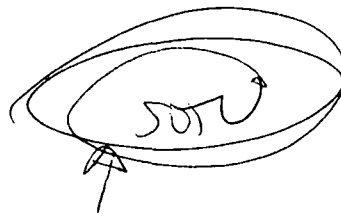
budget

FY2001
budget

Timeline for
donor
levels
service
cost
immediate

Donor money

\$1 million



Option C

- ***President announces the help of AmeriCorps alums in expanding the Boston-based Citizen Schools After-School project – a project that promotes the values of National Service – citizenship and active civic lives.*** This program exemplifies national service by promoting leadership in the community in taking responsibility for educating middle school students and helping them to better understand the connection between work and school. AmeriCorps alums could easily fit into this program as community “citizens” working with students after-school and on the weekends.

[Note – see attached article on Citizen Schools After-School Program. Need to answer questions about whether this project is ready to expand nationally, what capacity they have to replicate their model, etc.]

Other Potential Policy Deliverables for 5th Anniversary

- Kick off of Power-Up, a public/private partnership aimed at tackling the digital divide [John – is this still a possibility for an end-of-October kick-off?]
- Reauthorization of AmeriCorps

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DRAFT

All AmeriCorps Awards

Getting Things Done

Program	Topic	State
VISTA	Immunization	Idaho
AmeriCorps*National <i>Alaska for Cultural</i>	Education	Louisiana
AmeriCorps*National	Low Income Housing	N. California
AmeriCorps*State & NCCC	Environmental Education/ Literacy	Utah
AmeriCorps*National <i>Conn.</i>	Homeless/Mentally ill Vets	Connecticut

Strengthening Communities

Program	Topic	State
AmeriCorps*National - <i>Alaska</i>	Housing/Tutoring - <i>Habitation</i>	Georgia
AmeriCorps*State <i>West Va</i>	Community Development/ America Reads <i>Appalachian</i>	West Virginia
AmeriCorps*State - <i>White Pine</i>	Victim's Assistance <i>White Pine</i>	Washington
VISTA <i>Fence</i>	Pre-school/Education Readiness	Nevada
AmeriCorps*State <i>Missouri</i>	Disaster Response & Literacy	Missouri

Common Ground

Program	Topic	State
AmeriCorps & VISTA <i>Alaska</i>	Teaching Tolerance <i>U-1+</i>	Michigan
AmeriCorps*National	Mobilizing Business and Community Residents on South Side	Illinois
NCCC & AmeriCorps* Nat'l	King Day organizing <i>NCCC</i>	S. California
AmeriCorps*State <i>Washington</i>	Elementary Children and Diversity including Disability <i>Washington</i>	Washington
AmeriCorps*National & NCCC	Exposing youth to international Cultures <i>Latino</i>	Florida

Leadership**Program****Topic****State**

VISTA

*Asian woman*Community Role Model
Client to Server

Pennsylvania

AmeriCorps*State

*At the
mode*Antiviolence & Youth Crime
Prevention

Texas

Mason Jenkins*11*

Housing

Massachusetts

VISTA

*Gender-lecturer*Head Start/America Reads
Incarcerated Youth

Puerto Rico

AmeriCorps*State

*little more
experience*

Role Model/Tutor

New Hampshire

AmeriCorps*State

*Notre for
mode*

Youth Development

Minnesota

*just tut**11 F**10 M*

20TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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The Boston Globe

April 4, 1999, Sunday ,City Edition

SECTION: CITY WEEKLY; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 1270 words

HEADLINE: What are they doing? Learning;
CITY WEEKLY

BYLINE: By Mary Hurley, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

Peeling shrimp for spring rolls on a recent Saturday morning at the Woodrow Wilson Middle School in Dorchester, Kenneth Fleury tried to explain why he enrolled in a cooking class.

"I was tired of making boxed food," said Fleury, 11. "I want to learn how to prepare a gourmet dinner."

Chris Pepin, a chef at Salamander restaurant in Cambridge, is teaching this class of seven students. At the other end of the table, Pepin beats egg whites for the dessert: spiced angel food cake with orange creme anglaise.

"I need someone to chop some red peppers," he tells Fleury and the others, quickly demonstrating the proper technique.

Here, he is a chef (the kids call him Chef Chris) but he is also a "citizen teacher." His students are "apprentices." The class is among the several dozen offered this spring by Citizen Schools, which runs after school and during the summer for Boston children 9 to 14.

Launched four years ago by Eric Schwarz and Ned Rimer, roommates at the University of Vermont who graduated in 1983, Citizen Schools started at the Paul A. Dever School in Dorchester and is now at seven sites in Dorchester, Brighton, Roxbury, and Roslindale. The heart of the nonprofit, privately funded operation is apprenticeships. Guided by volunteer professionals, children learn by publishing newspapers and studying sign language, baking cakes and building cabinets, designing Web pages and launching small businesses, selling T-shirts, greeting cards, or jewelry.

Schwarz and Rimer point out that children spend a great deal more time out of school than in, and only 17 percent of school-age children in Boston are enrolled in licensed after-school programs. Many children come home not only to empty houses, but to deserted neighborhoods. The guiding philosophy of Citizen Schools, the cofounders say, is that professional educators can't do it alone and neither can parents. The community needs to get involved in raising children. "The whole notion of public parenting is in decline," said Schwarz, a former reporter for the Patriot Ledger of Quincy who worked five years for City Year and is now president of Citizen Schools. "We want to resurrect it."

Bill Summary & Status for the 101st Congress**Item 1 of 321**

PREVIOUS BILL | NEXT BILL
PREVIOUS BILL:ALL | NEXT BILL:ALL
NEW SEARCH | HOME | HELP

S.408SPONSOR: Sen Mikulski (introduced 02/09/89)RELATED BILLS: H.R.1000Jump to: Titles, Status, Abstracts, Committees, Amendments, Cosponsors, Summary**TITLE(S):**

- SHORT TITLE(S) AS INTRODUCED:
National Community Service Act of 1989
- OFFICIAL TITLE AS INTRODUCED:
A bill to establish a corporation to administer a National volunteer service program.

STATUS: Floor Actions

NONE

STATUS: Detailed Legislative Status**Senate Actions****Feb 9, 89:**

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

Mar 9, 89:

Committee on Labor and Human Resources. Hearings held.(Mar 14, 89).

Mar 20, 89:

Committee on Labor and Human Resources. Hearings held at Dorchester, Mass.

Apr 21, 89:

Committee on Labor and Human Resources. Hearings held.

May 12, 89:

Committee on Labor and Human Resources requested executive comment from Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Management and Budget, General Accounting Office and ACTION.

ABSTRACT(S):

- ABSTRACT AS INTRODUCED:

Establishes the Corporation for National Community Service to coordinate and administer the National Community Service Program for part-time volunteer community service.

COMMITTEE(S):

- COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERRAL:
Senate Labor and Human Resources

AMENDMENT(S):

NONE

COSPONSORS(7):

Sen Nunn - 02/09/89 Sen Adams - 02/09/89
Sen Sanford - 02/09/89 Sen Matsunaga - 02/09/89
Sen Wirth - 03/03/89 Sen McCain - 03/15/89
Sen Kennedy - 04/06/89

SUMMARY:

(AS INTRODUCED)

National Community Service Act of 1989 - **Title I: Establishment and Administration of the National Community Service Corporation** - Establishes the National Community Service Program.

Allows any individual to volunteer for service with the Program if: (1) such individual is determined by the Corporation for National Community Service to be fit for service; and (2) adequate funds are available for enrollment. Directs the Corporation to establish rules for selecting and accepting applicants as volunteers, up to the total number of positions authorized for each fiscal year.

Sets the length of individual service at three to six years, with individual discretion allowed within such time limits.

Allows a portion of specified financial assistance to be provided to a volunteer who is released after partial completion of service because of compelling personal circumstances.

Requires Program volunteers to serve for: (1) two weekends a month and two weeks during the year; or (2) an average of nine hours per week.

Provides for transfers of volunteers.

Directs the Corporation annually to provide each Program participant a non-transferable voucher equal to \$3,000 for each year of service. Requires that such voucher be used only for: (1) payment of a federally sponsored student loan; (2) downpayment for a first home; or (3) payment for educational tuition, fees,

The Boston Globe, April 4, 1999

"We have twin goals - to educate children and to strengthen community. We want to challenge the community to help educate children and to challenge children to help their community by producing quality work."

That's why apprentices at the Wilson School went on a Dorchester Community Hunt earlier this month, interviewing residents in Codman Square and learning the local geography through maps, compasses, and cameras. The next week, they found places in the square that needed new trash cans and painted them.

Down the hall from Chef Chris' class, students worked recently on a float for the Dorchester Day Parade in June, a replica of the Wilson School. Several girls tore newspaper pages for papier-mache while others began the wood frame.

"It's very different from school," said Francis Ramirez, 12. "There's no homework."

Later that afternoon, students at the Wilson visited the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge to get a sense of life at one of the world's great universities.

After-school sessions include time for homework, in keeping with the emphasis on academics.

"Kids are way behind even in fourth, fifth, sixth grades," Schwarz said. One statistic cited by Citizen Schools: Only between 6 and 13 percent of Boston eighth-graders perform at grade level.

Citizen Schools attracts students with a range of interests and abilities. During the school year, more than 90 percent of participants are Boston public school students; they number about 70 percent in the summer. The rest are Boston children enrolled in parochial or private schools. From the start, Citizen Schools focused on the middle grades.

"It's a critical age to engage kids in learning," said Rimer, a former high school teacher and administrator for various nonprofit groups, including an agriculture school in Honduras. "Kids are craving deep understanding and knowledge," and "start to mentally drop out of school at age 12."

From 35 to 40 students enroll in a 10-week session each spring and fall at one of seven sites. Four (Dever, Wilson, and Cleveland middle schools and St. Mark's Neighborhood Campus) are in Dorchester. Others are at Timilty Middle School in Roxbury, Garfield Elementary in Brighton, and Irving Middle School in Roslindale. Three additional sites are planned for fall, but locations have yet to be determined. By the end of this year, nearly 1,000 apprentices and more than 1,000 citizen teachers are expected to participate in a spring, fall, or summer session. The goal is 12 sites by 2002.

Until recently, public school buildings in Boston were underutilized in the afternoons. One reason was the overtime cost for school custodial help. Last year, however, Mayor Thomas M. Menino launched his "2 to 6" initiative, referring to after-school hours, to increase after-school programs.

"Citizen Schools is a very important partner in that initiative," said Jennifer Davis, "2 to 6" coordinator. "We are looking at different kinds of models and at the middle school level, this model is very important. It really

The Boston Globe, April 4, 1999

engages children and it is definitely one we look to see expanding."

Although the classes are located primarily in public school buildings, Citizen Schools does not receive public funds. About half its \$1.6 million budget is from foundations, with 20 percent from the corporate sector and individuals. The remainder is from tuition, which averages about \$75 per term. Sliding-scale tuition plans based on income are also available.

"We feel very strongly that parents should pay something," Rimer said, to demonstrate a level of commitment.

Citizen Schools is a learning experience for the participating teachers as well, although recruitment is a challenge, Rimer said. They teach a 1 1/2-hour class one afternoon per week, Monday through Thursday, or two hours Saturday morning. Teaching experience is not necessary. While citizen teachers receive three hours of training, plus more training and support throughout the 10 weeks, the emphasis is on coaching and mentoring a small group of students (no more than 10). Creative brainstorming is important; staff members help design the curriculum. A funeral director volunteered to teach a class, but thought, correctly, that a hands-on approach to embalming might be unsuitable. Instead, he taught a course on dealing with grief.

The Boston law firm Hale & Dorr is a major corporate sponsor, donating \$250,000 over a three-year-period, but also encouraging lawyers and other staff members to volunteer their time. Legal apprenticeships culminate in a mock trial. Sessions are held at the Hale & Dorr offices.

"I think it's important from the perspective of an employer that its work force give something back to the community they work in," said Jack Regan, managing partner. "It's very energizing to see how quickly kids pick up on things and how much they appreciate what you do for them."

Said Amy Talhouk, a graduate student who teaches a computer course at the Dever campus this spring, "Kids have a lot of energy. I was struck by how easy it is to get close to them."

"The challenge is to maintain their attention," said Pepin, adding he would "definitely" recommend Citizen Schools to others.

The pace can be frenetic, he said, but the result is worth it, he said.

"At the end, they will shout, 'We made this. We made this!' " he said. "They're really proud of what they have done."

GRAPHIC: PHOTO, Jose Garcia, 10, and Gesibela Pina, 12, at right, work on an "Arts Afloat" project at the Paul A. Dever Elementary School in Dorchester. / GLOBE PHOTO/BILL POLOS,

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 07, 1999

DATE: SEPTEMBER 29, 1999

CLIENT:
LIBRARY: NEWS
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YOUR SEARCH REQUEST IS:
CITIZEN SCHOOLS

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LEVEL 1... 294

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 10, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT AMERICORPS CALL TO SERVICE EVENT

Richie Coliseum
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland

2:34 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Ladies and gentlemen, when I was listening to Stephen and Leslie and Justin and Pepe talk, I was reminded of why I wanted to be President -- so that I could give young people like them the chance to make America a better place. (Applause.)

I want to thank all those who are here today who have supported our efforts. I thank Harris Wofford for his outstanding leadership of the Corporation of National Service. (Applause.) Deb Jospin and John Gomperts of AmeriCorps. I thank Governor Glendening and Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend for making Maryland America's leading state for citizen service. They have really done -- (applause.) I thank my good friend, Prince George's County Executive Wayne Curry; Senator Mike Miller, my longtime friend; and Mayor Jacobs, thank you for making us welcome. Carson Dailey, thank you for the work MTV did on those wonderful spots, the PSAs.

I would like to thank also the mother of the Lt. Governor, my good friend, Ethel Kennedy, for being here today. (Applause.) And I thank Mark Gearan, our Peace Corps Director, and I'll say a little more about the Peace Corps in a minute and its relationship to AmeriCorps.

I'd like to thank one person who is not here today, but who was on the front lines of creating AmeriCorps, Senator Barbara Mikulski, your United States Senator from Maryland. I thank her. (Applause.) I want to thank the President of the University of Maryland, on my right; and the President of the Student Government of the University of Maryland, on my left -- (applause) -- for making me welcome. Avery and Dr. Mote, thank you. (Applause.)

You have already heard from Dr. Mote and others that six years ago I came here to celebrate the end of the Summer of Service, which was our dry run for this national service program. We wanted to work out the kinks and see whether we could make this idea go. There were three people who are here who were instrumental on that day; I would like to thank them: Georgia Sorensen, Marilyn Smith and my former White House staffer, whom I miss very much, Bill Galstone. Thank you all very much for what you have done. (Applause.)

And I thank the University of Maryland for the College Park Scholars, the Team Maryland Athletes -- (applause) -- the work-study students that are tutoring, and the others from the students and faculty who demonstrate the power of citizen service.

Let me say to all of you, when I ran for President in 1992 I wanted to get America working again and moving again, but I also wanted to bring America together again. It seemed to me that we had two great problems. One is that our economy was not functioning very well and we seemed to be getting weaker, but also that we seemed to be letting our divisions overcome what we have in common.

Martin Luther King once said that the old law of an eye for an eye sooner or later leaves everyone blind. I always believed that America's differences could be the source of our strength if we respected and we celebrated our differences, but we understood that, underneath it all, there was something that bound us together that was more important.

So, as I look back on the last six years, I think we can all take a great deal of pride in what our country has achieved together -- economically, the longest peacetime expansion in history; the lowest peacetime unemployment rate since 1957, 42 years ago -- (applause) -- welfare rolls cut nearly in half; the lowest crime rate in over a quarter-century. I think those are great things.

But I think we can also celebrate the evidence that we are coming together -- over 90 percent of our children across all racial and ethnic lines immunized against serious childhood diseases for the first time in history; the doors of college literally open to all with the HOPE scholarship, the lifetime learning tax credit, the more generous Pell grant, more affordable student loans, more work-study slots. Those things matter.

But maybe most of all, those of you here in Americorps, and those in citizen service -- whether in the Peace Corps, serving our country in the military, or serving in some other way -- embody the determination of America to draw closer together as we grow more diverse. And that, I think, is terribly important.

When you saw the four Americorps volunteers up here speaking, and each of you identifying with them in turn -- if they worked in your project or you knew them -- you know they were a picture of America, of the changing face of America, and the best of America that never changes.

If you look around the world today, at many of the challenges that I face as your President and that the United States faces -- the sad trip that the First Lady and I recently took to Jordan for the funeral of our friend, the King of Jordan, who survived decades of assassination attempts -- literally decades of assassination attempts, probably 50 in all -- to stand as a symbol of peace among people in a very tough neighborhood, who use religion as a reason to find their differences more important than their common humanity. All over the world today you see that. If the United States wants to lead the world toward peace and freedom and prosperity in a new century in a new millennium, it is actually quite an advantage for us to have within our borders people from all races, all religions, all ethnic groups, all cultural backgrounds doing all kinds of different things.

But we cannot do good around the world unless we are good at home. And, therefore, we have to find this magical balance, being honest about our differences of opinion on matters from the serious to the mundane -- and I'll leave it to you to decide whether it was serious or mundane when the President asked

me take sides in the basketball game. (Laughter.) You've got a great team here, though, I'll tell you that, I've watched it. (Applause.) We have to find a way to do that, to say, this is what I believe, this is where I stand, this is what I'm for -- and also to say how lucky we are to stand on the verge of a new millennium in a totally global society, where people are being brought closer together than ever before, and we are finding ways to relish, to celebrate, to honor our differences in a way to bring us closer together, instead of driving us apart.

AmeriCorps is the living, breathing symbol of the answer to that. Where we do not ask people to check their differences at the door, but we do ask them to reaffirm our common humanity. We do not ask for a handout, but we do ask for a hand up for everyone who needs it, and we say we are going forward together. That is what you represent. That is my fondest hope for America. And I thank you for your service. (Applause.)

