

Service—AmeriCorps 5th Anniversary Event

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PRESIDENT CLINTON CALLS FOR LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

October 20, 1999

The President and the First Lady today will host over 1,000 AmeriCorps members and supporters to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the national service program. The President will recognize twenty-one AmeriCorps award winners for their extraordinary commitment to service. He will also unveil a new initiative to engage AmeriCorps alumni in continuing service to their communities. And as he highlights the bipartisan support for AmeriCorps, he will call on Congress to pass a budget that honors the values and priorities of the American people.

Since September 1994, when President Clinton created AmeriCorps, over 150,000 corpsmembers have served in over 4,000 communities, providing much-needed community assistance from tutoring and mentoring to disaster relief and environmental work.

RECOGNIZING EXEMPLARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE

- **First Annual All-AmeriCorps Award Winners.** Today, the President will announce the first annual All-AmeriCorps awards designed to honor the extraordinary contribution that twenty-one AmeriCorps members have made to their communities every day. Awards will be presented by Colin Powell, Gov. Michael Leavitt, Coretta Scott King and Sargent Shriver.

UNVEILING AN INITIATIVE TO ENGAGE AMERICORPS ALUMS IN SERVICE

- **Continuing Service Initiative for AmeriCorps Alums.** In taking the AmeriCorps pledge, each AmeriCorps member promises: "I will carry this commitment with me this year *and beyond*." Today President Clinton will issue a renewed "call to service" to over 150,000 former AmeriCorps members and unveil an initiative to tap the energies and idealism of these alumni. Specifically, he will announce a new strategic alliance between the Corporation for National Service and leading non-profit organizations to engage former AmeriCorps members in community service opportunities. This alliance will include the National Mentoring Partnership; the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America; Habitat for Humanity International; the American Red Cross; the Boys and Girls Clubs; America's Promise; the Points of Light Foundation; and the United Way of America.
- **"Taking Responsibility Personally."** The President will also unveil two thirty-second television spots -- part of a new community service ad campaign, "Taking Responsibility Personally" -- and a website designed by Yahoo! to tell the stories of AmeriCorps members.

CALLING FOR A BUDGET THAT REFLECTS OUR PRIORITIES AND VALUES

- **President Urges Congress Pass a Budget Making Education and Young People the Top Priority.** Emphasizing the can-do spirit of AmeriCorps, the President will call on Congress to summon that same spirit and to pass a budget that makes education the number-one priority -- by hiring more highly trained teachers to reduce class size in the early grades, investing in accountability to help turn around failing schools, and funding after-school and mentoring programs for young people in communities nationwide.

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As requested. Let me
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Bond

BUDGET (2)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Senator Kit Bond (R-MO), Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on VA-HUD-Independent Agencies Committee that funds AmeriCorps, said this on the Senate floor while fighting an amendment to cut AmeriCorps:

"The battle over whether we ought to have an AmeriCorps program or not is over. It has been decided... It is funded. It is in place in communities in my state and across the nation. There are people who are providing valuable services. There is strong support."

The AmeriCorps cut failed by 61-38, with 16 Republicans voting to preserve funding.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE

COMPARISONS OF PRESIDENT'S BUDGET AND CONGRESSSIONAL ACTION

(dollars in thousands)

Activity	1997 President's Budget	1997 Enacted	1998 President's Budget	1998 Enacted	1999 President's Budget	1999 Enacted	2000 President's Budget	2000 Enacted	President's Budget for Last 4 Years	Congress for Last 4 Years	Difference
National and Community Service Act (NCSA): (funded by HUDVA appropriations)	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
National Service Trust	\$128,096	\$58,000	\$100,000	\$70,000	\$98,000	\$70,000	\$93,000	\$70,000	\$420,096	\$268,000	\$151,096
AmalCorps Grants	260,963	215,000	256,000	227,000	257,318	237,000	302,000	234,000	\$1,116,279	\$913,000	\$203,279
Innovation, Assistance, and Other Activities	37,375	30,000	30,000	30,000	32,000	28,600	35,500	28,500	\$134,875	\$117,000	\$17,875
Evaluations	6,644	5,000	6,500	5,000	5,500	5,000	5,500	5,000	\$24,144	\$20,000	\$4,144
National Civilian Community Corps	22,300	18,000	26,000	18,000	21,000	18,000	21,000	18,000	\$90,300	\$72,000	\$18,300
Learn and Serve America: K-12 and Higher Ed	52,725	43,000	53,000	43,000	50,000	43,000	50,000	43,000	\$205,725	\$172,000	\$33,725
Program Administration/State Commissions	28,446	25,000	29,000	27,000	30,000	28,500	33,000	28,500	\$120,446	\$109,000	\$11,446
Points of Light Foundation	6,000	5,500	6,000	5,500	8,000	5,500	5,500	7,500	\$23,500	\$24,000	(\$500)
Subtotal, NCSA	\$643,649	\$400,500	\$648,500	\$428,500	\$489,818	\$435,600	\$548,500	\$434,500	\$2,135,385	\$1,898,000	\$438,385
Inspector General	2,125	2,000	2,500	3,000	2,500	3,000	3,000	4,000	\$10,125	\$12,000	(\$1,875)
Subtotal, NCSA and OIG	\$645,674	\$402,500	\$649,000	\$431,500	\$502,318	\$438,600	\$549,500	\$438,500	\$2,145,490	\$1,910,000	\$437,490

AmeriCorps Budget:

- Since 1994, some 150,000 men and women have answered AmeriCorps' call to service and have devoted a year to help change lives, rebuild communities and strengthen America. While attempts have been made each year to cut or zero out AmeriCorps budget, AmeriCorps has continued to grow and gain bipartisan support each year.
- For the last two years, Congress has increased funding for AmeriCorps -- giving more young people the opportunity to serve their community. This year, the House and Senate conference committee voted to fund AmeriCorps at \$433.5 million -- slightly below level funding at FY 99 level -- providing opportunities for more than 40,000 to serve.