You know, all during the 20th century, the tradition of citizen service grew stronger in America. In the great Depression I remember my parents telling me about the chance President Roosevelt gave able-bodied, unemployed people to work in the Civilian Conservation Corps -- the CCC. They cleared trails, they fought fires, they planted trees. They built whole state parks -- the Appalachian Trail, Skyline Drive in Virginia; parks in my home state that Hillary and I have stayed in, with rather interesting names like Petit Jean, and Devil's Den. I have in the back office of the White House an old CCC cap -- a cap that one of the volunteers wore in the '30s, that I found wedged in between a chimney and a wall, in a cabin in a state park in the mountains of north Arkansas. And I have kept it with me all these long years, to remember the unifying power of citizen service in one of the most difficult moments of the 20th century for the United States.

President Kennedy in the 1960s asked young people to serve in the Peace Corps -- to teach English, to provide health care, to bring running water and electricity to some of the most remote villages in Africa, Asia and South America. My brother-in-law served in the Peace Corps in Colombia. And the other night, he was getting together with some of the people who served there with him. When we were getting ready to come out here today, and Senator Wofford came in with Mark Gearan, the present Peace Corps Director, we were celebrating the fact that, if our new budget passes, we will have more people serving in the Peace Corps in the next two years than have ever served in any given year. We'll be back at an all-time high.

And we were lamenting the fact that we just had to withdraw our Peace Corps volunteers from Eritrea and Ethiopia, two countries that I have felt particularly close to in the last couple of years, because of the trouble the two countries are having -- the threat to go to war. And the Peace Corps volunteers, going all the way back for decades, have volunteered to try to come in and solve the conflict and deal with the disputed area of land. I don't know if they will accept it, but think of that. All these years later, people that were there years and years and years ago remember what it was like -- not to give a handout, but to give a hand up, and to ask people to understand that their differences are not as important as what they have in common.

So I thank our Peace Corps volunteers, I thank Mark Gearan, and I thank all of you in AmeriCorps, because you are in

the rich tradition of America's citizen service, from the CCC to the Peace Corps to AmeriCorps.

Now, six summers after I first came here, AmeriCorps is thriving. There now have been over 100,000 people serve in AmeriCorps in just four years of the full-time program. Everywhere I go around the country I see you -- I see you in all kinds of different contexts. I was in San Jose right before the election and there were a lot of -- the Peace Corps volunteers had just come to start their mission, and so I saw them standing on the street as I pulled into the hotel. And I asked them all to come see me and we took a little picture -- and they were from everywhere.

And then when I went home to Arkansas after the terrible tornadoes a couple of weeks ago, in both the communities I visited there were AmeriCorps volunteers there and there were people there who, believe me, would never have come to Arkansas in their lives if they hadn't been in AmeriCorps. (Laughter.) I know it was good for the people they were helping and I think it was pretty good for them.

This has been an astonishing encounter for tens of thousands of people. Now, all of you know what it's like -- I love talking to people who have been in AmeriCorps because I always hear two things -- number one, they're proud of what they did to help people -- teaching a child to read, or immunizing a child, or having a playground that's safe in an area that used to be dominated by gangs, or cleaning up some polluted site, or doing something to preserve the environment. I love that.

The second thing I always hear is, "I like the people with whom I serve;" "I met people I never would have met;" "I got to know people I never would have gotten to know;" "we were all so different and, yet, when we worked together, we grew together, and it made my life different and better." That is what AmeriCorps needs to do -- and that is what America needs to do.

America needs to think of itself as sort of a giant AmeriCorps, the Peace Corps at home, getting things done together. Getting things done together. (Applause.) If our budget passes this fall, we can boost the number of AmeriCorps volunteers by one quarter, to 50,000 members. In our new budget we want to keep expanding AmeriCorps every year so that by the year 2003, and there forward, every year 100,000 young people will be serving in AmeriCorps. (Applause.)

But I want to challenge the young people of this country -- and the not so young who are willing to do it -- to sign up for AmeriCorps, to see for yourselves what you can do to solve America's problems and reap America's promise. I want to challenge high school students, as well. Maryland has done a wonderful job as the Governor and the Lt. Governor said, being the only state in the country to actually require community service as a part of a public education. In our balanced budget we propose to allow high schoolers for the very first time to join AmeriCorps by serving part-time during the school year and full-time in the summers.

And I want to challenge, again, the young people beyond this room, to dedicate a year or two of your lives to a cause larger than yourselves. It may be your best chance to change the lives of others for the better, and to enrich your own life in the process.

Today, so many young people have the time and freedom

and energy they will never have in the future, to tackle the kind of challenge Americorps represents -- to pack a bag at a moment's notice, to fight a forest fire, or move into our most remote towns or Native American reservations to teach children, or work with churches in some of our toughest neighborhoods. At the end of your service, as all of you know, Americorps will provide help to pay for college or pay off student loans. So I ask you all to help me reach others -- to take advantage of this opportunity, to use this moment to prove that this generation of young people, far from being a generation of cynics and slackers, is instead a generation of doers and patriots. (Applause.)

Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend quoted something her father said. I would like to close with a quotation from Senator Robert Kennedy, in a speech he gave to college students in South Africa when I was a young man. It resonated around the world, and every person my age, which was then your age now -- every young person I knew, without regard to their party or their opinions or anything else, was riveted by the notion that a United States Senator could go to South Africa and talk to the young people about building a different future, a long time before, for the first time in over 300 years, all South Africans had a chance to choose their future.

This is what he said: "Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

That is still true today. For those in AmeriCorps, I thank you for sending forth those ripples of hope. I thank you for bringing out the best in yourselves and others.

For those who could still yet serve, I ask you to join the rest of your fellow citizens in building that bridge to the 21st century that all can walk across, arm-in-arm, to the best days of America.

Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

2:54 P.M. EST

**PRESIDENT CLINTON:
EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR NATIONAL SERVICE**

****2/9 DRAFT****

Today, at the University of Maryland, College Park, President Clinton called on Congress to expand the yearly participation level in AmeriCorps to 100,000 members by 2002. He also kicked-off AmeriCorps' largest national recruitment campaign to challenge young people to provide service to their communities.

EXPANDING AMERICORPS TO GIVE MORE AMERICANS A CHANCE TO SERVE.

When he came into office in 1993, President Clinton outlined a vision for a national service program that linked responsibility to opportunity by allowing young people to serve our nation while earning funds for a college education. The result of that vision is AmeriCorps, which is bringing people of different racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds together to solve community problems and improve the lives of Americans. In the four years since its launch, over 100,000 AmeriCorps members have risen to the challenge. They have tutored children in school and after school, organized block watches and book drives, renovated housing for low-income families, and recruited people in the neighborhood to volunteer alongside them.

The President seeks to build on this success by creating more opportunities for Americans to serve through AmeriCorps. President Clinton's budget proposes to expand AmeriCorps to nearly 70,000 members by the year 2000, with the goal of reaching 100,000 members serving each year by 2002. This expansion will also allow high school students to join AmeriCorps-- by serving part-time during the school year and full-time during the summer. The FY 2000 budget request includes \$533 million for AmeriCorps, an increase of \$106 million over last year.

A CALL TO SERVICE CAMPAIGN. President Clinton announced the launch of the AmeriCorps Call To Service campaign, the largest-ever national recruitment drive for AmeriCorps. The President challenged all Americans, especially young people, to get involved in service. The Call to Service campaign will provide young people with information on how they can serve in AmeriCorps to help strengthen local communities. The campaign includes a new television public service announcement produced by MTV, print advertisements, campus visits and other local recruitment efforts.

A PROVEN RECORD OF SUCCESS. In just four years, over 100,000 young people have joined AmeriCorps to serve more than 4,000 communities. AmeriCorps provides needed human resources to schools churches, community groups and nonprofit organizations, including Habitat for Humanity, Big Brother/Big Sister and the American Red Cross. A recent evaluation confirms that AmeriCorps strengthens communities in many ways: building leadership, citizenship, and other important skills; and making community organizations more effective. Since 1994, AmeriCorps members have served more than 32 million people, mobilized nearly 2 million volunteers, taught, tutored or mentored more than 2 million children, organized after-school programs for more than a half million at-risk youth, helped more than 200,000 senior citizens live independently and built or rehabilitated more than 25,000 homes. After a year of full-time service, AmeriCorps members receive education awards to help finance college or pay back student loans.

AmeriCorps' Call To Service Campaign Event
Q&A -- Internal Use Only
2/10/98

AmeriCorps Expansion

What is the President proposing in his budget for the expansion of AmeriCorps?

President Clinton has called for a major expansion of AmeriCorps in his FY 2000 budget, giving thousands more Americans the chance to serve their country and help meet pressing social needs.

The budget proposes \$533 million for AmeriCorps, an increase of \$106 million over last year. This level would support 69,000 AmeriCorps members next year, growing to reach 100,000 members per year by 2002. This expansion would include participation in AmeriCorps by high school students serving full-time in the summer and part-time during the school year. The proposal builds on growing bipartisan support for AmeriCorps: Congress has increased AmeriCorps funding two years in a row, by \$47 million in fiscal 1998 and \$16 million last year.

AmeriCorps and Military Recruitment

The New York Times reports that the military is having significant problems meeting its recruiting requirement. Will the AmeriCorps' recruitment effort worsen this problem?

The President is committed to strengthening opportunities for young people to engage in service to this country -- be it through the military, AmeriCorps, the Peace Corps or any of the other national service programs. The Department of Defense examined this question and concluded in its 1998 Annual Defense Report: "The Department has looked at the potential impact of National Service on military recruiting, and believes that both programs can coexist successfully."

Do the military and AmeriCorps coordinate their respective recruiting efforts?

The Corporation for National Service and the Defense Department share information and coordinate efforts where it makes sense to do so. For example, the Defense Department shares information about AmeriCorps with applicants who may not meet the unique physical requirements for military service. In addition, the Corporation provides the military with access to its career nights and outreach events so that AmeriCorps members have a full appreciation of the military career choices available to them.

How do AmeriCorps' financial benefits compare with the military's financial benefits?

Because each organization has particular needs, the benefits are different and they are generally set by law or regulations. During a term of service, military pay is generally higher than the average living allowance afforded to national service participants. Moreover, most national service programs are not residential so members are responsible for their own food and housing. The post-service educational benefit for a national service participant is set by law at \$4,725 for a full year of service, with a maximum of two awards. The Department of the Army recently

announced an increase in its maximum college tuition benefit to \$50,000.

AmeriCorps Program

What do AmeriCorps members do?

AmeriCorps, the domestic Peace Corps, gives citizens the opportunity to engage in full-time service to their community. Working through a grassroots network of more than 1,000 national and local non-profit and faith-based organizations, AmeriCorps members help build stronger communities. In four years, AmeriCorps members have taught, tutored or mentored more than 2 million youth; organized after-school programs for more than 500,000 at-risk youth; established 4,000 safety patrols; built or rehabilitated more than 25,000 homes; planted more than 52 million trees; arranged immunizations for nearly half-million people; and recruited, trained or supervised nearly 2 million volunteers.

Where do AmeriCorps members serve?

Since it was established, AmeriCorps members have served in more than 4,000 communities. AmeriCorps members work with national nonprofits like the American Red Cross, Boys and Girls Club, the YMCA, Teach for America, Habitat for Humanity, and faith-based organizations like Lutheran Social Services, the Catholic Network of Volunteer-Services and the National Council of Churches and with hundreds of smaller community-based organizations.

How many people are part of AmeriCorps?

Since it was launched four years ago, more than 100,000 men and women have served in AmeriCorps. This year alone, more than 40,000 AmeriCorps members are working with more than 600 organizations to serve more than 2,500 communities.

What is the average cost per AmeriCorps member?

The average cost per member is \$16,000. This includes a living allowance, an education award and costs associated with program administration. As part of a bipartisan agreement reached in March 1996, with Senator Grassley, AmeriCorps is cutting costs significantly. The cost of AmeriCorps has been cut by \$1000 per member each year. The Corporation for National Service has already successfully lowered the costs per member to \$16,000 in the current grant year and is on track to cut the cost per member to \$15,000 next year.

PRESIDENT CLINTON:
CITIZEN SERVICE TO IMPROVE AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

8/7 DRAFT 99

Today, at an AmeriCorps*National Civilian Community Corps graduation ceremony held at the Interior Department, President Clinton touted AmeriCorps' strong record of success and pledged not to sign any bill that would abolish funding for the program. The President also reiterated his call for Congress to expand the participation level in AmeriCorps to 100,000 members each year.

PRESIDENT CLINTON DECLARES HE WILL OPPOSE REPUBLICAN EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CITIZEN SERVICE. Last week, Republicans on the House Appropriations Committee voted to eliminate all funding for the AmeriCorps national service program. President Clinton denounced the irresponsible politics and shortsighted opposition that would eliminate opportunities for young people to develop an ethic of citizen service, to bring change to their communities, and to earn money to pay for their college education. Under the Republican proposal, current funding for 69,000 AmeriCorps members would be entirely eliminated. President Clinton urged Congressional Republicans to reverse course and build on bipartisan support for the thousands of AmeriCorps members who are touching lives across the nation. He pledged not to sign any bill that abolishes the AmeriCorps program.

GIVING MORE AMERICANS A CHANCE TO SERVE. The President reiterated his call for Congress to reauthorize AmeriCorps and to create opportunities for 100,000 young people to serve in AmeriCorps every year. President Clinton's Fiscal Year 2000 budget proposes to expand AmeriCorps to nearly 70,000 members by the year 2000, with the goal of reaching 100,000 members serving each year by 2002. The FY 2000 budget request includes \$533 million for AmeriCorps, an increase of \$106 million over last year. This expansion would also allow high school students to join AmeriCorps-- by serving part-time during the school year and full-time during the summer.

A STRONG RECORD OF SUCCESS. When he came into office in 1993, President Clinton outlined a vision for a national service program that linked responsibility to opportunity by allowing young people to serve our nation while earning funds for a college education. The result of that vision is AmeriCorps, which brings people of different racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds together to solve community problems and improve the lives of Americans throughout the country. After a year of full-time service, AmeriCorps members receive education awards to help finance college or pay back student loans. In just over four years, AmeriCorps has brought over 100,000 Americans together to solve problems in more than 4,000 communities, served nearly 33 million people, mobilized nearly 2 million volunteers, taught, tutored or mentored more than 2 million children, organized after-school programs for more than a half million at-risk youth, helped more than 200,000 senior citizens live independently and built or rehabilitated more than 25,000 homes.

February 9, 1999

DATE: February 10, 1999
LOCATION: University of Maryland
Ritchie Coliseum
TIME: 1:50 p.m.
FROM: Thurgood Marshall, Jr.
Bruce Reed
Anne McGuire
Tanya Martin

I. PURPOSE

To kick-off AmeriCorps' first national recruitment campaign and challenge young people to provide service to their communities. You will also call on Congress to expand the yearly participation level in AmeriCorps to 100,000 members by 2002.

II. BACKGROUND

In the four years since AmeriCorps launch, over 100,000 young people have joined to provide mentoring, tutoring, disaster relief, public safety and assistance to senior citizens and the homeless in their communities. Today you will announce that your budget proposes to expand AmeriCorps to nearly 70,000 members by the year 2000, with the goal of to expand the yearly participation level in AmeriCorps to 100,000 members by 2002. The FY 2000 budget request includes **\$533 million** for AmeriCorps, an increase of **\$106 million** over last year.

You will also announce the launch of the AmeriCorps Call To Service campaign -- the first-ever national recruitment drive for AmeriCorps. You will challenge all Americans, especially young people, to get involved in service. The Call to Service campaign will provide young people with information on how they can serve in AmeriCorps to help strengthen local communities by tackling the nation's most serious problems, including illiteracy, poverty, health care, and crime. The campaign includes new television public service announcements, print advertisements, campus visits and other local recruitment efforts.

As you already know, in just four years, more than 100,000 AmeriCorps members have served more than 4,000 communities through local and nation programs, including Habitat for Humanity, Big Brother/Big Sister and the American Red Cross. Since 1994, AmeriCorps members have served more than 32 million people, mobilized nearly 2 million volunteers, taught, tutored or mentored more than 2 million children, organized after-school programs for more than a half million at-risk youth, helped more than 200,000 senior citizens live independently and built or rehabilitated more than 25,000 homes.

You will hear from five Americorps members before you speak:

Tara (T.J.) Trimmer is an AmeriCorps member serving with Public Allies, D.C. and Mentors Inc. After a rough childhood that included running with gangs, and doing time in juvenile detention by age 15, T.J. graduated from Eagle Rock, an alternative school for at-risk youth founded by American Honda in Estes Park, Colorado. Last year, T.J. joined AmeriCorps and now serves with Public Allies, D.C., where she recruits adults to serve as mentors to at-risk youth and coordinates activities, providing support for the mentors and their proteges.

Justin Ward joined AmeriCorps in the summer of 1998 after graduating from University of Maryland at College Park. He serves as Volunteer Coordinator for Harford County Habitat for Humanity in Aberdeen. In just five months, Justin has revived the chapter and dramatically increased its productivity, recruiting more than 100 new volunteers who have finished one home and started another.

Leslie Mayo, a second year AmeriCorps member with Montgomery County Police Department's AmeriCorps program, touches the lives of more than 300 persons with mental illness or developmental disabilities everyday. A single mother with twins, Leslie says "My AmeriCorps service has taught me that change begins within and that we all have something to share. AmeriCorps has allowed me to see the difference that I can make."

Susan Carrasco (Pepe) graduated from Creighton University with a degree in chemistry. After working as a chemist with a branch of the Army Corps of Engineers, Susan joined AmeriCorps*NCCC and moved to Washington, DC. Susan now specializes in disaster relief. Last spring she fought forest fires in Florida -- and this fall she led a team of members to Puerto Rico to help relief efforts following Hurricane Georges. Currently Susan's team is serving with the DC Housing Authority to improve public housing.

Stephen Hellinger who will introduce you, serves at Edgecombe Circle Elementary School in Baltimore, where he teaches art and pairs inner-city youth with elderly residents. A refugee from South Vietnam, he was raised in Lancaster, Pa. While in Vietnam, he contracted polio and was told that he would be confined to a wheelchair. He proved the doctors wrong and went on to complete though, and has made service to others a mainstay in his life. Just last week, for example, he assisted a victim of a drive-by shooting outside the elementary school where he serves.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Pre-brief Participants:

Harris Wofford
Thurgood Marshall, Jr.
Anne McGuire
Karen Tramontano
Ann Lewis
Bruce Reed
Tanya Martin
Shirley Sagawa
June Shih

Event Participants:

YOU

Harris Wofford

President U of MD

Governor Glendening

Lt. Governor Kennedy Townsend

Wayné Curry, PG County Executive

Stephen D. Hellinger, AmeriCorps member

Tara (T.J.) Trimmer, AmeriCorps member

Justin Ward, AmeriCorps member

Leslie Mayo, AmeriCorps member

Susan Carrasco (Pepe), AmeriCorps member

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open Press

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- **YOU** are announced off-stage accompanied by Harris Wofford, Stephen Hellinger, Tara (T.J.) Trimmer, Justin Ward, Leslie Mayo and Susan Carrasco (Pepe).
- Dr. Daniel Mote, President, University of Maryland, makes welcoming remarks and introduces Lieutenant Governor Kathleen Kennedy-Townsend.
- Kathleen Kennedy-Townsend makes brief remarks and introduces Governor Parris Glendening.
- Governor Glendening makes brief remarks.
- Harris Wofford, CEO, AmeriCorps, introduces AmeriCorps Public Service Announcement.
- Harris Wofford makes brief remarks.
- AmeriCorps members Tara (T.J.) Trimmer, Justin Ward, Leslie Mayo, and Susan Carrasco(Pep) each make 30-second remarks.
- Stephen Dellinger, AmeriCorps member makes brief remarks and introduces **YOU**.
- **YOU** make remarks.
- **YOU** work ropeline and depart.

VI. REMARKS

Provided by speech writers.

National Service Initiatives

Expand AmeriCorps to 100,000.

1. Policy Description. We propose expanding the AmeriCorps program from its current level of 50,000 members per year to 76,000 members in 2000 and then to 100,000 members by 2001. This expansion will target activities that are focused on the needs of children and youth, including summer programs, after-school programs, tutoring and mentoring. This expansion of 25,000 members in FY 2000 would include:

- High School: a new initiative to expand AmeriCorps to 10,000 high schools students serving full time in the summer and part-time (5 hrs/week) during the school year. These high school students will tutor, mentor, staff after-school programs and provide special assistance to at-risk children in summer programs such as Head Start. In exchange, students will be eligible for an AmeriCorps education award, and receive the equivalent of minimum wage for their full-time summer service.
- Summer: adding 15,000 to a summer program targeted at college students. AmeriCorps currently has a summer-only component that is very popular with college students seeking meaningful summer employment.
- Full-time: supporting the addition of 5,000 other full-time AmeriCorps members.

2. Cost. This expansion will cost \$132 million in FY 2000 and \$170 million in FY 2001 over the current funding level for AmeriCorps.

3. Unresolved Issues. We are still discussing the blend of high school, summer and full-time AmeriCorps participants. The second year expansion (in 2001) relies heavily on the summer program. We are also still considering which grade levels to target with the high school program (11th and 12th grade, only 12th grade etc.). We are also looking at whether to make the service cross-generational i.e. high schoolers also serving in senior centers.

4. Status. We have worked with the Corporation for National Service, OMB, NEC, the First Lady's office, Education and Treasury on this proposal. OMB is skeptical of the ability of the Corporation accommodate a large expansion of its program, particularly with full-time AmeriCorps members.

Experience Corps: Seniors for Schools.

1. Policy Description. We now have the largest, healthiest senior population in the Nation's history. At the same time, growing numbers of young people are in desperate need of responsible adult intervention. We propose expanding an existing demonstration program to create a senior corps allowing 40,000 seniors to serve in afterschool programs, and as tutors and mentors and in child care centers in their communities. Of this total, 10,000 will serve between 15-20 hours per week, and the remainder will serve 3-5 hours per week. In exchange, seniors would be eligible for small incentives, including awards to participate in senior learning programs. Evaluations from the demonstrations show increased test scores among the participating students and heightened senior involvement in the local schools.

2. Cost. \$40 million for the first year, funded as a demonstration program through the national senior service corps.

3. Unresolved Issues. We are still looking at the range of incentives that could be provided to seniors.

4. Status. Staff from the Corporation for National Service, Treasury, OMB, the First Lady's office, NEC and Education all worked on the design of this proposal. While OMB did not fund this, their staff was very supportive of this proposal and of the demonstration upon which this is based.

1,000 Service-Learning Leader Schools

1. Policy. This initiative proposes to build upon the President's "Leader schools" program which designates schools with exemplary service-learning activities in order to help create 1,000 schools with outstanding service-learning programs. Research has shown that high-quality service-learning has a positive impact on student achievement and behavior. Moreover, as states (MD and soon CA) and large school systems (Chicago) move to require or strongly encourage service, these schools can serve as models for state and local investments in service programs.

2. Cost. \$30 million in FY 2000.

3. Unresolved issues. We have not resolved how this program would deliver services to high schools to enable them to be designated "leader" schools. This proposal envisions the delivery of technical assistance, coordinators and other support to enable schools to implement high-quality service programs.

4. Status. CNS and NEC are highly supportive of a service-learning initiative provided that the emphasis is on the development of high-quality programs, and not merely the requirement that students perform some type of service. Education is doing some internal consultations on recommendation as to how to best encourage the development of 1,000 high quality programs.

- **House Bill Cuts Head Start.** The House bill funds Head Start at \$507 million below the President's request. The Head Start program has enjoyed bipartisan support for several years, and grown an average of 30,000 children per year since President Clinton took office. Under the Subcommittee's mark, for the first time in over a decade (1987), Head Start participation will not increase. The mark would freeze participation at its current level.
- **House Bill Terminates Youth Opportunity Grants** Youth Opportunity Grants are an initiative to provide comprehensive employment and training assistance to all out-of-school young people in high poverty areas. The program was passed last year as part of the bipartisan Workforce Investment Act. Eliminating this program would deny essential support for up to 58,000 of the most disadvantaged young people in central cities and rural communities across America. The President's budget provides \$250 million for Youth Opportunity Grants, which are a critical component of the New Markets Initiative
- **House Bill Guts Investment in Hispanic Education** The House bill barely increases funding for the Hispanic Education Agenda, providing only \$53 million of the \$444 million increase requested in key programs, such as migrant, bilingual, and adult education, to raise achievement and reduce dropout rates in the Hispanic community.
- **House Bill Cuts Summer Jobs Program and Youth and Adult Training** The House bill provides almost \$200 million below the President's request of \$ 1.96 billion for Youth and Adult Training. These cuts would result in lost job training, summer employment, and education opportunities to some 60,000 disadvantaged youth, and 38,200 adults would not have access to essential job training and placement services.
- **House Bill Cuts Dislocated Worker Assistance** The House bill cuts Dislocated Worker Assistance by \$335 million below the President's request of \$ 1.6 billion. The Dislocated Worker Employment and Training program provides core services, intensive services, training and support to help permanently separated workers return to productive, unsubsidized employment. The President's Universal Reemployment initiative would put us on a five-year path toward universal job training services to all dislocated workers, by gradually increasing funding for Dislocated Worker Assistance. Instead of taking a step forward for dislocated workers, the House is proposing a giant leap backward by proposing cuts that will deny 176,000 dislocated workers access to these vital services. The bill also cuts funding for One-Stop Career Centers and Reemployment Services.
- **House Bill Threatens Enforcement of Labor Protections** The House bill freezes or cuts all Department of Labor domestic workplace enforcement programs at or below FY 1999 levels, resulting in a \$112 million reduction below the President's request. For example, OSHA is cut \$51 million below the President's budget. As a result of this cut, some 5,000 fewer OSHA compliance inspections would be performed.
- **House Bill Jeopardizes Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** The bill delays the availability of \$3 billion in TANF funds (the welfare block grant), sending the wrong message to states who have prudently set aside "rainy day" reserves, and to states otherwise preparing to invest in new programs for welfare recipients with multiple barriers and for those who have already begun the transition to work. Through the first quarter of FY 1999 states have obligated 88% of their TANF dollars and have met all maintenance of effort requirements. By cutting billions from the program, the federal government would undermine the true goals of welfare reform and abandon its commitment to provide a fixed level of funding to states who live up to their commitment to invest their own dollars in assistance to needy families.
- **House Bill Cuts the Social Service Block Grant (SSBG)** The bill cuts SSBG by \$471 million below the President's request. SSBG provides funding to states to support a wide range of programs including child protection and child welfare, as well as services focused on the needs of the elderly and disabled.
- **House Bill Eliminates the President's Family Caregiver Support Program** The House bill does not include funds for the President's \$125 million new initiative to support those who care for the over 5 million disabled Americans who have long term care needs. The Family Caregiver Program is one piece of the Administration's four-part Long Term Care proposal to provide comprehensive services to support caregivers.
- **House Bill Fails to Increase Funding for Home-Delivered Meals** The House bill funds the widely supported home-delivered meals program at \$112 million, which is \$35 million below the President's request. The President's funding level would provide 27 million additional meals to at-risk older adults. These meals allow many of these adults to remain in their homes and communities, avoiding or delaying the need for costly institutionalization.
- **House Bill Cuts Important Health Initiatives** The bill cuts public health priorities, including preventive health, mental health and substance abuse, health care access for the poor, and efforts to reduce racial health disparities and the spread of AIDS worldwide. The bill would also threaten our ability to manage key entitlement programs,

such as Medicare and Medicaid. It would prevent us from continuing to provide important patient protections to American workers, and improving our nation's organ distribution system.

★

This kind success + new

5th Anniversary of AmeriCorps
Possible Policy Deliverables

*Apply the name
2 and Hill*

Message of the day:

Sen. Ben. Rayburn

Goal of policy deliverables:

Possible Options:

*High school
senior*

Veterans

Revers

*This kind of pre: high school
post-grad*

*Sustaining
to not just in paper
but in
senior*

*60 minutes
TV show*

national service as a part of our drive to make college education affordable to all, but also as a part of our deeper desire to bring the American community back together.

But beyond the concrete achievements of Americorp, beyond the expanded educational opportunities those achievements will earn, national service, I hope and pray, will help us to strengthen the cords that bind us together as a people; will help us to remember in the quiet of every night that what each of us can become is to some extent determined by whether all of us can become what God meant us to be. (Applause.)

And I hope it will remind every American that there can be no opportunity without responsibility. The great English historian, Edward Given, warned that when the Athenians finally wanted not to give to society, but for society to give to them, when the freedom they wished for most was freedom from responsibility, then Athens ceased to be free.

✓ Today we are taking a stand in this country for the proposition that if we challenge people to serve and we give them a chance to fulfill their abilities, more and more and more we will all understand that we must go forward together. This is the profoundest lesson of this whole endeavor. And it will be the great legacy of the wonderful people who make it come alive.

Alums – resource as connection and broker, clearinghouse for service opportunities – one-stop shopping,

Continually renewing and reinvigorating our civic life – building and sustaining

Youth/donation – matching fund

Goal – support that keeps on giving, congressional, big media splash, catalyze people,

Policy announcements:

High School Message

Service
Scholarships

Alums

Models – peace corps, military (e.g. troops to teachers)

Peace Corps

(1) Fellows Program: Through the Fellows Program, RPCVs work in schools and communities that have a specific need for their skills and experiences, while they study toward a related academic degree.

(2) School Visits: Through World Wise Schools, teachers in American classrooms may elect to be paired with a Peace Corps Volunteer in the field, and/or receive a visit from an RPCV, lesson plans, award-winning videos, teacher guides, newsletters, and posters.

(3) The Crisis Corps provides RPCVs the opportunity to use their cross-cultural language and technical skills for short-term assistance during humanitarian crises and natural disasters in the developing world.

(4) Partnership Program: Through the Partnership Program, individuals such as RPCVs, classrooms and organizations can match funds for completion of a small-scale project in a village where a Peace Corps volunteer is currently serving. The Gifts-in-Kind Program provides material donations, such as computers and books, from the private sector in response to requests from Peace Corps staff abroad.

Military

1.35 million reserves

Scholarships for high school students
AmeriCorps at 100,000

Activating service for young people

Summer programs – summer of service

Call to Action for AmeriCorps Alums

What would we do to call alums to action?

Focus around one National issue? e.g Youth violence

Citizen schools

Not trying to solve a specific social problem, but trying to continue to show leadership in areas of service, responsibility, and citizenship

AmeriCorps announcement – Power-Up – tackling the digital divide

Reauthorization of AmeriCorps

My ideas –

Reserves – like the Military – what would they get??

Story of AmeriCorps – targeted to who, for what purpose?

How do you get involved/stay involved in service? What are the links in each community? Who can act as a broker for AmeriCorps alums? State offices? America's Promise?

AmeriCorps Anniversary Events

Lunch 12-1:30 pm (100 people)

Program: The First Lady, Eli Segal, Harris Wofford
Presentation of the Dan Dutko Memorial Award (need to discuss)

Anniversary Event 1:30-2:30 pm (1000 people)

Pre-Program: Gospel group – CNS proposes Keb Mo (blues musician) to be the performer – he will be in town that day.

Program: The First Lady (5 min)

Viewing of new AmeriCorps ads (1 min)

AmeriCorps Alum speaks (4 minutes)

Presentation of AmeriCorps Awards (one in each category)(20 - 25 minutes)

President introduces each celebrity, who in turn speaks briefly about the award winner. Award is presented by the President and First Lady. **One** award winner per category.

Leadership – Colin Powell, John Glenn, Mia Hamm
Getting Things Done – Jerry Yang [or Colin Powell, Millard Fuller]

Community Strengthening – Dan Coats, Millard Fuller, Sargent Shriver

Common Ground – Coretta Scott King, Dexter Scott King

The President (10 - 15 min)

The President Administers the Pledge to the new Class (1 minutes)

[Performance by Keb Mo](4 minutes)

Singing of America the Beautiful (4 minutes)

(Closing (1min))

Running time: One hour

Handwritten notes:
Dutko
Segal
Wofford
Keb Mo
CNS
Gospel group
AmeriCorps Alum
Dan Coats
Millard Fuller
Sargent Shriver
Coretta Scott King
Dexter Scott King
Mia Hamm
Jerry Yang
Colin Powell
John Glenn
Ceballos

AmeriCorps Anniversary Celebration

The President and First Lady will be hosting a major celebration in honor of the Fifth Anniversary of AmeriCorps on October 20. This will be a 1,000 person event, held in the tent, attended by AmeriCorps members and alumni and other friends of the program. The event kicks off activities around the country to recognize the contributions of this signature program of the President.