Funding History:

Fiscal 1994: \$365 million
Fiscal 1995: \$468 million
Fiscal 1996: \$400 million
Fiscal 1997: \$400 million
Fiscal 1998: \$425 million
Fiscal 1999: \$435 million

Public Opinion on AmeriCorps:

AmeriCorps enjoys growing support from both parties and the American people.

- A new Hart-Teeter poll found that AmeriCorps enjoys strong support among Americans of all political affiliations. More than eighty-percent of Americans favored continued federal funding for AmeriCorps including 92% of Democrats, 76% of independents, and 69% of Republicans.
- This is in line with the February poll of Mark Penn, which found that 82 percent of Americans supported expanding AmeriCorps so that every young person could participate, including 82% of Democrats, 88% of Independents, and 73% of Republicans.

AMERICORPS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Some 150,000 AmeriCorps members have served communities across our nation over the past five years. Following are a few of the accomplishments that have resulted from AmeriCorps members' hands-on service, the work of the volunteers they've recruited, and the community programs they've supported:

Housing and Other Needs

- 11,000 homes have been built.
- More than 5 million homeless individuals have been given food, clothing, or other necessities.
- 550,000 people have received job or career counseling

Health

- More than 1 million people have been immunized.
- 650,000 senior citizens have been given independent living assistance

Education

- More than 4,400,000 children have been taught, tutored, or mentored.

Public Safety

- 46,000 safety patrols have been established, operated, or expanded.
- More than 1 million at-risk youth have been served through after-school programs.

Volunteers

- AmeriCorps members have recruited, trained, or supervised more than 2.5 million volunteers to help nonprofits meet important needs.

Source: Corporation for National Service estimates based on data provided from Westat, Inc. and Aguirre International.

AmeriCorps: Five Years of Getting Things Done for America

Since 1994, some 150,000 men and women have answered AmeriCorps' call to service and have devoted a year to help change lives, rebuild communities and strengthen America. Together they have served millions of people in more than 4,000 communities.

- **Getting Things Done to Strengthen Communities:** Since 1994, AmeriCorps members have tutored and mentored more than 4 million children; started after-school programs serving more than 1 million at-risk youth; established or expanded more than 40,000 neighborhood safety patrols; helped build more than 11,000 homes; and helped communities rebuild after dozens of natural disasters in more than 30 states.
- **Instilling a lifetime ethic of service.** A recent independent study by Aguirre International found that the AmeriCorps experience reinforced and raised members' interest in serving their communities. Nearly all AmeriCorps members (99 percent) reported plans to continue some form of community service in the future, although only 56 percent of them reported involvement prior to serving. Many members were motivated to pursue careers in public service and community-oriented work.
- **Expanding Educational Opportunity:** Modeled on the GI Bill, AmeriCorps members earn educational opportunity -- a \$4,725 scholarship that helps pay for college or training, or pay back student loans after completing a year of service. To date, AmeriCorps members have earned more than \$330 million in education awards.
- **Growing Bipartisan Support.** For the last two years, Congress has increased funding for AmeriCorps -- giving more young people the opportunity to serve their community. This year, the House and Senate conference committee voted to fund AmeriCorps at \$433.5 million -- approximately level funding at FY 99 level -- providing opportunities for more than 40,000 to serve.
- **Devolving Power to the States:** AmeriCorps is a model of devolution -- it lets states and communities identify their own problems and the best solutions to them. Two-thirds of AmeriCorps funds are administered by governor-appointed state commissions. The remainder is administered by national nonprofits. Nonprofits must compete every year for AmeriCorps members, and they must set and meet tough goals at the local level.
- **Part of American Tradition of Service:** AmeriCorps is part of a long history of service in America, extending from President Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps to President Bush's Points of Light Foundation. In recent months, leading Republicans including Montana Governor Marc Racicot, Rep. John Kasich, Elizabeth Dole and others have voiced their support for AmeriCorps. Speaking to the National Governors Association, Powell called AmeriCorps "a tremendous investment in young people, a tremendous investment in their future."
- **Making Communities and Nonprofits Stronger:** AmeriCorps provides trained, dedicated people to help nonprofits such as Habitat for Humanity, the YMCA and the American Red Cross accomplish more and make more effective use of occasional volunteers. In five years, AmeriCorps members have helped recruit and supervise more than 2.5 million volunteers. More than 13,000 AmeriCorps members have served through faith-based organizations such as the Sisters of Notre Dame and the Catholic Network of Volunteer Services.

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.

Several leading non-profit organizations have agreed to help launch this initiative. 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. The opportunity to participate in this initiative will be open to all interested organizations that have significant volunteer opportunities. The first organizations to agree to participate in this new initiative are:

The National Mentoring Partnership which will help former AmeriCorps members who want to establish mentoring relationships with young people through their alliance of three thousand mentoring organizations including Campfire Boys and Girls, Girl Scouts, Mentoring USA, and 100 Black Men, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America;

Big Brothers Big Sisters of America which will offer service opportunities for former AmeriCorps members who want to establish a mentoring relationship with a young person through their five hundred local affiliates in over five thousand communities;

Habitat for Humanity International which will offer national, regional and leadership roles to former AmeriCorps members who want to help volunteers to 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 in disaster response, preparedness and recovery, health and safety programs, and community service especially by young people;

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;

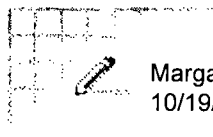
America's Promise which will enlist AmeriCorps alumni who want to participate directly in the America's Promise campaign for children and youth by helping to fulfill the five basic promises made at the Presidents' Summit for America's Future;

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; and

The United Way of America, which in partnership with member United Ways across the country, will connect AmeriCorps alumni with community building initiatives and community mobilizations for children, youth, and families.

Organizations participating in this initiative will have access to a special registry of AmeriCorps alumni that will provide a pool of experienced, potential volunteers. To participate, any interested non-profit organization will agree to provide AmeriCorps alumni with service opportunities and to restrict the purpose of 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 to participate.