The centerpiece of the program will be the presentation of awards to AmeriCorps alumni in four categories:

Getting Things Done
Common Ground
Community Strengthening
Leadership

Each category will be introduced by a well-known person who exemplifies the category and who will lend visibility and credibility to AmeriCorps. Here is the working list so far:

Military/Space Program (could represent Getting Things Done or Leadership):

Colin Powell, Eileen Collins, John Glenn, Shannon Lucid

Civil Rights (for Common Ground):

Coretta Scott King, Myrlie Evers, John Lewis, Martin Luther King III, Rev. Bernice King

Religious/Community (for Community Strengthening):

Millard Fuller, Ted Hesburg, Sargent Shriver, Tim Shriver, Fred Grandy, Dan Coats

Business Leaders (for Leadership or Getting Things Done or Community Strengthening):

Lou Gerstner, Steve Case, Jerry Yang, Sandy Weill, Bill Gates

Sports Figures (for Community Strengthening or Leadership):

David Robinson, John Thompson, Grant Hill, Mia Hamm, Michelle Akers, Sammy Sosa, Cynthia Cooper, Nikki McCray, Chamique Holdsclaw, Rebecca Lobo, Serena Williams

Celebrities involved in the Community (for Community Strengthening):

Will Smith, Jada Pinkett, Matt Damon, Gloria Estefan, Jimmy Smits, Edward James Olmos, Denzel Washington, Andrew Shue, Richard Dreyfuss

Other:

Mark Racicot, Ed Rendell, Bill Moyers, Arthur Schlesinger

AmeriCorps Anniversary Events

Lunch 12-1:30 pm (100 people)

Program: The First Lady, Eli Segal, Harris Wofford
 Presentation of the Dan Dutko Memorial Award (need to discuss)

Anniversary Event 1:30-2:30 pm (1000 people)

Pre-Program: Gospel group

Program: The First Lady (5 min)
 The President (10 min)
 Viewing of new AmeriCorps ads (1 min)
 Presentation of AmeriCorps Awards (one in each category)(16 minutes)
 Leadership
 Getting Things Done
 Community Strengthening
 Common Ground
 AmeriCorps Alum speaks (4 minutes)
 The President Administers the Pledge to the new Class (2 minutes)
 Singing of America the Beautiful (4 minutes)
 Closing (1min)

The Friends of National Service Congressional Invite List for 5th Anniversary

Name	Party	State	Phone	Address	Zip + 4	Staffer
Abraham, Spencer	S	R	MI	224-4822	SD-329	20510-2203
Ackerman, Gary L.	H	D	NY	225-2601	RHOB 2243	20515-3205
Allen, Thomas H.	H	D	ME	225-6116	LHOB 1717	20515-1901
Andrews, Robert	H	D	NJ	225-6501	RHOB 2439	20515-3001 Christopher Jones
Baldwin, Tammy	H	D	WI	225-2906	LHOB 1020	20515-4902
Barrett, Tom	H	D	WI	225-3571	LHOB 1214	20515-4905
Bennett, Robert F.	S	R	UT	224-5444	SD-431	20510-4403
Berman, Howard L.	H	D	CA	225-4695	RHOB 2330	20515-0526
Blagojevich, Rod R.	H	D	IL	225-4061	CHOB 331	20515-1305
Bond, Christopher S.	S	R	MO	224-5721	SR-274	20510-2503 Cheh Kim
Borski, Robert A.	H	D	PA	225-8251	RHOB 2267	20515-3803
Brady, Robert A.	H	D	PA	225-4731	CHOB 216	20515-3801
Breaux, John B.	S	D	LA	224-4623	SH-503	20510-1803
Byrd, Robert C.	S	D	WV	224-3954	SH-311	20510-4801
Campbell, Ben Nighthorse	S	R	CO	224-5852	SR-380	20510-0605
Cardin, Benjamin L.	H	D	MD	225-4016	CHOB 104	20515-2003

Carson, Julia M.	H	D	IN	225-4011	LHOB 1541	20515-1410	
Chafee, John H.	S	R	RI	224-2921	SD-505	20510-3902	Barbara Riehle
Clay, William	H	D	MO	225-2406	RHOB 2306	20515-2501	Marshall Grigsby Cheryl Johnson
Clayton, Eva	H	D	NC	225-3101	RHOB 2440	20515-3301	
Clement, Bob	H	D	TN	225-4311	RHOB 2229	20515-4205	
Clyburn, James	H	D	SC	225-3315	CHOB 319	20515-4006	Yebbie Watkins
Cochran, Thad	S	R	MS	224-5054	SR-326	20510-2402	
Collins, Susan M.	S	R	ME	224-2523	SR-172	20510-1904	
Cramer, Bud	H	D	AL	225-4801	RHOB 2350	20515-0105	Dana Gresham
Crowley, Joseph	H	D	NY	225-3965	LHOB 1517	20515-3207	
DeFazio, Peter A.	H	D	OR	225-6416	RHOB 2134	20515-3704	
DeLauro, Rosa	H	D	CT	225-3661	CHOB 436	20515-0703	
DeWine, Mike	S	R	OH	224-2315	SR-140	20510-3503	
Dingell, John D.	H	D	MI	225-4071	RHOB 2328	20515-2216	
Dodd, Christopher J.	S	D	CT	224-2823	SR-444	20510-0702	
Dooley, Cal	H	D	CA	225-3341	LHOB 1201	20515-0520	Lisa Quigley
Farr, Sam	H	D	CA	225-2861	LHOB 1221	20515-0517	Sandy Hentges
Fattah, Chaka	H	D	PA	225-4001	LHOB 1205	20515-3802	

Ford Jr., Harold	H	D	TN	225-3265	CHOB 325	20515-4209	Sigrid Lott
Frank, Barney	H	D	MA	225-5931	RHOB 2210	20515-2104	
Frost, Martin D.	H	D	TX	225-3605	RHOB 2256	20515-4324	
Grassley, Charles E.	S	R	IA	224-3744	SH-135	20510-1501	
Gutierrez, Luis	H	D	IL	225-8203	RHOB 2438	20515-1304	
Hagel, Chuck	S	R	NE	224-4224	SR-346	20510-2705	Maura Dawson
Hall, Tony P.	H	D	OH	225-6465	LHOB 1432	20515-3503	
Harkin, Tom	S	D	IA	224-3254	SH-731	20510-1502	Ellen Murray
Hatch, Orrin G.	S	R	UT	224-5251	SR-131	20510-4402	
Hilliard, Earl	H	D	AL	225-2665	LHOB 1314	20515-0107	
Hinchey, Maurice	H	D	NY	225-6335	RHOB 2431	20515-3226	
Hinojosa, Ruben E.	H	D	TX	225-2531	LHOB 1032	20515-4315	
Holt, Rush D.	H	D	NJ	225-5801	LHOB 1630	20515-3012	Steve Mauiglio
Horn, Steve	H	R	CA	225-6676	RHOB 2331	20515-0538	
Houghton, Amo	H	R	NY	225-3161	LHOB 1110	20515-3231	
Hoyer, Steny H.	H	D	MD	225-4131	LHOB 1705	20515-2005	Sonya Clay
Jackson, Jesse	H	D	IL	225-0773	CHOB 313	20515-1302	Angela Melton
Jackson-Lee, Sheila	H	D	TX	225-3816	CHOB 410	20515-4318	
Jefferson, William J.	H	D	LA	225-6636	CHOB 240	20515-1802	

Jeffords, James M.	S	R	VT	224-5141	SH-728	20510-4503	Sherry Kaiman
Johnson, Eddie Bernice	H	D	TX	225-8885	LHOB 1511	20515-4330	
Kaptur, Marcy	H	D	OH	225-4146	RHOB 2366	20515-3509	
Kasich, John R.	H	R	OH	225-5355	LHOB 1111	20515-3512	
Kennedy, Edward M.	S	D	MA	224-4543	SR-315	20510-2101	Jane Oates
Kennedy, Patrick J.	H	D	RI	225-4911	CHOB 312	20515-3901	
Kerry, John F.	S	D	MA	224-2742	SR-304	20510-2102	
Kildee, Dale E.	H	D	MI	225-3611	RHOB 2187	20515-2209	
Kind, Ron J.	H	D	WI	225-5506	LHOB 1713	20515-4903	Cindy Brown
Klink, Ron	H	D	PA	225-2565	RHOB 2448	20515-3804	
Kucinich, Dennis J.	H	D	OH	225-5871	LHOB 1730	20515-3510	
Landrieu, Mary L.	S	D	LA	224-5824	SH-702	20510-1804	
Lantos, Tom	H	D	CA	225-3531	RHOB 2217	20515-0512	
Larson, John B	H	D	CT	225-2265	LHOB 1419	20515-0701	
Leach, Jim	H	R	IA	225-6576	RHOB 2186	20515-1501	
Lewis, John	H	D	GA	225-3801	CHOB 343	20515-1005	
Lieberman, Joe	S	D	CT	224-4041	SH-706	20510-0703	Mark Andresun Bill Bonvillia
Lincoln, Blanche Lambert	S	D	AR	224-4843	SD-359	20510-0401	Elaine Dalpiaz
Lowey, Nita M.	H	D	NY	225-6506	RHOB	20515-3218	Clare Coleman

					2421	
Maloney, Carolyn	H	D	NY	225-7944	RHOB 2430	20515-3214
Maloney, James H.	H	D	CT	225-3822	LHOB 1213	20515-0705
Markey, Edward J.	H	D	MA	225-2836	RHOB 2108	20515-2107
Martinez, Matthew G.	H	D	CA	225-5464	RHOB 2269	20515-0531
McCain, John	S	R	AZ	224-2235	SR-241	20510-0303
McCarthy, Carolyn	H	D	NY	225-5516	LHOB 1725	20515-3204
McConnell, Mitch	S	R	KY	224-2541	SR-361A	20510-1702
McDermott, James A.	H	D	WA	225-3106	LHOB 1035	20515-4707
Meehan, Martin	H	D	MA	225-3411	RHOB 2434	20515-2105
Meek, Carrie	H	D	FL	225-4506	CHOB 401	20515-0917 John Schelble
Menendez, Robert	H	D	NJ	225-7919	CHOB 405	20515-3013
Mikulski, Barbara A.	S	D	MD	224-4654	SH-709	20510-2003 Sean Smith Paul Carliner Julia Frifield
Miller, George	H	D	CA	225-2095	RHOB 2205	20515-0507
Mink, Patsy T.	H	D	HI	225-4906	RHOB 2135	20515-1102
Mollohan, Alan B.	H	D	WV	225-4172	RHOB 2346	20515-4801 Gavin Clingham
Moran, James P.	H	D	VA	225-4376	RHOB 2239	20515-4608

Morella, Constance A.	H	R	MD	225-5341	RHOB 2228	20515-2008	Sandy Zimmet
Murray, Patty	S	D	WA	224-2621	SR-173	20510-4704	
Murtha, John P.	H	D	PA	225-2065	RHOB 2423	20515-3812	
Neal, Richard E.	H	D	MA	225-5601	RHOB 2236	20515-2102	
Obey, David R.	H	D	WI	225-3365	RHOB 2314	20515-4907	Mark Mioduski
Olver, John	H	D	MA	225-5335	LHOB 1027	20515-2101	
Owens, Major R.	H	D	NY	225-6231	RHOB 2305	20515-3211	
Pastor, Ed	H	D	AZ	225-4065	RHOB 2465	20515-0302	
Payne, Donald M.	H	D	NJ	225-3436	RHOB 2209	20515-3010	
Pelosi, Nancy	H	D	CA	225-4965	RHOB 2457	20515-0508	
Peterson, Collin	H	D	MN	225-2165	RHOB 2159	20515-2307	
Porter, John Edward	H	R	IL	225-4835	RHOB 2373	20515-1310	Susan Firth
Price, David E.	H	D	NC	225-1784	RHOB 2162	20515-3304	
Quinn, Jack	H	R	NY	225-3306	CHOB 229	20515-3230	
Reed, John F.	S	D	RI	224-4642	SH-320	20510-3903	
Reyes, Silvestre	H	D	TX	225-4831	CHOB 514	20515-4316	
Robb, Charles S.	S	D	VA	224-4024	SR-154	20510-4603	J. B. Poersch
Roberts, Pat	S	R	KS	224-4774	SH-302	20510-1605	

Rockefeller, John	S	D	WV	224-6472	SH-531	20510-4802	Barbara Pryor Tamara Luzzatto
Roemer, Tim	H	D	IN	225-3915	RHOB 2352	20515-1403	Maggie McDow
Romero-Barcelo, Carlos A.	H	D	PR	225-2615	RHOB 2443	20515-5401	
Sabo, Martin Olav	H	D	MN	225-4755	RHOB 2336	20515-2305	
Sanchez, Loretta	H	D	CA	225-2965	LHOB 1529	20515-0546	
Sanders, Bernard	H	I	VT	225-4115	RHOB 2202	20515-4501	
Sandlin, Max A.	H	D	TX	225-3035	CHOB 214	20515-4301	
Santorum, Richard J.	S	R	PA	224-6324	SR-120	20510-3804	Randy Brandt Mark Rodgers
Sawyer, Thomas C.	H	D	OH	225-5231	LHOB 1414	20515-3514	
Schakowsky, Janice D.	H	D	IL	225-2111	CHOB 515	20515-1309	
Scott, Bobby	H	D	VA	225-8351	RHOB 2464	20515-4603	
Shays, Christopher	H	R	CT	225-5541	LHOB 1126	20515-0704	Amanda Mitchell
Slaughter, Louise McIntosh	H	D	NY	225-3615	RHOB 2347	20515-3228	
Smith, Adam	H	D	WA	225-8901	CHOB 116	20515-4709	
Specter, Arlen	S	R	PA	224-4254	SH-711	20510-3802	Adrienne Baker
Stevens, Ted	S	R	AK	224-3004	SH-522	20510-0201	
Tierney, John F.	H	D	MA	225-8020	CHOB 120	20515-2106	
Underwood, Robert	H	D	GU	225-1188	RHOB 2418	20515-5301	

Vento, Bruce F.	H	D	MN	225-6631	RHOB 2413	20515-2304	
Walsh, James T.	H	R	NY	225-3701	RHOB 2351	20515-3225	Tim Peterson
Warner, John William	S	R	VA	224-2023	SR-225	20510-4601	
Waxman, Henry A.	H	D	CA	225-3976	RHOB 2204	20515-0529	
Weygand, Robert A.	H	D	RI	225-2735	CHOB 215	20515-3902	
Woolsey, Lynn	H	D	CA	225-5161	CHOB 439	20515-0506	Lynda Theil
Wu, David	H	D	OR	225-0855	CHOB 510	20515-3701	
Wyden, Ron	S	D	OR	224-5244	SHOB	20510-3703	Carol Grunberg
Gephardt, Richard A.	H	D	MO	225-2671	LHOB	20515-2503	Cassandra Butts
	S	D			Capitol	20510	Jodi Grant
						Senate Democratic Policy Committee	
Dorgan, Byron L.	S	D	ND	224-2551	SHOB	20510-3405	Lucy Calutti
Leahy, Patrick	S	D	VT	224-4242	SROB	20510-4502	Luke Albee
Daschle, Thomas A.	S	D	SD	224-2321	SHOB	20510-4103	Pete Rouse Caroline Fredrickson
Bingaman, Jeff	S	D	NM	224-5521	SHOB	20510-3102	Trudy Vincent

Key

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D = Democrat, R = Republican

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RHOB = Rayburn House Office Building

LHOB = Longworth House Office Building

SR = Senate Russell Office Building

SD = Senate Dirksen Office Building

SH = Senate Hart Office Building

Title = THE HONORABLE

Salutation = Dear Congressman/Senator Last Name,

Model Addresses Senate = The Honorable Matthew Nelson
 United States Senate
 12345 Russell Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510 + 4

House = The Honorable Matthew Nelson
 United States House of Representatives
 12345 Rayburn House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515 + 4

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BLUEPRINT IDEAS FOR A NEW CENTURY

Blueprint: Ideas for a New Century, Spring 1999

Where We Stand

by William A. Galston

The past generation has witnessed an expansion of traditional American values of freedom, individual rights, and equal opportunity - and the enhanced appeal of these values around the world. Belief in the "American creed" remains strong. Most Americans are comfortable with the movement toward social equality over the past generation and have no desire to turn the clock back. Most of us believe that freedom is working, and personal optimism is high.

But while Americans cherish personal liberty and celebrate its expansion, we are troubled by some of its consequences. As we have become a high-choice society, important social bonds have weakened. Many scholars believe that this tension between individual choice and social solidarity is unavoidable and that the best we can do is to strike a workable balance between them. But in America today, this tension is a source of deep ambivalence.

We take pride in the expansion of tolerance in our society, but we wonder whether the remaining moral norms are strong enough to restrain the abuse of personal liberty. We cherish individualism and rights, but we worry about their consequences for community and responsibility. As our political institutions have weakened and individualistic political entrepreneurship has become the norm, a rupture has occurred between the government and the people, especially young adults. We feel economically prosperous but civically impoverished.

Our ambivalence shapes - and complicates - the task of renewing our civic life. We want to strengthen the bonds that connect us to one another, but not at the expense of hard-won individual rights and liberties. We are reluctant to enforce the norms we endorse. So while Americans are deeply troubled about family breakdown, we are worried about enacting tougher divorce laws. While we are convinced that teen pregnancy and out-of-wedlock birth are

negative for our society, we hesitate to implement policies that would stigmatize individuals engaging in this behavior. While we want stronger social bonds in neighborhoods and among citizens, we hesitate to use coercion to foster them.

There is no way of dissolving the tension between individual choice and social solidarity. But we can strike a better balance between them. To do this, we must emphasize an ethic of reciprocity and mutual responsibility throughout our society. The reason is simple: A good society does not descend like manna from heaven. It is built and sustained through the efforts of its citizens. No society can long survive on the principle of "something for nothing." If we receive something of value (whether from our neighbors or our government), we must be prepared to give something back. The practice of reciprocity won't limit our liberties. On the contrary, it will strengthen the framework of institutions, beliefs, and bonds that secures the exercise of rights.

The challenge of renewing our civic life through the ethic of reciprocity is made even more important by the dramatic changes we have experienced during the past generation. The end of the Cold War has diminished the felt importance of politics, especially at the national level. The New Economy has weakened the bonds of loyalty that once linked corporations and their employees. Technological innovations - especially information technology - have changed the ways that Americans interact and associate with one another. Fifty-four percent of all students entering college this year participate in Internet chat rooms; 83 percent are using the Internet for research. By the year 2000, it is likely that half of all American households will be on-line. Technological change is putting pressure on institutions throughout our society, including the political parties and media networks that once helped organize our public agenda and discussion. As Mark Penn's survey makes clear, we are sharply divided about the impact - both current and long-term - of these new technologies on the fabric of our social and civic life.

America's Values at Century's End

To renew a civic life based on mutual responsibility, we must begin from where we are. While our values have changed significantly during the past generation, many of the principles and beliefs that make us distinctive remain intact.

1) American exceptionalism is alive and well, and the "American creed" remains strong.

As compared with other economically developed nations, Americans continue to emphasize individual freedom and rights, personal responsibility rather than government responsibility, equality of opportunity rather than results, and an ethic of dynamism and risk-taking over that of stability and security. Our historic preference for local over national political institutions, suspended during the period from the beginning of the New Deal to the end of the Cold War, has now reasserted itself. We remain near the top in voluntary activity (82 percent of Americans belong to at least one voluntary association), and we continue to register very high levels of religious faith and observance.

In overwhelming numbers, Americans express a deep patriotism and abiding faith in our constitutional order as the best system of government. We distinguish sharply between our political institutions, which we regard as fundamentally sound, and the performance of most politicians, of whom we are sharply critical. And in spite of much recent hand-wringing about the "balkanization" of America, the evidence suggests far more agreement than disagreement about basic values and public purposes across lines of race and ethnicity, and between longstanding and newly arrived citizens. More than 90 percent of all Americans endorse democracy, patriotism, acceptance of people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds, honesty, courage, caring for friends and family, and the Golden Rule as basic values that should be taught in our schools.

2) Most Americans are comfortable with the progress toward social equality and inclusion over the past generation and have no desire to turn the clock back.

By very large and increasing margins, Americans endorse steps to secure racial justice, equal opportunities for women, tolerance for cultural differences, the inclusion of all ethnic and immigrant groups in the story of America, and the "mainstreaming" of formerly marginalized groups such as Americans with disabilities. Not surprisingly, political and social movements perceived as moralistic and intolerant tend to command only minority support.