The Corporation for National Service will spell out the details of the agreement with participating organizations in the coming days.



Margaret M. Suntum
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Subject: remarks of the President at Voices Against Violence Teen Conference

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 19, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE CONGRESSIONAL TEEN CONFERENCE

Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C.

10:30 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. I think Rebecca Hunter did a wonderful job with her pledge and with her introduction, don't you? Let's give her another hand. I thought she was great. (Applause.)

I would like to begin by thanking our House Democratic Leader Dick Gephardt, and all others who were involved in this Voices Against Violence meeting. I want to thank Congressman Frost, Bonior, DeLauro, Clement, and Menendez, who are over here to my left. And I see Representative Capps out there -- there may be more members of Congress here. I thank all of them for being here.

I would like to thank our Secretary of Education Dick Riley, who came with me; Jeff Bleich who runs our national grass roots campaign against youth violence. And I'd like to thank Ananda Lewis of MTV and all the other organizations who are working to help make this a safer place for all of you. I thank the parents, the teachers and the chaperons who came here with you today.

But most of all, I came here to say thank you to all of you for taking responsibility, taking a stand in raising your voices against violence.

I also have to say that this is a good day for me for you to be here because I know a lot of you have been trained in conflict resolution, and I'm meeting with the leaders of the Congress this afternoon, the Republicans and the Democrats, to try to resolve our conflict over the budget. (Laughter.) And if I don't do so well, I may keep some of you in Washington for an extra day or two to help me. I think that would be a good idea. (Applause.)

Actually, we do agree on things from time to time. Later today I'm going to sign legislation that will make good our common commitment to veterans, housing, science and technology, and to a part of what I call my New Markets Initiative -- to give economic opportunity to the poor parts of America where our recovery has not reached.

And now we have to finish the rest of the budget. The most important thing to me and to all of us is that we do a good job on education. It has got to be the number one priority for our country for the new century. We have the largest and most diverse student population we have ever had. It poses new challenges for us, but it gives America an unprecedented opportunity.

So I want you to see what we want to do about youth violence in the larger context of what I believe should be our commitment to give you the best possible education and the best possible future that any children have ever had in the history of our country.

We're trying to put 100,000 teachers in our classrooms for smaller classes. We're trying to build or modernize 6,000 schools, because so many kids are in house trailers and broken-down old schools today, because there are so many more schoolchildren than we've ever had before. We're trying to make sure that by the end of next year we have hooked up every classroom in America to the Internet. We're trying to provide funds for summer school and after-school programs; funds to turn around schools that aren't doing a good job; more efforts to mentor young people in middle school, to get them ready to go on to college.

We're also fighting for funds for health care and the environment, and for more community police officers. And we're doing it in a way that will enable us to do something else you should care about, which is to save Social Security and Medicare when the so-called baby boom generation retires, and then there will only be about two people your age working

for every one person retired. And it's very important that we use this moment, here, where we're prosperous, to protect your future.

Most of us who are in the baby boom generation are panicked by the thought that when we retire, we'll impose a big burden on your generation and your ability to raise our kids. So we're determined to avoid that, and we can.

And finally, let me say from the time I was your age until today, our country has always been in debt -- and over the last 10 or 12 years, increasingly so, before I became President. We've got a chance to get this country out of debt over the next 15 years, to make America debt-free for the first time since 1835, and I hope we will do that. (Applause.)

I've been asking all the American people, including our young people, to imagine the future and to recognize that our country has a certain unique moment here, when we've got a lot of prosperity and when our problems have been laid bare for us for all to see by tragic instances, like the instance at Columbine. But it's not the only kind of violence young people are subjected to. They're also subjected to hate crimes: Matthew Shepard being killed in Wyoming; the children shot at, at the Jewish community center; and then the Filipino postal worker murdered; the young Korean killed in the middle West by the guy on the hate crimes spree who also killed the African American former basketball coach at Northwestern.

So when you have all these opportunities out there and you have your problems laid bare, and you have the strength of the country and the prosperity of the country giving us the confidence to deal with them, what I hope you will say to everybody here and when you go back home is, America will never have a better time to face its biggest problems; America will never have a better time to save all of its children. And that is what I think we ought to be thinking about.

You heard Congressman Gephardt say that our crime rate has been going down seven years in a row. That's the first time that's happened for over 40 years. The overall crime rate is the lowest it has been in 26 years; the murder rate is the lowest it has been in more than 30 years. That sounds great and I'm proud of that and I'm glad we've worked on that. But does anybody think America is as safe as it ought to be? No. Of course not, obviously.

Six months after Columbine -- tomorrow, six months after Columbine, no serious person believes that America is as safe as it ought to be. And every day, every day we lose more than a dozen kids to violence. They die in ones and twos, so we don't see them on the evening news, we don't see their names blared in headlines.

So why don't you help us adopt a real goal? Why don't we, together, say that we're going to make America the safest big country in the world in the 21st century, starting with making our children safe. You can do that and that's what I want to do. (Applause.)

We need an organized way in every community in America to capture the spirit

that brought you to Washington this week. We need people working on specific things. I thought Rebecca Hunter's pledge was great. You just think about it -- if every young person in every high school and junior high school in America took the pledge that she stated and acted on it, violence would go down. At least violence perpetrated by young people would go down.

I want you to help us while you're here. What else can we do? How do we make our schools sanctuaries of safety? How do we recognize the early warning signs of violence? How do we teach people to resolve their differences peacefully? How do we share good ideas from one community to another? How can people who are injured find it in their hearts to forgive people they've been angry at, instead of trying to get even? These are very important questions.

It seems to me there is no quick-fix solution, and what we have to do in Washington is to try to give you the tools and the framework and as safe as possible condition to do this work. But our young people have to be reached one by one. In many ways, all of you can have more influence on your peers than I can as President, or than any of us can. We can try, but you can make all the difference.