3) Most Americans believe that freedom is working for them and their families, and personal optimism is high.

Satisfaction with economic circumstances and prospects is at a record high, and most Americans believe that the New

Economy and today's society offer more choices for more individuals than ever before. This personal optimism is strengthening a new ethic of self-reliance - the belief in resilient, adaptable individuals rather than stable and dependable institutions - that is especially intense among young Americans. For example, a recent Wall Street Journal/NBC survey indicated that 75 percent of GenXers believe that individual workers should be allowed to direct the investment of a portion of their Social Security payroll taxes, compared to only 39 percent of New Dealers.

As recently as a decade ago, this emphasis on individual freedom - a key element of American exceptionalism - was widely seen as a problem hindering our ability to compete effectively with more solidaristic nations such as Germany and Japan. Today, this worry has been turned on its head. There is evidence that this distinctive complex of values - freedom, flexibility, innovation, self-reliance, a strong belief in opportunity and social mobility - is especially well-suited both to individual success in the New Economy and to the ability of nations to take advantage of emerging economic possibilities.

4) While Americans cherish personal freedom and celebrate its expansion, they are troubled by some of its consequences - for families, neighborhoods, communities, and to some extent for workers as well.

In the economic sphere, after eight years of growth that have brought us to the lowest unemployment rates in a generation, anxiety about long-term job loss is actually higher today than it was in the 1980s. Many workers feel more disposable than they once did, and increased economic flexibility comes at the cost of weakened bonds of loyalty between workers and their employers. Many Americans are also troubled by the perception that increased economic mobility has diminished the sense of responsibility businesses once felt for their local communities.

Social trends of the past generation viewed negatively by most Americans include rising rates of crime, welfare dependency, divorce, teen sexual intercourse, out-of-wedlock births, and fatherless families, coupled with a perceived decline of the ties of connection and loyalty in neighborhoods and workplaces. During the 1990s, many of these trends have begun to improve. Teen sex, births to teens, illegitimacy, divorce, crime, and welfare dependency have all declined significantly. But these positive developments have yet to register in changed attitudes - in

part because beliefs tend to change more slowly than actual conditions, and in part because many improved indicators still register social pathologies at levels higher than a generation ago, and much higher than most Americans regard as satisfactory.

Indeed, one of the defining characteristics of American public opinion at century's end is the pervasiveness of moral concerns. Sixty-two percent identify a decline in moral values as one of the "major causes of our problems today." One piece of conventional wisdom is that this reflects the improved economy and decline of economic concerns. But in fact moral concerns have dominated material concerns for nearly all of the past decade, in good economic times and bad.

Another piece of conventional wisdom discounts expression of moral concern on the grounds that Americans always believe that morality is in decline and that things were better in some earlier time. This is at most partly true. In 1937, for example, 45 percent of Americans believed that values had weakened over the past generation. Today, that figure is at 76 percent. As recently as 25 years ago, Americans were about evenly divided between optimism and pessimism concerning the future of moral and ethical standards in our country. Today, the pessimists dominate by 2 to 1. Not surprisingly, 66 percent of Americans are now more worried that the country will become too tolerant of behavior that is bad for society rather than too intolerant, versus only 28 percent who fear intolerance more.

There is evidence of widespread public desire for a new balance between rights and responsibilities, self-expression and self-restraint, individual free-dom and older norms of connection and solidarity. Fifty-five percent of Americans now say that it is more important to defend standards of right and wrong than to extend individual rights; 76 percent prefer being tough on criminals to protecting the rights of the accused.

Young people - the coming generation of leaders - seem to have an especially strong desire for such a recalibration. The percentage of college freshmen who say that there is too much concern for criminals has risen from 50 percent in 1970 to 70 percent today. Forty-three percent of freshmen (including 53 percent of women) believe that material on the Internet should be regulated by the government. Acceptance of casual sex is also down to a record low of 40 percent, compared to a high of 52 percent in 1987. And numerous surveys conducted over the past

decade have documented the burning desire of young Americans to give their children and spouses stabler marriages and family lives than their baby-boomer parents provided them. Young Americans - indeed, most Americans - see weakened families not just as a source of personal unhappiness, but as a key obstacle to civic renewal.

5) Americans' view of their political institutions (and of large institutions in general) has become much more negative during the past generation, leading to a deep rupture between the people and their government.

This represents a profound change in American politics. During the New Deal, only one-third of the people felt that too much power was concentrated in Washington. Now, two-thirds feel that way. As recently as 1973, only 32 percent agreed that "the best government is one that governs the least." Today, 56 percent agree. While there has been a significant increase during the past six years in the percentage of Americans who say that they are basically satisfied with the way the federal government works, the bond between citizens and governing institutions has not been repaired. The fraction of citizens who say they trust the federal government to do what's right has been cut in half during the past generation and now stands at only 31 percent.

The gap between citizens and public institutions is especially large among young people, and it is continuing to widen. For example, only 39 percent of Americans age 18 to 29 believe that elected officials are trustworthy, compared to 56 percent of Americans aged 65 or older. This finding is significant because younger Americans' perception of government is more heavily influenced by their evaluation of public officials, and less by government performance, than is the case for older Americans. Not surprisingly, a recent survey of nearly 276,000 entering college freshmen found political interest and involvement at record lows. Only 26 percent feel that keeping up with political affairs is important, compared with 58 percent a generation ago. Social scientists worry that the negative impressions of politics characteristic of today's young Americans may shape political attitudes and behavior throughout their adult lives.

The ruptured bond between citizens and their political institutions has led to a view of government as dominated by "them" rather than sustained by "us." Today, 61 percent believe that the government doesn't care what average

citizens think, and 66 percent feel that elected officials quickly lose touch with ordinary Americans and their everyday problems. A generation ago, only 29 percent felt that government was dominated by and run for the benefit of the special interests; today, 74 percent feel that way. Not surprisingly, citizens are far less likely to vote out of a sense of civic duty (or for any other reason) than they were a generation ago, and many other forms of political participation have decreased as well.

John F. Kennedy urged citizens to ask what they could do for their country, not what their country could do for them; today, few political leaders suggest that anything should be required of citizens, as a matter of duty to the community or even in return for generous benefits provided by the community. Perhaps our leaders fear that if they propose policies based on reciprocity, the people will turn against them. If so, Mark Penn's survey suggests that they are underestimating the people and that there is a widespread desire (perhaps even a hunger) for public policies more closely aligned with common-sense moral principles.

Our Challenge: Renewing Civic Life by Moving to a New Ethic of Reciprocity

The disruption of the relation between citizens and their government has not extended to our society as a whole. By many measures, levels of civil association and civic activity at the local level remain high, even among young people who are most likely to have tuned out official politics. A record number of college freshmen report volunteering their time during their last year of high school - 74 percent, up from 62 percent a decade ago. And more than occasionally: 42 percent volunteered at least weekly, up from 27 percent a decade ago.

As Mark Penn's survey shows, young Americans are not satisfied with the condition of our civic life. They are more likely than older citizens to believe that Americans do not live up to their public responsibilities and that there should be more emphasis on community. And they are more likely than others to support government actions designed to strengthen civic life - even when that means making civic education and service mandatory as graduation requirements for all high school students.

In rejecting the view that voluntary activities will be enough to solve our nation's problems, younger Americans are in agreement with their fellow-citizens. Although we believe (as we have since early in our national history) that

social progress begins at home, in families, neighborhoods, and local communities, we do not believe that it ends there. Fully 72 percent of Americans believe that America's social problems can be best addressed through closer collaboration between government and voluntary associations (religious and charitable), versus only 16 percent who think that the voluntary sector can successfully go it alone. Americans do not believe that government is irrelevant; they want a government that acts intelligently to revitalize citizenship and civic life. But they are not yet convinced that their government is doing that very well.

In his first inaugural address, President Clinton declared that there is nothing wrong with America that cannot be fixed by what is right with America. And there is so much that is right. We care about our country; we know that freedom works, but only when family and community bonds are strong; we are willing to contribute to the community when we believe that our efforts will make a difference. Our task - the task of political leaders and ordinary citizens alike - is to build on these strengths by renewing an ethic of reciprocity throughout our civic life.

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[Spring 1999 Table of Contents](#)

[Introduction](#)

The Challenge:

[Where We Stand](#) by William A. Galston

[Sidebar: Civic Deregulation](#) by Alan Wolfe

[Sidebar: What's Fair?](#) by Daniel Yankelovich

[Sidebar: An Exceptional Nation](#) by Seymour Martin Lipset

The Solution:

Nationalize National Service by Steven Waldman
Sidebar: Work-Study: Service for Communities, Not
Colleges by Thomas Ehrlich
Education for Democracy by Charles N. Quigley
Re-Funding Social Services by David Kuo
The Rule of Reciprocity by Will Marshall

Public Opinion:

Poll: The Community Consensus by Mark J. Penn

What Works:

The Jane Addams School for Democracy by Harry C.
Boyte and Jennifer O'Donoghue
Time Dollars at Work by Edgar S. Cahn
Caring for Our Civic Souls by Olgen Williams

Home	Archive	About Blueprint	Subscribe	Feedback
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BLUEPRINT IDEAS FOR A NEW CENTURY

Blueprint: Ideas for a New Century, Spring 1999

The Community Consensus

by Mark J. Penn

[Click here](#) for full results of this poll.

Washington may be imprisoned by continual cycles of partisan recrimination and the media may portray an America that is hopelessly divided on the basic questions facing our democracy. But outside of the Beltway and away from the cameras' glare, a remarkable consensus has developed in the nation on the importance of civic life, on the responsibility of citizens to contribute to the community, on the need for government action to take new forms, and on the demand that opportunities must come with obligations.

The results of a new survey of 509 adults conducted between February 12-14, 1999, should serve to buttress the resolve of America's leaders to support programs to enhance civic involvement, to find ways for the government and community groups to work together on common goals, and to integrate the concepts of responsibility and citizenship into the public dialogue.

The highlights of this survey include:

1. Americans believe that a strong sense of community is important to the nation - and they are convinced that with citizenship come core obligations.
2. Americans are concerned by the decline they see in civic life and by a nation they see as valuing rights more than responsibilities.
3. Americans strongly believe in the notion of reciprocity and question the concept of entitlement.

4. **While government should take a back seat to individuals and communities in strengthening civic life, targeted government initiatives aimed at creating more active and involved citizens can and should play a role.**
5. **Americans are closely split on the impact of technology on our civic life.**
6. **GenXers - an increasingly large part of the electorate - hunger for a revitalized spirit of community.**

1. The Importance of Community

Americans are firm in their belief that "community" is more than a woolly concept - it is an obligation to be engaged in the life of the nation. Fully 96 percent of respondents say they think they have responsibilities to the country as American citizens. This nearly unanimous acceptance of obligation is the foundation for the strong consensus found on many related issues - including the importance of involvement in the community and the positive effect this can have on society as a whole.

- Americans have an obligation to be involved in their community by taking responsibility. A resounding 90 percent say Americans have an obligation to solve their problems by taking responsibility for themselves and for others, whereas merely 8 percent say Americans have no obligation to be involved in their community.
- Such involvement has intrinsic value to many aspects of society. Eighty-four percent say that a strong civic life has a strong impact in producing better schools, faster economic development, lower crime, and more effective government, while 13 percent say that a strong civic life has little or no impact on schools, crime, and effective government.
- When given the choice between government and civic life, they choose the latter. Eighty-two percent say it is better to have smaller government and a stronger civic life, while 11 percent say it is better to have a bigger government.

The consensus extends not just to the vague concept of responsibility, but to the particular obligations that make up Americans' vision of citizenship. In fact, this consensus has

strengthened in the course of the past 15 years.

TABLE 1

Do you feel the following is a very important obligation, a somewhat important obligation, or not an obligation that a citizen owes to the country?

Very Important	1999	1983-87 GSS2	Change
Reporting a crime you may have witnessed	90	89	1
Attending parent teacher conferences	89	NA	NA
Voting in elections	87	78	9
Being able to speak and understand English	85	82	3
Serving in the military if drafted	76	NA	NA
Keeping fully informed about news and public issues	73	55	18
Serving on a jury if called	73	64	9
Contributing to help the less fortunate	71	NA	NA
Protesting unjust public policies	61	NA	NA
Participating in "Town Hall" community decision making meetings	59	NA	NA
Participating in neighborhood organizations (fraternal/school/church-based etc.)	56	NA	NA
Volunteering some time to community service	55	31	24
Volunteering for the military	48	NA	NA

While it is clear that Americans are paying increasing attention to what they owe their nation, they see their fellow citizens as coming up short - and they are demanding change.

Nearly nine out of ten believe that they are currently meeting their responsibilities as citizens. This perception of fulfillment of their own citizenship, however, is in stark contrast to their perceptions of American citizens in general. In fact, over half think that most Americans are not living up to their responsibilities as citizens.

TABLE 2

Do you think most Americans live up to their responsibilities as citizens or not?

	All	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.
Yes	40	45	35	37
No	54	49	60	54

2. The Decline of Civic Life

Americans are pessimistic not only about other people fulfilling the responsibilities of citizenship, but also about the societal attitudes behind citizenship. Sixty-two percent think that most Americans have an attitude of cynicism and apathy, as opposed to an attitude of citizenship and participation.

TABLE 3				
Do you think Americans today have an attitude of cynicism and apathy, or of citizenship and participation?				
	All	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.
Cynicism and Apathy	62	54	73	64
Citizenship and Participation	27	38	20	21

The lack of responsibility Americans perceive in their neighbors helps lead them to the conclusion that our civic life is in decline. This belief is closely related to Americans' views on obligation. Among the majority who believe most Americans do not fulfill their obligations as citizens, 65 percent believe that civic life has weakened, while among those who indicated Americans do fulfill their obligations, only half think civic life has weakened.

While Americans across the board believe that civic life has weakened in recent years, perceptions about our civic life are divided by an income gap. This suggests that Americans do tie their perceptions of civic life to their financial well-being - and that perhaps wealthier Americans are more isolated from the real problems that face the nation.

TABLE 4						
Some people say that America's civic life has weakened in recent years, while others say that it remained strong. Which is closer to your view?						
	All	Under \$50K	Over \$50K	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.
Our nation's civic life has weakened	57	61	52	50	68	58
Our nation's civic life has remained strong	36	32	43	43	29	34

Americans blame the decline in civic life on a number of factors, but an overwhelming 78 percent agree that the weakening of the family is a major factor-voters of all

parties rate it as the largest factor. Following the weakening of the family is a lack of trust between people (67 percent say it is a major factor). Additionally, those who feel that civic life is weakening attribute it more than most to factors of families weakening, lack of trust, and crime.

TABLE 5

Please tell me if you think this is a major factor, minor factor, or not a factor at all in the decline of Civic Life.

Ranked by All	Major Factor				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind	Civic Life Weak
Our families are weaker than they used to be	78	73	86	77	89
There is a general lack of trust between people	67	65	66	68	76
Our children are not educated about participation	63	63	73	55	69
People don't have time anymore	62	69	54	59	64
Our political leaders are corrupt	57	52	54	58	61
Government has gotten too big	54	36	68	60	57
Crime has made people scared to participate	53	62	47	49	63

A strong majority of Americans believe that there is currently more emphasis on the individual than on community - and they do not see this as a positive trend.

There is a correlation between beliefs about our focus on individuals vs. community and our perceptions of civic life. Two-thirds of those who believe civic life is weakening say there is more focus on the individual, while only 49 percent of those who say civic life remains strong see more focus on the individual.

TABLE 6

Do you think our society today focuses more on the individual or more on community?

	All	Civic Life Weakening	Civic Life Strong
Individual	59	65	49
Community	34	29	42

With the belief that we place a greater emphasis on the individual comes an explicit call for a change in that hierarchy. Three in four believe "getting more people involved in communal organizations, such as religious, fraternal, or educational organizations, is good for society

as a whole."

In addition, a large majority of respondents agree that a greater emphasis must be placed on the community, even if it puts more demands on individuals.

TABLE 7

Do you think there should be more emphasis on community, even if it puts more demands on individuals?

	All	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.
Yes	79	83	77	79
No	15	10	18	15

Along with a belief that individual citizens must work to improve the community, comes the expectation that corporations have a duty to use their power to do the same.

TABLE 8

Do you believe corporations have a responsibility to help improve the community, or is their only responsibility to make sure the company is economically successful?

	All	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.
Have a responsibility	84	87	77	86
Only economically successful	13	10	17	11

There is a strong feeling among the American public that something very basic has become off kilter - that we have lost America's historic balance between rights and responsibilities.

TABLE 9

Do you think people are focused too much on their rights instead of their responsibilities as citizens, or do you think there is a proper balance?

	All	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.
Focused too much on their rights	71	61	81	74
Proper balance	26	37	16	21

Accumulating Social Capital

In his seminal article, "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital," Robert Putnam argued that the weakening of civic engagement and civic life was in part due to a decline in Social Capital - the "networks, norms, and social trust that facilitate coordination and cooperation for mutual benefit."³ This poll shows that Americans agree in large part with Putnam's assertion: 74 percent believe that getting more involved in communal organizations, such as religious, fraternal, or educational organizations, is good for society as a whole.

Putnam cited data from the General Social Survey in reaching his conclusions, showing that membership in voluntary associations and organizations had declined. This poll found that the trend of declining membership in voluntary associations is - with the exception of Church-Affiliated Groups, which increased modestly - continuing.

TABLE 10

Have you ever done any active work for the following organizations: I mean, been a leader, helped organize a meeting, been an officer, or given time or money?