I also would like to say that I think that this conference has to recognize that there are things that you can do and things that we have to do, and that we have some obligations here to understand the problem of youth violence in the environment as a greater violent level of our community. And let me just mention a few things. Mr. Gephardt mentioned a couple of them before, but, when I took office, almost seven years ago now, I had spent a lot of time going from community to community, walking the streets with police officers and with community leaders, sitting and listening to young people talk about the violence in their streets. I'll never forget, I was in California one time -- this was way -- eight or nine years ago -- and this young person in a grade school told me what it was like when they had a drive-by shooting at random, and all the kids had to get out of their desks and hit the floor. And I've listened to people talk to me about this stuff.

And I asked the Congress to do what the local people told me would help to lower crime. So we put more community policing programs out there, we passed the Brady Bill, we banned assault weapons. We did a lot of things that were good -- and we supported local community initiatives. We had a zero tolerance for guns in school policy.

And as I said, it is working, and that is good. But now I think we have to do some more things. I also should say that all these people here in our caucus who supported all those crime policies took a lot of heat for doing it, because we were told that -- the NRA told everybody we were going to take their guns away and they couldn't go hunting anymore. Well, everybody's still hunting, but it's a safer country, and we're still having the same argument up here.

We held the first-ever school safety conference at the White House, and we gave over \$100 million in safe school grants to schools and communities to help them fight

youth violence. We started mentoring programs to help kids know that if they stayed in school and stayed out of trouble, they could actually go on to college. And after the terrible wave of violence culminating in Columbine, I launched a new White House Youth Violence Council to coordinate our work throughout all the government agencies.'

Now, today, we are going to release at the government level -- this makes the very point I made to you in the beginning about why I'm glad you're here -- today, we're going to release our second Annual Report on School Safety. The Secretary of Education has done wonderful work on this. It shows that, once again, the vast majority of our schools are safe. It also shows they're getting safer, which is a tribute to you and to your teachers. Homicides in schools remain rare. Crimes are down both in and out of school, and there are now far fewer students carrying weapons to schools than there were six years ago. That's the good news.

The bad news is we've had Columbine, Jonesboro, Springfield, Pearl -- I could go on and on -- all the places where there have been these horrible examples of school violence. We know that more and more students feel unsafe. So I want to say to you that -- again, I say, I want you to help us with new ideas. But I want to tell you what we're doing now, up here. And then I want to close and ask you to think about something for the rest of the time you're here.

First of all, we want to do more to help you reach other people. Our Justice Department and the Education Department worked with MTV to provide a youth action guide and a CD that focused on concrete steps to reduce youth violence, such as mentoring, conflict resolution and youth advocacy. I want to thank the Recording Industry Association of America for their help in putting this CD together. We've already distributed over a quarter of a million, over 250,000 of these CDs. Today, the Justice Department is going to send out 200,000 more to organizations around the country -- after school programs, law enforcement agencies, foundations and civic groups.

Now, this CD basically sounds a call for action. It's a common-sense tool that helps to make a difference if it's put in the right hands, the hands of people like you. And we're doing our part. But let me also say, to again echo what Mr. Gephardt said, we need Congress to help us. Especially, we need Congress to help us to keep guns out of the wrong hands.

Now, I've heard all this talk with -- people say it doesn't really matter whether we do anything about guns. All I know is, we passed the Brady Bill. We've kept 400,000 people with criminal backgrounds from buying handguns since 1994, and we have the lowest crime rate in 26 years. I don't believe the things are unrelated.

And one of the real problems with the Brady Bill is there is a loophole -- if you buy a gun at a gun show or in urban flea markets, they don't have to do a background check on you. So we want to close that. We also want to ban the import of large ammunition clips. And we want to require child safety locks.

Let me just give you this statistic to think about -- you want to be against unintentional violence as well as intentional violence -- the accidental death rate of children from guns in America -- the accidental death rate -- listen to this -- is nine times higher than the rates for the next 25 biggest industrial countries combined. You take the next 25 biggest economies and put them all together, our accidental death rate from guns is nine times higher than all of them put together.

So we should do more to create an environment in which we will be more safe, that will help you when you're trying to get kids to sign the pledge, when you're trying to solve the conflicts in your schools. I also believe it's very important for Congress to pass this hate crimes legislation which makes it explicitly criminal to attack people because of their racial, their religious or their sexual orientation. I think it is very, very important.

Now, last night, the Republicans on the relevant committees removed important hate crimes protection from a bill that had already passed the Senate. And they tried to kill this bill when we weren't watching, but now we're watching this morning. I want to ask you also to speak up for that, and that's the last point I want to make.

This hate crimes legislation is important because --why? It embodies what I think is the biggest challenge facing not only our society, but societies all over the world. The great thing about the modern world is we've got a lot of movement across national borders. A lot of you have probably been on the Internet talking to people in other countries. And when I look ahead to your future, I see a time when we'll have these unbelievable scientific discoveries. And your children, literally, may be born with a life expectancy of about 100 years. We're unlocking the secrets of the human gene. And you will be, literally, able to not only be American citizens, but citizens of the world in ways that no one else has ever been, even if you don't travel beyond your home county, because of the way the Internet is working to bring us together. That's the good news.

The bad news is that the same demons that lead people to commit racial and religious and sexual orientation-related crimes and discrimination in America are sweeping the world in more violent ways. Basically, the conflict in Northern Ireland is a religious conflict. The conflict in the Middle East is an ethnic and religious conflict. The conflicts in Kosovo and Bosnia were ethnic and religious conflicts. The brutal killings in Africa were tribal conflicts. All over the world, people are getting into modern technology, but they're behaving as if they'd lived 1,000 or 2,000 or 3,000 years ago, because they're afraid of people who are different from them still.

Don't you think that's interesting, that you live in the most modern of all worlds, and yet the biggest problem we've got is the oldest problem of human society: people being scared of people who are different from them? And you can help that.