Ranked by 1999	1999	1983-87 GSS4	Change
Church-Affiliated Groups	74	71	3
School Service Groups	64	64	0
Youth Groups	69	71	-2
Sports Groups	47	56	-9
Veterans Groups	32	42	-10
Professional/Academic Societies	44	58	-14
Labor Union	19	39	-20

3. A Call for Reciprocal Responsibility - and the End of Entitlement

Americans have more than a mere critique of our civic life - they have some very strongly held views as to how we should turn things around. Most Americans believe that government should discard the nostrum of entitlement and replace it with an ethic of reciprocity.

Americans have a strong desire to restore the balance

between opportunities and obligations. This desire begins with a fundamental reevaluation of what government does. Americans universally believe that one must give in order to receive when it comes to government benefits. In a direct repudiation to those discordant voices

that say all Americans need to do in order to receive government benefits is pay their taxes, nine in ten respondents believe that one must live up to certain obligations in order to receive government benefits.

TABLE 11

Some people say that along with the benefits all Americans receive, such as public education, police protection, a democratic government, and a social safety net, it is the responsibility of citizens to also give back to society through participation in the community. Do you agree or disagree?

	All	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.
Agree	91	95	87	92
Disagree	7	5	9	5

Though the numbers drop, a very high number of Americans hold on to their belief that government benefits come with strings attached even when the question posed is not one of universal services, but specific aid given to those in need.

TABLE 12

Do you believe all Americans who need them are entitled to government benefits, or do you think these Americans need to live up to certain obligations and give something back to their country in order to receive them?

	All	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.
Entitled to government benefits	28	34	25	23
Need to live up to certain obligations	67	61	72	69

Even when specific benefits are named - benefits not just enjoyed by the very poor but by broad swaths of the middle class - a significant majority of Americans still hold tight to their belief that with public benefits come standards that must be met and an obligation to give something back.

TABLE 13

What about specific benefits such as student loans or housing assistance: do you think Americans who need them are entitled to these, or do Americans need to live up to certain obligations and give something back to their country in order to receive them?

	All	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.
Entitled to government benefits	37	50	33	26
Need to live up to certain obligations	58	45	63	67

The Politics of Responsibility vs. Entitlement - A Caveat

On most issues important to the public that have been covered in previous Blueprint polls - including education, Social Security, and health care - Independent voters are more apt to agree with the Democrats. When it comes to questions of responsibility and entitlement, Independents side with the GOP.

The views of Independents are closer to Republicans than Democrats on the subject of balancing rights and responsibilities. Even more disturbing for Democrats who do not want to lose swing voters on this issue, is that only one in four Independents believe Americans are entitled to benefits regardless of living up to obligations - in contrast with half of Democrats.

4. A New Role for Government in Restoring Civic Life

Just as the public is looking to government to ask more from Americans in exchange for the benefits they receive, they are also looking to government to make some significant changes itself.

Americans start from a belief that neither government nor business is the arena in which America will meet its challenges. Sixty-eight percent think that individuals within their communities must take responsibility for themselves and those around them.

TABLE 14

Which is closest to your view on the best way to solve America's problems?				
	All	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.
The government must come up with solutions	21	31	11	17
Individuals within their communities must take responsibility for themselves	68	58	82	71
The free market will solve societal problems	3	2	2	5

Although most Americans do not think that government should take the lead in fostering solutions, many believe that the government should play a role in working with communities to foster an environment that will encourage the growth of strong citizenship and restore our civic life. In fact - in the face of two alternatives which are widely peddled by popular pundits, and supposed fears of church and state contaminating one another - a staggering 72 percent of Americans call for closer collaboration between government and religious/charitable organizations to address the nation's problems.

TABLE 15

Do you think America's social problems can be best addressed by government, religious and charitable organizations, or by closer collaboration between the two?				
	All	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.
Government	8	11	9	5
Religious and Charitable	16	9	26	16
Closer collaboration between the two	72	77	60	75

Americans also overwhelmingly support a variety of specific government actions to inspire civic participation and community involvement. Nine in ten support mandatory Democracy Education as a condition of high school graduation and 84 percent support placing government funded work-study students out doing community service.

While Independents lean towards the Republican side on the gravity and salience of the civic challenge, they tend to lean more towards the Democratic side on these specific solutions - in fact, giving more support than Democrats on expanding AmeriCorps and creating local service credit programs.

TABLE 16

Would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose this as a way of improving Civic Life?

	Total Support				
	Strongly	All	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.
Requiring Democracy Education in service and civics as a graduation requirement for all high school students	68	90	92	82	92
Expanding AmeriCorps so that every young person that wants to can participate	55	82	84	73	88
Placing college students who receive government funded work study jobs out doing community service rather than in on-campus jobs	47	84	90	69	90
Creating local service credit programs under which for one hour of service performed, you could get an hour of service from someone else when you needed it in your life	42	76	77	66	79
Decreasing government reliance on social service programs and enabling church and faith based organizations to play a larger role in addressing social problems	39	78	77	84	71
A universal system of national citizen service where young adults would be called on to serve their country either through military or community service	38	74	87	69	66
Steering government dollars towards community and religious organizations that are dealing with social problems	37	74	75	72	77

5. Can the 'Net build Civic Networks?

Americans are conflicted on the impact of technology on individuals and communities, with no clear majority on either side of the question. Forty-nine percent think new technologies have brought people closer together, while 43 percent say they have made people more isolated.

However, of those who believe our civic life has weakened, 52 percent believe new technologies have made us more isolated, compared to 42 percent overall.

Looking down the road, people are only slightly more optimistic about the future. Fifty-three percent say that new technologies will bring people closer together, 40 percent say more isolated.

Yet those who use the Internet today are more optimistic than the rest of the population on the impact of technology on American society.

TABLE 17

Some people say that new technologies have made Americans more isolated and drawn them farther apart, while others say that they have opened up new lines of communication and brought people closer together. Which is closer to your view?

	All	Internet Users	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.
More Isolated	43	35	45	44	39
Closer Together	49	58	51	47	48

While Americans may be split on their view of the impact which the abstract concept technology has had on community, they see a positive impact when asked about some specific new technologies.

TABLE 18

Do you feel that this technology has made society more individualistic, or brought people closer together?

Individualistic/Closer Together	All	Internet Users	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.
E-mail	29/58	26/71	30/56	33/51	26/62
Internet	37/47	35/59	37/45	44/37	33/53
Cellular Phones	36/51	34/59	39/51	34/53	34/48

While there is some disagreement over the effects technology has had on American society, 8 in 10 believe that technology can be used to encourage participation in society. Thus far, however, only 60 percent of Internet users and 37 percent overall utilize the Internet for any civic participation. This indicates that while the Internet has become an effective tool for encouraging civic participation, it still has a long way to go.

TABLE 19

Following are some things people use the Internet for. Do you use the Internet for this purpose?

	All	Internet Users	Dem	Rep	Ind.
Get information about politics and government	37	60	25	53	39
Getting information about community events	35	57	20	53	41
Communicating with elected officials	25	38	18	36	24
Participating in chat groups or bulletin boards to discuss political and community events	16	25	11	17	21

6. Citizenship's Future

The involvement, or lack of involvement, of GenXers in strengthening communities and building civic life will have a substantial impact on what America looks like in the near future. Luckily for the nation, they seem ready to demand that Americans live up to their responsibilities.

- 61 percent think most Americans do not live up to their responsibilities as citizens (54 percent overall).
- 69 percent think we focus more on the individual than on the community (59 percent overall).
- 83 percent think there should be more emphasis on community, even if it puts more demands on individuals (79 percent overall).

These numbers indicate that GenXers hunger for stronger communities. GenXers have even higher rates of support for government initiatives that would encourage the strengthening of civic life.

- 90 percent support placing college students who receive government funded work study jobs out doing community service rather than in on-campus jobs (84 percent overall)
- 94 percent support requiring Democracy Education in service and civics as a graduation requirement for all high school students (90 percent overall)
- 89 percent support expanding AmeriCorps so that all young Americans who want to participate can have the opportunity (82 percent overall)

In addition, GenXers are decidedly more optimistic about the role of technology in rebuilding our civic life than the population at large. As one might expect from a generation

comfortable with the New Economy, GenXers are believers in the power of technology to bring people closer together and improve civic participation.

A whopping 64 percent believe that new technology has brought people closer together, as opposed to a mere 29 percent that believes it has more isolated the population (43 percent/49 percent overall).

[Click here](#) for full results of this poll.

Mark J. Penn is President of Penn, Schoen & Berland Associates, Inc. and the pollster to President Clinton. Research and polling assistance provided by Jenifer Coleman and Jeffrey Epstein.

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Spring 1999 Table of Contents

Introduction

The Challenge:

Where We Stand by William A. Galston

Sidebar: Civic Deregulation by Alan Wolfe

Sidebar: What's Fair? by Daniel Yankelovich

Sidebar: An Exceptional Nation by Seymour Martin Lipset

The Solution:

Nationalize National Service by Steven Waldman

Sidebar: Work-Study: Service for Communities, Not Colleges by Thomas Ehrlich

Education for Democracy by Charles N. Quigley

Re-Funding Social Services by David Kuo

The Rule of Reciprocity by Will Marshall

Public Opinion:

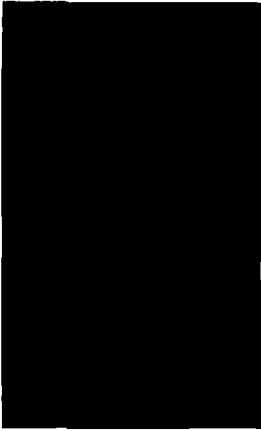
Poll: The Community Consensus by Mark J. Penn

What Works:

The Jane Addams School for Democracy by Harry C. Boyte and Jennifer O'Donoghue

Time Dollars at Work by Edgar S. Cahn

Caring for Our Civic Souls by Olgen Williams



Home	Archive	About Blueprint	Subscribe	Feedback
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I know we shall offer a full measure of both volunteers and funds.

NOTE: On February 24 the President signed Proclamation 3705 designating the month of March as Red Cross Month, 1966 (2 Weekly Comp. Pres. Docs., p. 262; 31 F.R. 3221; 3 CFR, 1966 Comp., p. 28).

On the same day the White House made public a memorandum from the President to the heads of executive departments and agencies urging support of the 1966 campaign by civilian employees of the Government and by members of the Armed Forces (2 Weekly Comp. Pres. Docs., p. 263).

93 Remarks on the Fifth Anniversary of the Peace Corps at the Swearing In of Jack Hood Vaughn as Director. *March 1, 1966*

Mr. Vice President, Mr. Secretary of State, Your Excellencies, the Ambassadors and representatives of the 46 countries where the Peace Corps is today operating, returned Peace Corps volunteers, members of the Peace Corps National Advisory Council, the first Peace Corps Director and the new Director, Members of Congress, all other members of our Government, all other members of the Peace Corps, ladies and gentlemen:

Happy birthday.

All of you have earned that greeting. Every person here, and many more who could not be here, helped to turn the Peace Corps from an intriguing idea into an inspired operation. You acted on faith—

—faith in the power of men and women to always translate their convictions into action;

—faith in the ability of our society to trust its citizens when they choose to be different;

—faith in the desire of other nations to welcome with patience and good will those who come to them offering not money or goods, but only themselves.

It was an act of faith on the part of that great President who established the Peace Corps by Executive order 5 years ago today. And it was faith on the part of the Congress of the United States that voted by increasingly overwhelming majorities to support this wonderful activity.

All of that faith, I think, has been vindicated. The constructive work of more than 20,000 people over 5 long years—the collaboration of the peoples with whom they have lived—is a real testament to the trust upon which the Peace Corps was founded.

In a world of violence, these volunteers have shown that there is really another way—the way of private dedication, the way of quiet courage working unheralded for ends that each has accepted as valuable and as vital.

In this way those of you in the Peace Corps have carried forward the real revolution of our day and time, the revolution of peaceful change. In this way you are really waging the only war that we in America want to wage—the war against the inhumanity of man to his neighbor and the injustice of nature to her children.

In Vietnam today there is another war. It is fueled by those who believe that they somehow might be able to accomplish their ends by means of terror and violence.

America's purpose there is to give peaceful change a real chance to succeed. In that struggle, soldiers are necessary not only to prevent but to halt aggression, and to provide security for those who are determined to protect themselves and to raise their families. So, too, are the other workers of peace necessary who must lay the foundation for economic and social progress in that land. Po-

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litical freedom, no matter how dearly bought,
can flourish only when men and women are
free from want and free from despair.

We have already begun that important
work in Vietnam. The day, I hope, will
soon come when the Peace Corps will be
there, too. It must somehow find the day
and the time that it can go and make its
contribution when peace is assured. The
same spirit that the Peace Corps volunteers
brought to thousands of villages and cities
in 46 countries should be carried to the
hamlets of Vietnam.

Yesterday, at the University of Michigan,
your new Director, Mr. Vaughn, said, "All
of the energy, the faith, the devotion which
we in the Peace Corps bring to our service
serves a single cause." I can only say, then,
that no group, no organization, contributes
more to the cause of peace, in my judgment,
than the Peace Corps which we honor
here today. You are fortunate. You are
equipped with an idea whose time has really
come.

It has come in Vietnam. We are there in
order to restore peace and in order to let the
works of peace serve the life of man.

So to the people of that land—North and
South—we acknowledge that there are great
differences between our people and our na-
tions. But these gulfs of culture and tradi-
tion are spanned by a common humanity
and shared needs of man—of food and shel-
ter and education, a decent life for each
family, the chance to build and to work and
to till the soil free from fear and the arbi-
trary horrors of battle—and to walk in the
dignity of those who have chosen their own
destiny.

It is more than a shame; it is a crime—
perhaps the greatest crime of man—that so
much courage, and so much will, and so
many dreams must be carelessly flung on the
fires of death and war.

The long history of this conflict is filled
with misunderstandings and invectives and
passions. I think the time has come to
strike off the chains of the past so that we
may be free to shape anew the future. We
should not permit endless and unrewarding
argument over what has already happened
to bar us from accomplishing what should
happen.

Peace is within our grasp, if we will both
reach for it together, and beyond peace are
the wondrous gifts of peace, and beyond
that a time when hope can reach unbounded
for consummation.

There may be those who do not want
peace, those whose ambitions stretch so far
that war in Vietnam is but a welcome and
a convenient episode in an immense and
doomed design to subdue history to their
will. But let them not suppose that our de-
sire for peace springs either from weakness
or from hesitation. Our desire for peace
springs, rather, from a further recognition
of our knowledge that the search for peace
also always requires great skill and great
courage.

If there are others, however, who do want
peace, and if it is equally true that total
victory is beyond expectation for them, as
they must now know that it really is, then
we think there is only one answer: Nego-
tiate peace and let war stand aside while the
people of Vietnam make their choice. For
our part, here in America, we are eagerly
willing to abide by the outcome.

We sincerely desire neither territory nor
bases in Vietnam, neither economic domina-
tion nor military alliance. We fight for the
principle that the people of South Vietnam
should be able to choose their own course,
free from the coercions of violence and ter-
ror and fear. We believe that the people
of South Vietnam, through the process of
elections, can select their own leaders and

their own way of life.

That is the example we have set. That is the procedure we follow in our own land, and all the people of Vietnam can then freely express their will on the great questions of unification and national destiny.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, that is what your country wants for the people of South Vietnam. That is what the people of South Vietnam, we think, want. So together we seek the day when we can be as generous in peace as we must be determined in battle. We are ready when that day comes, ready to join in a massive effort of reconstruction and development that is open to all, including North Vietnam.

The Asian Bank, which we suggested in our speech in Baltimore, is only a beginning of what can be done when aggression ends and when men decide that peace and not war should be the testing ground of human experience. That measure has already passed the House and been reported in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously, and we hope it can be acted upon this week. It will be a great step forward.

The Peace Corps has already shown us what it can do. For the Peace Corps is a movement; it is a movement to place the vessel of peace in the hands of individual men and women who are driven by their own conscience to do something about healing this wounded world in which we live.

The man who, more than any other man, gave fire and gave purpose to your movement is stepping aside today on the fifth anniversary of the day that that movement began.

Is there any doubt of the enormous bequest that he is leaving?

For generations to come, as the harvests

of his efforts are reaped time and time again, men will marvel at his contributions.

Of Sargent Shriver, it can be said that he is a man to whom excellence and public service are synonymous, one of those rare men of whom Virgil spoke when he said, "They can because they think they can."

Five years ago only a few thought he could.

There were moments, I am sure, at least from some of the cables I received from him when he was out in other parts of the world, when he, himself, doubted that he could. But he did.

He was, of course, inspired, so inspired that he ran off rather rudely, I thought, with one of my assistants back in 1961. In the last few months I have tried to pay him back. I have run off with several of his.

One of them is here today to succeed him.

Jack Vaughn I first met out in a little fishing village in Africa, but he, like Sargent Shriver, I observed on that first meeting, is a disciple of peace. His life has been spent in the service of the cause of peace. This is the third job that I have asked Jack Vaughn to take since I met him in that fishing village in 1961. Each of these jobs he has served with great distinction.

This is going to be the last time, though, that I make a request for him to take another job, because, frankly, I am tired of attending his swearing-in ceremonies!

Jack, I think you know that you are stepping into the shoes of a man who has done more for his country than his country really knows. His hands are going to be full with poverty and yours are going to be full with peace, and I hope that all of us will be the better for the work that both of you do.

In you two men I have the greatest confi-

dence, and I have no doubt but what you will prove worthy of it.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:20 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his opening words he referred to Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey who administered the oath of office, Secretary of State Dean Rusk, and R. Sargent Shriver, Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity and outgoing Director of the Peace Corps.

During his remarks the President referred to Executive Order 10924, entitled "Establishment and Administration of the Peace Corps in the Department of State," which was signed by President John F. Kennedy on March 1, 1961 (3 CFR, 1959-1963 Comp., p. 447).

The Asian Development Bank Act was approved by the President on March 16, 1966 (see Item 133).

For the President's address at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore on April 7, 1965, see 1965 volume, this series, Book I, Item 172.

94 Message to the Congress Transmitting Annual Report on U.S. Participation in the United Nations. March 1, 1966

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the provisions of the United Nations Participation Act, I submit herewith the nineteenth annual report covering United States participation in the United Nations during 1964.

This report, like its predecessors, describes the activities of the United Nations agencies and programs that together carry out the aims of the Charter: to maintain peace and security, to adjust and settle international disputes, to cooperate in economic and social development, and to promote the self-determination of peoples and worldwide respect for human rights. It also covers legal, administrative, and financial matters at the United Nations.

The activities covered in this report document the commitment of this Nation to the purposes and programs of the United Nations—a commitment demonstrated by the extent and character of our participation in and financial support for a broad range of United Nations activities over the past twenty years.

During 1964 the constitutional-financial crisis in the General Assembly tended to overshadow in the public mind all other affairs at the United Nations. The Assembly was limited to those minor actions which

could be taken by unanimous consent without a vote. It is regrettable that a major organ of the United Nations could not function normally. However, the other elements of the United Nations system carried forward.

The Security Council in 1964 had one of its busiest years; it held over 100 meetings and dealt with some of the most intractable problems of peace and security.

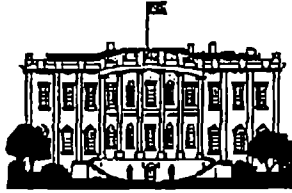
—It successfully organized the difficult peacekeeping operation in Cyprus, averting the threat of a direct military confrontation between two of our NATO allies, Greece and Turkey.

—It aired the Kashmir dispute, the Malaysian charges against Indonesia, and the question of *apartheid* in South Africa.

—It sent a factfinding group to report on the border situation between Cambodia and South Viet-Nam.

—It requested the Secretary-General to help the United Kingdom and Yemen resolve their differences over the Yemen-Aden border.

—It provided a forum for the United States to explain the action it had taken to counter the attacks by Hanoi against United States naval vessels in the inter-



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Number of Pages (including cover): 5

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Research : History of AmeriCorps

A Brief History of AmeriCorps

Service is and always has been a vital force in American life. Throughout our history, our nation has relied on the dedication and action of citizens to tackle our biggest challenges. AmeriCorps is a part of a long tradition of service that has included the Civilian Conservation Corps, the GI Bill, the Peace Corps, and the Points of Light Foundation. Following is a brief history of AmeriCorps.

1964

VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) is created by the Economic Opportunity Act, giving Americans opportunities to serve full-time to help thousands of low-income communities.

1990

President George Bush signs the National and Community Service Act of 1990. The legislation authorizes grants to schools to support service-learning and demonstration grants for national service programs to youth corps, nonprofits, and colleges and universities.

1992

With strong bipartisan support, the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) is established as part of an amendment to the 1992 Defense Appropriations Bill. Building on the tradition of the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s, the demonstration program is charged with expanding youth service efforts in communities.

September 1993

President Bill Clinton signs the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, creating the Corporation for National Service. VISTA and NCCC become part of the new AmeriCorps. The Corporation is charged with meeting the needs of America's communities through AmeriCorps and its two other programs, Learn and Serve America and the National Senior Service Corps.

September 1994

The first class of AmeriCorps members - 20,000 strong - begin serving in more than 1,000 communities.

1995

A study commissioned by the IBM Foundation, the Charles A. Dana Foundation, and the James Irvine Foundation finds that every federal dollar invested in AmeriCorps results in \$1.60 to \$2.60 or more in direct, measurable benefits to AmeriCorps members and the communities they serve.

April 1997

The Presidents' Summit for America's Future, chaired by General Colin Powell, brings together President Clinton, former Presidents Bush, Ford, and Carter, and Mrs. Reagan to strengthen and expand volunteering and service programs, including AmeriCorps, in meeting the needs of America's youth. The campaign for America's Promise, led by General Powell, is launched to achieve to goals set at the Summit, with AmeriCorps and all the programs of the Corporation for National Service actively engaged.

March 1998

With support from a bipartisan coalition in Congress, the President introduces legislation to reauthorize AmeriCorps and other national service programs into the twenty-first century.

October 1998

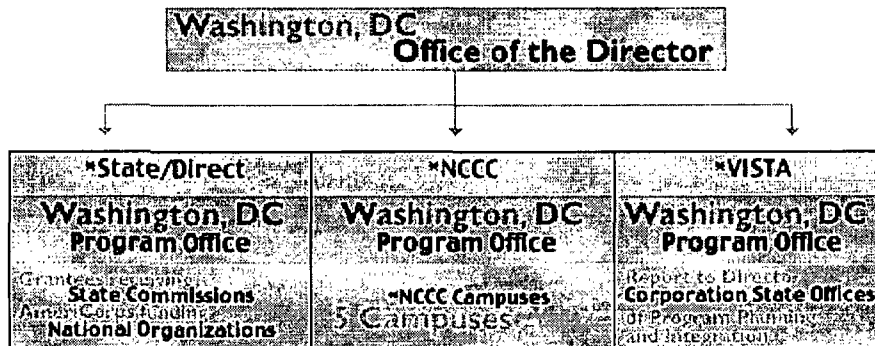
The fifth class of AmeriCorps members is sworn in, bringing the total number of current and former members to more than 100,000. A total of 40,000 members will serve in 1998-99.

Please send questions or comments to: acresearch@cns.gov.

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Research: Structure of AmeriCorps





Anna Richter

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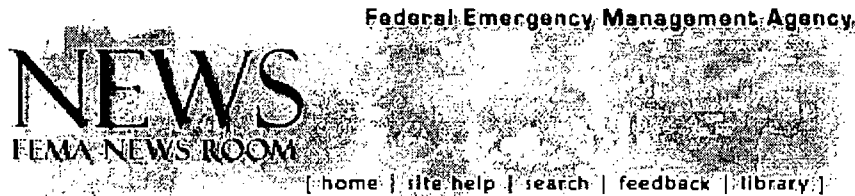
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To: Ann O'Leary/OPD/EOP@EOP

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Subject: Nat'l Campaign to Prevent Youth Violence

I talked to Jeff and what he has now is a phone number that automatically goes to voice-mail and he checks it daily, so it can go to the public, but I am not sure about providing it as an official release like in a press release or something. Here it is:
(415) 512-4008



Current News

Tropical Storm Watch

1999 Disasters

Project Impact

Y2K Issues

AmeriCorps works with FEMA in Floyd

The partnership between the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and AmeriCorps - cemented with previous risk reduction activities in support of Project Impact: Building Disaster Resistant Communities - is expanding in the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd.

AmeriCorps members have been deployed to various states devastated by flooding and are assisting FEMA and the American Red Cross in helping disaster victims.

"AmeriCorps is working side-by-side with FEMA to assist those impacted by the terrible flooding of Hurricane Floyd," said FEMA Director James Lee Witt. "AmeriCorps has also been active in Project Impact, putting their energy into helping people reduce their risk of disasters. It's a great partnership."

The Corporation for National Service, which administers AmeriCorps, has a partnership with FEMA and the American Red Cross that enables AmeriCorps members to be deployed quickly in times of disaster. AmeriCorps, the domestic Peace Corps, was created in 1993.

"When FEMA calls, AmeriCorps is at the ready," said Harris Wofford, CEO of the Corporation for National Service. "AmeriCorps members have responded to disasters at FEMA's request in more than 30 states, helping communities and families rebuild after disaster strikes. FEMA does important work - and AmeriCorps is proud to be part of it."

AmeriCorps disaster-related activities include:

- Setting up shelters in Florida in anticipation of Hurricane Floyd;
- Helping serve meals in mass care shelters set up in Franklin/Emporia, VA;
- Staffing hotlines and coordinating mental and health services at shelters in Miami;
- Preparing and distributing emergency supplies from Langley Air Force Base;
- Providing public information and creating public awareness regarding disaster relief and health issues;
- Collecting food and donations for badly damaged Greenville, NC, and setting up a food bank there.

Future AmeriCorps activities in the planning stages include campaigns to disseminate clean-up information, participating in clean-up and

serving as case managers for disaster victims.

Updated: September 26, 1999

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Service News

at the Corporation for National Service

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Tara Murphy

September 22, 1999

202 606-5000 ext. 158

SENATE PRESERVES AMERICORPS FUNDING

Bipartisan Group Rejects Raid on National Service

WASHINGTON D.C. - A bipartisan coalition of Senators, including 16 Republicans, voted today to defeat an amendment by Senator Robert Smith (R-NH) to cut \$224 million from AmeriCorps' budget in order to increase funding for veterans programs. The amendment was defeated 61-38. "As a World War II veteran, I know how important it is to support the men and women who have given so much of themselves to defend our nation in military service, said Harris Wofford, CEO of the Corporation for National Service. "I'm pleased the Senate also recognized the need for supporting patriotism on the home front, the 40,000 Americans who serve their country in AmeriCorps."

The Senate VA-HUD appropriations bill contains \$423.5 million in funding for AmeriCorps and service-learning for next fiscal year. This level would allow more than 40,000 Americans the opportunity to join AmeriCorps, and support service-learning activities for one million students. The House version of the bill did not include funds for AmeriCorps, prompting a veto threat from the President.

"Today's vote shows strong bipartisan support for national service," said Wofford. Congress has increased AmeriCorps funding two years in a row, by \$49 million in fiscal 1998 and \$18 million last year.

This fall AmeriCorps is marking its fifth anniversary. Since 1994, well over 100,000 Americans have served with AmeriCorps. Together they have served, taught, tutored, or mentored more than 2 million youth; built and rehabilitated more than 25,000 homes; and recruited nearly 2 million volunteers. A recent independent study of AmeriCorps concluded it is a cost-effective investment that returns \$1.66 for every dollar spent.

AmeriCorps members serve through national and local non-profits such as Habitat for Humanity, the American Red Cross, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, Boys and Girls Clubs and hundreds more. In exchange for a year of full-time service, AmeriCorps members earn a \$4,725 voucher that helps pay for college or training or pay back student loans. AmeriCorps is administered by the Corporation for National Service, which engages more than one million citizens in service that meets critical community needs.

Service News

at the Corporation for National Service

Read President Clinton's statement on AmeriCorps

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Tara Murphy

September 8, 1999

202 606-5000 ext. 158

SERVICE CHIEF SAYS HOUSE ACTION TO ELIMINATE AMERICORPS SENDS WRONG MESSAGE TO YOUNG PEOPLE

WASHINGTON D.C. - Harris Wofford, CEO of the Corporation for National Service, reacted to the House VA-HUD appropriations bill which includes no funding for AmeriCorps for fiscal 2000:

"The House action is a slap in the face to the more than 50,000 young Americans who are eager to spend the next year serving their community and country. By failing to fund AmeriCorps, the House is saying no to young people who want to do the right thing. We look forward to working with Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to restore funding for this vital program."

The House VA-HUD appropriation bill includes no funding for AmeriCorps and other national service programs - despite the \$400 million that had been approved earlier this year by the VA-HUD and Independent Agencies appropriations subcommittee. The House bill would deny more than 50,000 youth the opportunity to serve their country and community while earning money for college, and eliminate support for service-learning programs that promote citizenship and academic achievement for more than one million students. In addition, the bill would eliminate funding for the Points of Light Foundation started by President Bush.

In recent months, leading Republicans including Montana Governor Marc Racicot, Congressman John Kasich (R-OH) and Colin Powell have voiced their support of AmeriCorps. Powell, when asked about the House Appropriations Committee action at the National Governors Association conference last month, said, "I think they made a big mistake, and I hope it will be corrected... (AmeriCorps) is a tremendous investment in young people, a tremendous investment in the future. I think they have demonstrated their worth, they have paid their dues and they are worthy of the support I hope they will get from Congress."

This fall AmeriCorps is marking its fifth anniversary. Since 1994, well over 100,000 Americans have served with AmeriCorps. Together they have served

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National Service News

Issue No. 87, August 23, 1999

For citizens in service through Learn & Serve America, AmeriCorps, and the National Senior Service Corps.
Published every other Monday on the [Corporation for National Service Website](http://www.cns.gov).

FIVE YEARS OLD AND GROWING: AMERICORPS CELEBRATION!

Time flies when great things are happening! This fall AmeriCorps marks five years of service. Harris Wofford wrote to the national service community, "I encourage you to celebrate AmeriCorps' fifth anniversary on October 22 and 23rd, 1999 around Make a Difference Day. In five years AmeriCorps has deployed over 100,000 active-duty citizens in service to their communities. This anniversary will be a time to look back on our accomplishments and to look forward to the potential of national service. It will be a time both to celebrate and to demonstrate how national service gets things done for America. It will be a time to honor the unsung service heroes of today and engage such heroes in the future." We'll be providing lots more on the anniversary, starting with the All*AmeriCorps Awards.

THE ALL*AMERICORPS AWARDS: A feature of the 5th Anniversary will be the first All*AmeriCorps Awards, honoring outstanding AmeriCorps members who through their service have made a difference in their communities and for the nation. Awardees will be honored at a White House ceremony. All members or Alums who served in AmeriCorps*State, *National, *Tribes and Territories, NCCC, and VISTA, including those serving in Education Awards programs, are eligible. They must have completed one term of service by August 31, 1999. Nominations must be postmarked by September 10, 1999 and should be submitted to All*AmeriCorps Awards, Office of Public Liaison, Corporation for National Service, 1201 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20525. Nominations by Fax (202) 565-2784 and e-mail allamericorps@cns.gov must be received by midnight of September 10. For details on the nomination process, visit the [All*AmeriCorps Awards page](#).

LEARN AND SERVE AMERICA: A Great Return on Investment

The Brandeis evaluation of Learn and Serve America determined that participants provided nearly \$4 in service for every \$1 dollar spent on the program. The evaluation also found that participants showed positive short-term impacts on a variety of civic and educational attitudes and behaviors; had positive service-learning experiences; and their programs benefited the community.

Making a Difference

President Clinton spoke at the graduation ceremonies for AmeriCorps*NCCC members serving in the Capital Region. Among the President's remarks:

"Congratulations to Class Five... you have touched lives and changed communities in ways that will be remembered and appreciated for years and years to come."

"AmeriCorps is living, daily, practical proof that there's a better way to live, and that what we have in common is more important than what divides us."

"You are the modern manifestation of the dream of America's founders. I hope when you leave here you will never, ever, ever stop being proud of what you've done."

FROM THE FRONT

"I am glad to see the spirit of the Volunteer State lives on among young people who are reaching out to make our communities better."

U.S. Senator Fred Thompson describes how 4-H Club Learn and Serve members restored the community park in Waverly, Tennessee.

"Developing an effective community literacy program can be exciting."

NATIONAL SERVICE SALUTE to the Northern Arapaho Tribal Housing Authority AmeriCorps program, which was nominated for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Best Practices Award. Twenty Arapaho AmeriCorps members provide tutoring, mentoring, and conflict resolution for youth residing in five low-income housing areas.

SERVICE HERO: Presidential Service Scholar Cristina Pescatrice

From a recent newsletter of the Florida Commission on Community Service comes a profile of Presidential Service Scholar Cristina Pescatrice of Cape Coral, Florida. While a student at Cape Coral High School, Cristina volunteered with the Key Club, Kiwanis, and Veterans of Foreign Wars. She served on blood drives, at nursing homes, with the Special Olympics and raising funds to combat Iodine Deficiency Disorder in developing countries. Cristina is now beginning her second year as an elementary education major at the University of Florida. In college, she continues her volunteer service as an elementary school reading tutor and with her sorority. "I think it would be a good idea for all high school students to volunteer", says Cristina. "It teaches ethics and morals much better than any book can. You see first hand how you help people and make a difference."

RESOURCE TIP: A Compact for Reading Guide

A Compact for Reading Guide packaged with School-home Reading Kits, is available at ETR's National Service Resource Center. There are four kits, one each for grades K-3, designed for teachers, parents and reading partners. Send requests to jenkal@etr.org, including your name, address, phone number, program, stream of service and number of kits needed.

WHAT WORKS: Rhode Island Reads

The Program: AmeriCorps*VISTA members serving with the statewide Rhode Island READS initiative are organizing community volunteers who tutor children from kindergarten through 3rd grade identified as having reading problems. The VISTA members develop resources, arrange volunteer placements, maintain media and community relationships, contribute to program monitoring and evaluation and provide the leadership needed to ensure program sustainability.

The Results: Thanks to the efforts of AmeriCorps*VISTA members, last year 1,500 community volunteers were mobilized to serve 3,500 children throughout Rhode Island. This summer, 18 AmeriCorps*VISTA Associates participated in a library-based reading program called "Don't Bug Me, I'm Reading." Conducted in 22 libraries statewide, the program focused on small groups or one-on-one tutoring, with approximately 500 volunteers working with almost 1,000 children. A web site was created and a data bank

and depressing, satisfying, challenging, and boring - and that's just on Monday!"

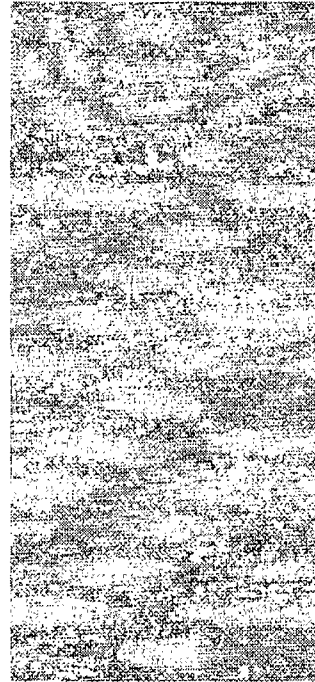
AmeriCorps*VISTA member Jerry Davis helped recruit and train '90 America Reads volunteers who serve in 12 Lawton, Oklahoma, elementary schools.