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MORE

I had, last week, at the White House -- really my wife had this meeting, and I just went along for the ride, but she sponsored this lecture by a man who helped to create the infrastructure of the Internet, and a man who knows more than nearly anybody in America about the Human Genome Project, the breaking down of the component parts of the genes, and how it fits in the body. And they talked about how we were going to be able to solve all these health problems by merging computer technology and what we know about genetics.

But let me tell you what the genome specialist said. He said -- now listen to this -- look around this room, all the different kinds of people that are in this room. He said that 99 percent of us -- 99.9 percent of each of our bodies is identical to the other. We are 99.9 percent the same genetically. Even more interesting, he said, if you take two ethnic groups, there are more differences in the gene structures within the ethnic groups than there are between the ethnic groups. That is, if you take, let's say, a group of Hispanic kids and a group of Asian kids, there will be more differences within the group than what you average out what the genetic makeup is between the Hispanics and the Asians.

We're getting a message here. Science is reaffirming what our values tell us. And I'm telling you, if you all can do something about violence and fear and the compulsive alienation of so many of our young people -- which turns into their need to look down on people and eventually dehumanize them and eventually think it's okay to act violently against them -- if you can deal with that, it's the oldest problem of human society -- if you can deal with that, you're going to have the brightest future of any generation of Americans.

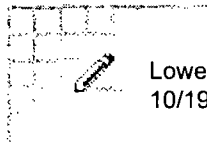
You will have a chance to solve diseases, to solve poverty problems, to give people potential that they never would have had before. But the whole thing can be held down by the failure to deal with our violent impulses, which are the product of our most deep-seated fears. So think about that.

If you want to live in the new world of the 21st century, you've got to help people get rid of their old hatreds and old fears. We'll do our part and we're very proud of your leadership in doing yours.

Thank you, and God bless you. (Applause.)

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Lowell A. Weiss
10/19/99 12:23:05 PM

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To: Eric P. Liu/OPD/EOP@EOP

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Subject: americorps (conclusion incomplete)

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Lowell Weiss

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS AT AMERICORPS 5TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
THE WHITE HOUSE
October 20, 1999**

Acknowledge: introducer Andre Crisp; Mrs. Clinton: A few minutes ago, in a very moving presentation, the AmeriCorps Fifth Anniversary Committee presented my wife with an award for her passionate commitment to AmeriCorps. The award was named in honor of Dan Dutko, one of the best friends AmeriCorps ever had. Long before the Lord called him to heaven, he had become our guardian angel on earth. I am sure he is shining down on us today.

Debbie Jospin; Harris Wofford; Eli Segal; AmeriCorps members, alumni, and friends; 21 winners of the first annual All*AmeriCorps Awards; distinguished award presenters: Gen. Colin Powell, Mrs. Coretta Scott King; Utah Gov. Mike Leavitt, the Honorable Sargent Shriver, about all of whom I will say much more in a few moments; employees of the Corporation for National Service; Howard University choir.

Five years ago, on the North Lawn of the White House, I had the honor of leading the very first class of AmeriCorps members in the AmeriCorps pledge. As these courageous and idealistic men and women spoke in unison, answering their nation's call to service with one booming voice, I knew we were looking at America's next generation of heroes. It was a moment I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

But let us remember that day with appropriate humility. For on that day, AmeriCorps was little more than a good idea and a solid plan. Yes, it was rooted in Sargent Shriver's success with the Peace Corps and VISTA and in the remarkable service corps I had seen in Boston, San Antonio, Los Angeles, and other cities. Yes, it was championed by some of the most passionate leaders and thinkers and doers from both political parties. And yes, it was energized by 20,000 young people raring to give something back to the country that had given much to them. But it was still just the beginning of a journey. On that day on the North

Lawn, there were just as many butterflies as there were flags and smiles and hugs.

Five years later, AmeriCorps is more than an incandescent idea. Thanks to so many of you here today, AmeriCorps is a glowing success. As you well know, I'm a guy from a place called Hope, and still AmeriCorps members have achieved more and built more than even I dared to dream.

You have already heard the statistics – the millions of children tutored, homes built, parks revitalized, lives touched. You have heard that 150,000 people have joined AmeriCorps in just five years. But, of course, mere statistics cannot do justice to the profound, and often unheralded, ways AmeriCorps members are getting things done for America.

In fact, my only regret today is that I can't take every single person here today who has not had already had a chance, out see AmeriCorps members in the field. There, you would see, in the most tangible ways, how these young people are living up to the highest obligations of citizenship ... how they are creating opportunity, taking responsibility, fostering community

You would see skill, and sweat, and accomplishment. You would see leaders using their brains, not just their brawn – never giving in to the notion that it can't be done because it's never been done before. You would see how members' infectious optimism inspires other people in the community to invest themselves and lend a hand. You would see teamwork and camaraderie – perhaps the finest antidote to the kind of alienation that produced the tragedy in Littleton. You would see kids who went to Ivy League schools and kids who dropped out of high school working side by side, serving together, giving together. You would see that Dr. King's Dream of a Beloved Community is alive and well.

I want to give you just one vivid illustration of what I mean. On his very first day as an AmeriCorps member in southern West Virginia, Scott Finn heard that local residents had a dream of cleaning up a boarded-up old school and turning it into a center of community life. The school had no electricity or running water. It was a complete wreck inside and out – not just an eye sore but a place that invited drugs and crime.

So Scott, fresh out of college, put together a team of volunteers and provided the spark to get things done – from hauling water out of a nearby creek to mop the floors to negotiating a lease to raising \$50,000 in grants. Today, that new community center has a lending library, a gym, a safe playground. It serves as a meeting place for dances, gospel concerts, after-school programs, and a Boy Scout Troop. It is a tremendous source of community pride. Scott is here with us today. In a few moments, he will receive a well-deserved All*AmeriCorps Award.

I've always said that there is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America. Well, AmeriCorps members are what is right with America. In community after community, AmeriCorps members are rising above and beyond the call of duty, the call of service, the call country. They are taking responsibility personally. *[This is*

the AmeriCorps anniversary slogan.]

Today, we will help ensure that AmeriCorps members can exercise that responsibility for a lifetime. Like returned Peace Corps Volunteers and military veterans, former AmeriCorps members represent a huge national resource. So, to mark this anniversary, we are establishing a new Office of Continuing Service within the Corporation for National Service. In partnership with Habitat for Humanity, the American Red Cross, Boys and Girls Clubs, America's Promise, and other national organizations, this new office will connect former members with service opportunities wherever they now live. AmeriCorps is already 150,000 people strong. And two years from now, I want to add another 100,000 members every single year. AmeriCorps members and alums are quickly becoming one of the largest pools of compassion and skill ever assembled in America's communities.

There is no question in my mind that America has discovered what an indispensable force AmeriCorps members and alumni already are. After years of fights over funding for AmeriCorps, peace has broken out. It seems like every day there's a new show of support from a Republican in Congress who once opposed the program. AmeriCorps members have proven that they are one of the very best investments America can make.

At the front of the parade in support of AmeriCorps are governors of both political parties – leaders, like Mike Leavitt, who know first-hand how AmeriCorps members are setting off chain reactions of civic involvement and pride. In fact, today I am proud to announce that I am appointing to the Corporation for National Service Board not only Mark Gearan, our outstanding former director of the Peace Corps; I am also appointing Montana Governor Marc Racicot [ross-KO], who has convinced many fellow Republicans that their initial fears of an entrenched, expensive, Washington-run bureaucracy were absolutely misplaced. I want to thank both Marks for answering the call to service, once again.

AmeriCorps proves that we can get things done for America when we work together, across party lines. It gives just a glimpse of the season of progress we could usher in if we are willing to put partisan differences aside and work together for the common good.

Right now, in the midst of battles over the budget, we need reminders like this. Because there are some values that are just too important to bog down in partisan games. Like the value of helping all our children live up to their God-given talents in high-tech, high-quality schools.

As you well know, America's public schools now have the largest and most diverse student body in our history. When those children graduate, they will inherit a complex economy that values learning and skills more than ever before. For their sake, and for the sake of our continued prosperity and leadership in the world, education must be America's number one priority – no ifs, no ands, no cuts.

That means instead of fighting back attempts to reduce funding for our public schools, we should be spending our time working together to strengthen them. By shrinking class size

and fulfilling our commitment to add 100,000 highly trained teachers to the classroom. By expanding Head Start and getting thousands more young children off on the right foot. By ensuring that our children are Y2K ready with computers and Internet access throughout their schools. By keeping schools open after school and in the summer to give kids a safe place to learn.

We know our children need all these things. And we know we can do all these things – without touching a dime of the Social Security surplus – if we just work together. Yes, there differences of opinion. But I want to work with the Congressional leadership. Together, we can give our children the best education in the world.

So before I introduce the distinguished Americans who will present the All*AmeriCorps Awards, I want to say, again, how grateful I am to all of you who are helping to lift AmeriCorps above partisan politics. I especially want to thank those of you who expressed sincere reservations five years ago and then had the follow-through and the courage to take an honest look at AmeriCorps in action.

But most of all, I am grateful to the AmeriCorps members who have lived up to their pledge and gone far beyond. Five years ago, I knew that we would be able to see and feel and live your concrete achievements. I knew that you would earn

conclusion tk

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Memorandum / CA Thurs

Alex RAKSIN

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SENATE
AMERICORPS
GENERAL

WHAT REPUBLICANS ARE SAYING ABOUT AMERICORPS

In recent months a number of leading Republicans have voiced their support for AmeriCorps. Here are just a few examples:

Colin 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."*

Rep. John Kasich (once a vocal opponent of AmeriCorps now turned supporter) said on a campaign stop last February in Columbus, OH: *"I have seen them (AmeriCorps members) do amazing things in Harlem... I would like to spend some time trying to refocus pieces of it and trying to make it more of a public/private situation, but I don't think I would cast a vote anymore that would eliminate it."*

Governor Marc Racicot of Montana in an op-ed written for the *Washington Times* (8/31/98) said, *"When AmeriCorps was created, some feared it might replay the worst of the welfare state -- an entrenched, expensive, Washington-run program. Many feared, even more, that it would undermine traditional volunteers with yet another federal program. I can say from experience that the fears were misplaced... I am convinced national and community service promotes core values -- hard work, self-discipline, civic duty, personal responsibility, the cherishing of human life -- that we too often sadly find lacking."*

Sen. Rick Santorum labeled AmeriCorps as a program 'for hippie kids to stand around a campfire holding hands and singing kumbaya at the taxpayer expense' and used Senator Wofford's support of AmeriCorps as an issue to defeat him in his 1994 Senate race. Sen. Santorum recently said in a 3/5/99 column by E.J. Dionne that he now credits Wofford with pushing AmeriCorps in the right direction -- *"To get these people out of government service and put them into these small nonprofits where they're facilitators in the community..."*

George W. Bush has been very supportive of local AmeriCorps programs in Texas (in particular Houston Reads which his mother is involved with). When asked

directly whether he would support AmeriCorps said: *"Here's the questions: Does it work? If it's helped to change people's lives, then I support it."*

Elizabeth Dole has been a long supporter of AmeriCorps and when she was President of the American Red Cross testified in support of AmeriCorps (and argued with her husband publicly about it.) Last spring, in an article in *George* magazine she listed AmeriCorps as the one thing that she and her husband disagree about.

I look forward to talking with you about this further. AmeriCorps is preparing to celebrate its 5th anniversary next month and I'd love to bring you up to date on what we are doing. Please call me directly at 202-606-5000 x158 if you have any questions.

©

The Clarion-Ledger

Mississippi's Newspaper

Monday ■ August 9, 1999

COLIN W. POWELL

AmeriCorps teens are helping to make Mississippi better



Guest Columnist

For some of our young people, preserving our democratic way of life means shouldering a rifle.