"Senior Companions provide nothing less than life-saving intervention with the frail older adults they serve." Lea Blackburn is Administrative Director of a senior health center in Columbus, Ohio.

established to process all volunteer assignments. A total of 62 "safe sites" for reading and literacy activities were developed in schools and libraries.

Why It Works: Rhode Island READS has strong support, starting with Lt. Governor Charles J. Fogerty. Partnerships are in place with Head Start, community groups, schools and volunteer centers. AmeriCorps*VISTA members are carefully selected and have excellent in-service training and technical assistance resources available. Perhaps most important, Dr. David Morton provides enthusiastic leadership, networking expertise, and professional educational skills.

Lessons: National service programs are strongly committed to achieving the goals of the America Reads initiative. AmeriCorps*VISTA members recruit, help train and coordinate community volunteers, students, and members from other national service programs. They're key to obtaining community resources and guiding programs toward sustainability. *Contact: Dr. David Morton (401) 222-4600 x2185*



National Service News is posted on the World Wide Web at <http://www.nationalservice.org> and is distributed by Internet listservs and fax. State offices, commissions, program and site directors are asked to distribute copies to citizens who serve. Please send comments and story suggestions to drodgers@cns.gov

Corporation for National Service, Office of Public Affairs, 1201 New York Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20525 (202) 606-5000, TDD (202) 565-2799

Back to the Corporation for National Service News Page



"Liu, Goodwin" <Goodwin_Liu@ed.gov>

09/21/99 07:05:13 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Ann O'Leary/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: AmeriCorps deliverables

Ann --

Just look what you've done -- I spent another hour or two thinking about AmeriCorps last night. So you're going to have to suffer me on the soap box a little more....

I continue to believe that conceptualizing "deliverables" in terms of hard social policy goals (e.g., reducing youth violence, cleaning up the environment, raising educational achievement) is the wrong way to go. For one thing, AmeriCorps is too decentralized. Although there are clusters of programs with similar objectives, not enough programs are doing the same thing. And in order to preserve state and local buy-in, we can't get into the business of telling states what needs they should address. And, even if all programs were doing the same thing, there would not be enough impact. Members of Congress can always vote against AmeriCorps in favor of some other social intervention that is (quite likely) more effective and efficient. As a social intervention, AmeriCorps is not unique.

But as an idea, AmeriCorps is unique -- and very powerful. If it's possible to craft a very tight linkage between AmeriCorps and a broader, popular, and compelling ethic (e.g., service, citizenship, responsibility), then a vote against AmeriCorps would not be a vote simply against another program, but against an overarching and powerful idea.

I tried to brainstorm a few more public awareness-type campaigns that have been a little more successful than my "Strive for Five" example (although that's my personal favorite). How about these:

- Drugs: "Just Say No"
- Environment: "Think Globally, Act Locally," "Give a Hoot, Don't Pollute" (I'm dating myself)
- Drunk Driving: "Friends Don't Let Friends...."
- Smoking: "Kick the Habit"

Each of these is phrased as a direct challenge -- easy to remember, sensible, pithy. If we had something similar for community service, it would be easy to create a super-tight association to AmeriCorps. In the service field, I could only think of a few. There are the military versions: "Be All That You Can Be," "Aim High." There's the Bush version of civilian service: "1000 Points of Light." Bush's slogan was problematic for obvious reasons, but it's still very evocative and powerful. Of course,

what we need is some version of JFK's "Ask not...." I think the closest thing I've heard President Clinton say on this is the "New Covenant" speech he gave at Georgetown in the 1992 campaign. I've always been disappointed that "New Covenant" didn't get more play, but I guess it was too airy, almost too academic to be popular. I wonder if that speech isn't worth revisiting for some language.

Anyway, this is probably unhelpful. Shirley may have thought this angle through already. But you asked...! :-) A few more runs, Ann, and you'll get the rest of my AmeriCorps memoirs. Speaking of which, would you like to do a longer run (8-9 miles) Thursday or Friday night?

Goodwin



"Liu, Goodwin" <Goodwin_Liu@ed.gov>

09/22/99 10:26:33 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Ann O'Leary/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject:

Forgot to mention one other service-related initiative currently out there, led by Colin Powell -- "America's Promise: The Alliance for Youth." I'm not sure what this network does, but it looks like some groups have glommed (sp?) onto it, including the Miss America Pageant (probably not our constituency). My sense is that a notion on the level of "America's Promise" is much too general. The trick, of course, is to come up with a simple idea broad enough so that other community groups, businesses, schools can associate themselves to it, yet narrow enough so that AmeriCorps would be the paradigmatic initiative embodying that idea.

Hope you're having a good day....!

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IDEAS FOR A NEW CENTURY

Blueprint: Ideas for a New Century, Spring 1999

Where We Stand

by William A. Galston

The past generation has witnessed an expansion of traditional American values of freedom, individual rights, and equal opportunity - and the enhanced appeal of these values around the world. Belief in the "American creed" remains strong. Most Americans are comfortable with the movement toward social equality over the past generation and have no desire to turn the clock back. Most of us believe that freedom is working, and personal optimism is high.

But while Americans cherish personal liberty and celebrate its expansion, we are troubled by some of its consequences. As we have become a high-choice society, important social bonds have weakened. Many scholars believe that this tension between individual choice and social solidarity is unavoidable and that the best we can do is to strike a workable balance between them. But in America today, this tension is a source of deep ambivalence.

We take pride in the expansion of tolerance in our society, but we wonder whether the remaining moral norms are strong enough to restrain the abuse of personal liberty. We cherish individualism and rights, but we worry about their consequences for community and responsibility. As our political institutions have weakened and individualistic political entrepreneurship has become the norm, a rupture has occurred between the government and the people, especially young adults. We feel economically prosperous but civically impoverished.

Our ambivalence shapes - and complicates - the task of renewing our civic life. We want to strengthen the bonds that connect us to one another, but not at the expense of hard-won individual rights and liberties. We are reluctant to enforce the norms we endorse. So while Americans are deeply troubled about family breakdown, we are worried about enacting tougher divorce laws. While we are convinced that teen pregnancy and out-of-wedlock birth are

negative for our society, we hesitate to implement policies that would stigmatize individuals engaging in this behavior. While we want stronger social bonds in neighborhoods and among citizens, we hesitate to use coercion to foster them.

There is no way of dissolving the tension between individual choice and social solidarity. But we can strike a better balance between them. To do this, we must emphasize an ethic of reciprocity and mutual responsibility throughout our society. The reason is simple: A good society does not descend like manna from heaven. It is built and sustained through the efforts of its citizens. No society can long survive on the principle of "something for nothing." If we receive something of value (whether from our neighbors or our government), we must be prepared to give something back. The practice of reciprocity won't limit our liberties. On the contrary, it will strengthen the framework of institutions, beliefs, and bonds that secures the exercise of rights.

The challenge of renewing our civic life through the ethic of reciprocity is made even more important by the dramatic changes we have experienced during the past generation. The end of the Cold War has diminished the felt importance of politics, especially at the national level. The New Economy has weakened the bonds of loyalty that once linked corporations and their employees. Technological innovations - especially information technology - have changed the ways that Americans interact and associate with one another. Fifty-four percent of all students entering college this year participate in Internet chat rooms; 83 percent are using the Internet for research. By the year 2000, it is likely that half of all American households will be on-line. Technological change is putting pressure on institutions throughout our society, including the political parties and media networks that once helped organize our public agenda and discussion. As Mark Penn's survey makes clear, we are sharply divided about the impact - both current and long-term - of these new technologies on the fabric of our social and civic life.

America's Values at Century's End

To renew a civic life based on mutual responsibility, we must begin from where we are. While our values have changed significantly during the past generation, many of the principles and beliefs that make us distinctive remain intact.

1) American exceptionalism is alive and well, and the "American creed" remains strong.

As compared with other economically developed nations, Americans continue to emphasize individual freedom and rights, personal responsibility rather than government responsibility, equality of opportunity rather than results, and an ethic of dynamism and risk-taking over that of stability and security. Our historic preference for local over national political institutions, suspended during the period from the beginning of the New Deal to the end of the Cold War, has now reasserted itself. We remain near the top in voluntary activity (82 percent of Americans belong to at least one voluntary association), and we continue to register very high levels of religious faith and observance.

In overwhelming numbers, Americans express a deep patriotism and abiding faith in our constitutional order as the best system of government. We distinguish sharply between our political institutions, which we regard as fundamentally sound, and the performance of most politicians, of whom we are sharply critical. And in spite of much recent hand-wringing about the "balkanization" of America, the evidence suggests far more agreement than disagreement about basic values and public purposes across lines of race and ethnicity, and between longstanding and newly arrived citizens. More than 90 percent of all Americans endorse democracy, patriotism, acceptance of people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds, honesty, courage, caring for friends and family, and the Golden Rule as basic values that should be taught in our schools.

2) Most Americans are comfortable with the progress toward social equality and inclusion over the past generation and have no desire to turn the clock back.

By very large and increasing margins, Americans endorse steps to secure racial justice, equal opportunities for women, tolerance for cultural differences, the inclusion of all ethnic and immigrant groups in the story of America, and the "mainstreaming" of formerly marginalized groups such as Americans with disabilities. Not surprisingly, political and social movements perceived as moralistic and intolerant tend to command only minority support.

3) Most Americans believe that freedom is working for them and their families, and personal optimism is high.

Satisfaction with economic circumstances and prospects is at a record high, and most Americans believe that the New

Economy and today's society offer more choices for more individuals than ever before. This personal optimism is strengthening a new ethic of self-reliance - the belief in resilient, adaptable individuals rather than stable and dependable institutions - that is especially intense among young Americans. For example, a recent Wall Street Journal/NBC survey indicated that 75 percent of GenXers believe that individual workers should be allowed to direct the investment of a portion of their Social Security payroll taxes, compared to only 39 percent of New Dealers.

As recently as a decade ago, this emphasis on individual freedom - a key element of American exceptionalism - was widely seen as a problem hindering our ability to compete effectively with more solidaristic nations such as Germany and Japan. Today, this worry has been turned on its head. There is evidence that this distinctive complex of values - freedom, flexibility, innovation, self-reliance, a strong belief in opportunity and social mobility - is especially well-suited both to individual success in the New Economy and to the ability of nations to take advantage of emerging economic possibilities.

4) While Americans cherish personal freedom and celebrate its expansion, they are troubled by some of its consequences - for families, neighborhoods, communities, and to some extent for workers as well.

In the economic sphere, after eight years of growth that have brought us to the lowest unemployment rates in a generation, anxiety about long-term job loss is actually higher today than it was in the 1980s. Many workers feel more disposable than they once did, and increased economic flexibility comes at the cost of weakened bonds of loyalty between workers and their employers. Many Americans are also troubled by the perception that increased economic mobility has diminished the sense of responsibility businesses once felt for their local communities.

Social trends of the past generation viewed negatively by most Americans include rising rates of crime, welfare dependency, divorce, teen sexual intercourse, out-of-wedlock births, and fatherless families, coupled with a perceived decline of the ties of connection and loyalty in neighborhoods and workplaces. During the 1990s, many of these trends have begun to improve. Teen sex, births to teens, illegitimacy, divorce, crime, and welfare dependency have all declined significantly. But these positive developments have yet to register in changed attitudes - in

part because beliefs tend to change more slowly than actual conditions, and in part because many improved indicators still register social pathologies at levels higher than a generation ago, and much higher than most Americans regard as satisfactory.

Indeed, one of the defining characteristics of American public opinion at century's end is the pervasiveness of moral concerns. Sixty-two percent identify a decline in moral values as one of the "major causes of our problems today." One piece of conventional wisdom is that this reflects the improved economy and decline of economic concerns. But in fact moral concerns have dominated material concerns for nearly all of the past decade, in good economic times and bad.

Another piece of conventional wisdom discounts expression of moral concern on the grounds that Americans always believe that morality is in decline and that things were better in some earlier time. This is at most partly true. In 1937, for example, 45 percent of Americans believed that values had weakened over the past generation. Today, that figure is at 76 percent. As recently as 25 years ago, Americans were about evenly divided between optimism and pessimism concerning the future of moral and ethical standards in our country. Today, the pessimists dominate by 2 to 1. Not surprisingly, 66 percent of Americans are now more worried that the country will become too tolerant of behavior that is bad for society rather than too intolerant, versus only 28 percent who fear intolerance more.

There is evidence of widespread public desire for a new balance between rights and responsibilities, self-expression and self-restraint, individual free-dom and older norms of connection and solidarity. Fifty-five percent of Americans now say that it is more important to defend standards of right and wrong than to extend individual rights; 76 percent prefer being tough on criminals to protecting the rights of the accused.

Young people - the coming generation of leaders - seem to have an especially strong desire for such a recalibration. The percentage of college freshmen who say that there is too much concern for criminals has risen from 50 percent in 1970 to 70 percent today. Forty-three percent of freshmen (including 53 percent of women) believe that material on the Internet should be regulated by the government. Acceptance of casual sex is also down to a record low of 40 percent, compared to a high of 52 percent in 1987. And numerous surveys conducted over the past

decade have documented the burning desire of young Americans to give their children and spouses stabler marriages and family lives than their baby-boomer parents provided them. Young Americans - indeed, most Americans - see weakened families not just as a source of personal unhappiness, but as a key obstacle to civic renewal.

5) Americans' view of their political institutions (and of large institutions in general) has become much more negative during the past generation, leading to a deep rupture between the people and their government.

This represents a profound change in American politics. During the New Deal, only one-third of the people felt that too much power was concentrated in Washington. Now, two-thirds feel that way. As recently as 1973, only 32 percent agreed that "the best government is one that governs the least." Today, 56 percent agree. While there has been a significant increase during the past six years in the percentage of Americans who say that they are basically satisfied with the way the federal government works, the bond between citizens and governing institutions has not been repaired. The fraction of citizens who say they trust the federal government to do what's right has been cut in half during the past generation and now stands at only 31 percent.

The gap between citizens and public institutions is especially large among young people, and it is continuing to widen. For example, only 39 percent of Americans age 18 to 29 believe that elected officials are trustworthy, compared to 56 percent of Americans aged 65 or older. This finding is significant because younger Americans' perception of government is more heavily influenced by their evaluation of public officials, and less by government performance, than is the case for older Americans. Not surprisingly, a recent survey of nearly 276,000 entering college freshmen found political interest and involvement at record lows. Only 26 percent feel that keeping up with political affairs is important, compared with 58 percent a generation ago. Social scientists worry that the negative impressions of politics characteristic of today's young Americans may shape political attitudes and behavior throughout their adult lives.

The ruptured bond between citizens and their political institutions has led to a view of government as dominated by "them" rather than sustained by "us." Today, 61 percent believe that the government doesn't care what average

citizens think, and 66 percent feel that elected officials quickly lose touch with ordinary Americans and their everyday problems. A generation ago, only 29 percent felt that government was dominated by and run for the benefit of the special interests; today, 74 percent feel that way. Not surprisingly, citizens are far less likely to vote out of a sense of civic duty (or for any other reason) than they were a generation ago, and many other forms of political participation have decreased as well.

John F. Kennedy urged citizens to ask what they could do for their country, not what their country could do for them; today, few political leaders suggest that anything should be required of citizens, as a matter of duty to the community or even in return for generous benefits provided by the community. Perhaps our leaders fear that if they propose policies based on reciprocity, the people will turn against them. If so, Mark Penn's survey suggests that they are underestimating the people and that there is a widespread desire (perhaps even a hunger) for public policies more closely aligned with common-sense moral principles.

Our Challenge: Renewing Civic Life by Moving to a New Ethic of Reciprocity

The disruption of the relation between citizens and their government has not extended to our society as a whole. By many measures, levels of civil association and civic activity at the local level remain high, even among young people who are most likely to have tuned out official politics. A record number of college freshmen report volunteering their time during their last year of high school - 74 percent, up from 62 percent a decade ago. And more than occasionally: 42 percent volunteered at least weekly, up from 27 percent a decade ago.

As Mark Penn's survey shows, young Americans are not satisfied with the condition of our civic life. They are more likely than older citizens to believe that Americans do not live up to their public responsibilities and that there should be more emphasis on community. And they are more likely than others to support government actions designed to strengthen civic life - even when that means making civic education and service mandatory as graduation requirements for all high school students.

In rejecting the view that voluntary activities will be enough to solve our nation's problems, younger Americans are in agreement with their fellow-citizens. Although we believe (as we have since early in our national history) that

social progress begins at home, in families, neighborhoods, and local communities, we do not believe that it ends there. Fully 72 percent of Americans believe that America's social problems can be best addressed through closer collaboration between government and voluntary associations (religious and charitable), versus only 16 percent who think that the voluntary sector can successfully go it alone. Americans do not believe that government is irrelevant; they want a government that acts intelligently to revitalize citizenship and civic life. But they are not yet convinced that their government is doing that very well.

In his first inaugural address, President Clinton declared that there is nothing wrong with America that cannot be fixed by what is right with America. And there is so much that is right. We care about our country; we know that freedom works, but only when family and community bonds are strong; we are willing to contribute to the community when we believe that our efforts will make a difference. Our task - the task of political leaders and ordinary citizens alike - is to build on these strengths by renewing an ethic of reciprocity throughout our civic life.

William A. Galston is Professor, School of Public Affairs, the University of Maryland, and Director of the Institute for Philosophy and Public Policy. From 1993 until 1995, he was Deputy Assistant for Domestic Policy for President Bill Clinton.

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[Spring 1999 Table of Contents](#)

[Introduction](#)

The Challenge:

[Where We Stand](#) by William A. Galston

[Sidebar: Civic Deregulation](#) by Alan Wolfe

[Sidebar: What's Fair?](#) by Daniel Yankelovich

[Sidebar: An Exceptional Nation](#) by Seymour Martin Lipset

The Solution:

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