For others it means helping a child to read, or to secure health care. Or it means building a park, or helping communities recover from natural disasters, or reclaiming the environment.

For a select group of young people called the AmeriCorps Promise Fellows, it means endowing those younger than themselves with the character and competence they need to lead successful lives.

The AmeriCorps Promise Fellows are the latest idea to emerge from the partnership between the Corporation for National Service (AmeriCorps) and the crusade for young people, called America's Promise — The Alliance for Youth, I am leading.

Five promises to youth

At the heart are five mutually reinforcing promises to our youth:

- An ongoing relationship with a caring adult — a parent, mentor, tutor or coach.
- Safe places and structured activities during non-school hours.
- A healthy start.
- A marketable skill through effective education.
- An opportunity to give back through community service.

To keep these five promises, we are mobilizing a national alliance of government, business, nonprofits, service organizations and other concerned sectors.

The creation of the AmeriCorps Promise Fellowships was announced by President Clinton last year. The AmeriCorps Promise Fellows will serve as full-time leaders who can mobilize volunteer efforts to meet the needs of local youth. Right now, more than 400 are at work in communities all across the country.

Here in Mississippi, 11 AmeriCorps Promise Fellows are establishing mentoring, after-school and literacy programs, as well as other projects, to serve young people across the state.

In Canton and Sebastopol, AmeriCorps Promise Fellows serving with the Mississippi Primary Health Care Association are helping to notify community members of available health care services.

Another Fellow started a class, Parenting 101, that helps parents give their children a healthy start.

More success stories

An AmeriCorps Promise Fellow in north Mississippi helped bring medical care to 150 students through the CATCH Kids program that brings doctors and nurses into public schools to treat children and educate students.

Another AmeriCorps Promise Fellow helped recruit 150 volunteers to run a day camp in Jackson free of charge.

These are just a few ways AmeriCorps Promise Fellows are making Mississippi a better place by giving young people a better chance at life. Their motto is, "Delivering on America's Promise to Youth," and that is what they are doing.

Because these young people are going to be serving in positions of leadership, they are going to exert an influence far in excess of their numbers. They are going to help put children and teens on the road to successful adult lives.

They are also going to be role models for their own peer groups.

Finally, when they finish their year of service, they are going to carry that experience with them for the rest of their lives.

Whenever they are confronted with a problem or need in their communities, they will be able to draw on their experience as Fellows in devising solutions, and their neighbors will be able to look to them for leadership and advice.

AmeriCorps Promise Fellows are an investment in young people, for the purpose of helping other young people, that promises to pay unlimited returns to our nation in the century ahead.

Retired Army Gen. Colin L. Powell is chairman of America's Promise — The Alliance for Youth.

Community service that works

By Marc Racicot

Governors meet together and routinely stake out areas of broad bipartisan agreement that transcend the partisan struggles that have become synonymous with election-year politics. One issue that enjoys strong support from governors of both parties is national and community service. The support for service is based on a simple conviction that I share with many other governors: that every generation of young people needs to accept responsibility for its country and its community.

As a first-term Republican governor in January, 1993, I asked, and our legislature approved, a proposal to create a Governor's Office of Community Service intended to enhance the ethic of service and elevate the importance of "community," particularly among our young people. Meaningful service, we believed, would nurture productive young citizens committed to the future of our state because they had invested their sweat and labor in that future. Here in Montana, we sought to encourage service as a life-long "habit of the heart."

When the National Community Service Act of 1993 was passed, Montana was in an ideal position to move forward with the opportunities offered through AmeriCorps. The Office of Community Service's mission and the mission of AmeriCorps was one and the same: to develop opportunities for young people to provide meaningful, direct and demonstrable service to their communities. It was our hope that AmeriCorps would help us to build unique partnerships with public and private agencies by engaging young people in productive and

meaningful service to their communities. These partnership would serve as clear examples of how we could work together in Montana to improve how we, as fellow citizens, respond to pressing needs.

Now in its fourth year, AmeriCorps offers a creative, effective, and non-bureaucratic means of addressing the unmet education, human, public safety and environmental needs of our state — and our country. Indeed, AmeriCorps has become a model of devolution, where real authority and ownership for a federal initiative is delegated to the states. Through governor-appointed bipartisan state commissions, priorities are established and projects are selected to receive AmeriCorps funding.

The results are impressive. Last year alone, our locally-run AmeriCorps programs generated nearly 51,000 hours of service to Montana communities. Their service directly benefits 50,000 children and families in Montana, and indirectly almost one-third of our state population. Nationally, similar results abound. This year, some 40,000 AmeriCorps members will get things done for more than 1,200 communities across the country.

When AmeriCorps was created, some feared it might replay the worst of the welfare state — an entrenched, expensive, Washington-run program. Many feared, even more, that it would undermine traditional volunteers with yet another federal program. I can say from experience that the fears were misplaced. As a governor who tries very hard to be careful with tax dollars, I have witnessed time and again the fruits of this prudent investment in Montana.

Now, after more than five years, we have seen a tremendous rekindling of a sense of public service and civic duty, in many ways,

through the programs and opportunities generated through the National Community Service Act. I am convinced national and community service promotes core values — hard work, self-discipline, civic duty, personal responsibility, the cherishing of human life — that we too often sadly find lacking. If the era of big government is finally over, certainly the era of big citizenship must begin.

I have joined twelve of my fellow governors in urging not only continued federal funding of AmeriCorps, but also reauthorization of the Act, increasing the partnership with states and the authority of directing these programs at the state level. We join with our peers from the New England Governors' Conference in urging Congress to support reauthorizing the National Community Service Amendments Act, in order to improve the law's current language. As their resolution notes, we support the bill's "devolution provisions that add authority and flexibility to states . . . [to] provide Governor-appointed state commissions more control over program selection."

Community service is a vital element in the chemistry of our existence as a society, renewing our sense of community and civic initiative. It is the glue that bonds free peoples together. We in Montana have seen how vitally important this is, recently having completed our state Governors' Summit on Youth, and witnessing the real necessity of promoting opportunities for young people to give back to others. Through community service they learn what it's like to belong to something good and solid and decent. AmeriCorps helps provide that opportunity and truly puts the states in the driver's seat, which translates into meaningful ownership, and impact, at the state and local level.

Marc Racicot, a Republican, is governor of Montana.

The Washington Post

FINAL

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FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1999

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THE WASHINGTON POST

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1999 A33

E. J. Dionne Jr.

A Meeting Of Minds

*Coming together
on AmeriCorps.*

The politician's version of acute memory loss involves forgetting everything except your grudges. So when two politicians put aside grudges for a cause, you have to take a close look at the cause.

This story concerns Harris Wofford, a former U.S. senator from Pennsylvania who is now chief executive officer of the Corporation for National Service, and the Republican who oh-so narrowly defeated him in his 1994 campaign for reelection, Sen. Rick Santorum.

The race was bitter, and Santorum did something that Wofford did not expect: He made an issue of Wofford's sponsorship of legislation establishing President Clinton's AmeriCorps program. It has sent more than 100,000 volunteers into America's neighborhoods to build housing, help kids and senior citizens, fight crime and do scores of other good things.

How, Wofford wondered, could anyone say anything bad about such a fine idea? Santorum, managed. Wofford remembers Santorum's devastating line against AmeriCorps this way: It was a program "for hippie kids to stand around a campfire to hold hands and sing 'Kumbaya' at taxpayers' expense."

With a laugh, Santorum offers only a partial denial. "I never said anything about hippies," he insists.

When Wofford lost, he took an appointment from Clinton to head the corporation that oversees the AmeriCorps program. Wofford, a veteran of the civil rights movement who helped bring President John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. together, holds an entirely unfashionable view. He thinks that human beings are ennobled when they give of themselves to others and that democracy is strengthened when people of different classes and races join together to solve problems.

As head of the corporation, Wofford's dream is to transform AmeriCorps—which needs to be reauthorized by Congress this year—from a pet Clinton project into a permanent part of the national landscape. "The political challenge," he said in an interview, "is to get national service reauthorized in a way that shows it's beyond politics, that it's like the Peace Corps and goes beyond one administration."

Doing that means reaching out to Republicans, and one of the Republicans he singled out for attention was Rick Santorum. An entirely unlikely choice, you might think, except that Santorum has his own passion: the idea that there is such a thing as "compassionate conservatism." Santorum argues that solving the problems of the poorest Americans means strengthening community groups, including religious groups, that battle those problems every day.

Wofford's pitch is simple: AmeriCorps is not some bureaucratic monstrosity, let alone a redoubt for "Kumbaya" fans. Two-thirds of its money passes through the governors to local community groups. The rest goes to traditional nonprofits, such as Habitat for Humanity and the Red Cross.

What AmeriCorps does is to strengthen the very institutions Santorum loves, especially those that focus on the problems of children and the poor. "The thing we add is the dedicated force that goes beyond the volunteers who can devote only three or four hours a week," Wofford says. AmeriCorps workers are there full time to plan and organize community work so volunteers can put their limited hours to good use.

"I was very concerned about paid volunteers and the government developing a corps of volunteers doing government work," Santorum says. Rather than apologize for his old position, he credits Wofford for pushing AmeriCorps in the right direction—to "get these people out of government service and put them into these small nonprofits where they're facilitators in the community, not bureaucrats with an agenda."

Another conservative who has altered his view of AmeriCorps is Rep. John Kasich (R-Ohio), a presidential candidate whose recent book, "Courage Is Contagious," reports on the work of volunteers across the country. "I have to concede I've seen some positive things in some very desperate situations that involve AmeriCorps," Kasich says.

"I'm not saying that everything AmeriCorps is doing is great and that we should boost the funding," he says in a comment worthy of an anti-dependency hawk. But Kasich adds: "The last thing I want to do is take somebody who's involved in that sort of program and doing good things and whack them. I want to encourage them."

With this sort of support, Wofford may get his wish for an AmeriCorps with a long future. And he'll even grant Santorum a point. On a visit to a youth conservation project in the High Sierras in California, he found himself sitting around a campfire with AmeriCorps volunteers. Yes, he says, "They gave me a rousing 'Kumbaya.'"

REVIEW & OUTLOOK

Preserve the Citizen Service Tradition

By STEPHEN E. AMBROSE

It is the nature of youth to want to explore. Youngsters yearn for challenge and experiences and the sense of belonging to something larger than themselves. They are idealistic and want to advance their ideals through service.

It is one of the principle misfortunes of time that we do not provide our 18- and 19-year-olds with enough opportunity to do these things, and it is one of the chief differences between America today and America a half-century ago. Then, service of some sort to the nation by the young was taken for granted, along with the notion that society would provide them with a place to serve.

In the Depression, it was the Civilian Conservation Corps, universally praised for the projects it undertook and completed and for the way it provided impoverished youngsters with a chance to serve, to travel, to get to know other young Americans from different backgrounds and parts of the country. In the Second World War and during much of the Cold War it was the armed forces, where millions of young Americans served. President John F. Kennedy tapped the same vein to create the Peace Corps. Today AmeriCorps is extending that tradition of citizen service, giving young people opportunity to serve their country here at

The generation of Americans now in retirement faced and overcame great challenges, starting with the Depression and including the Nazis, the Japanese militarists, and the Communists in Korea, Vietnam, and the Soviet Union. The challenges of today are not so clear, or terrifying, or dramatic. Nor are they as unifying: During World War II, a popular saying, used to respond to a complaint about this or that shortage, was "We are all in this together." Today's youth have never had that feeling. They have missed the experience of work-

ing together for a common goal as much as they have missed the chance to serve others.

It seems to me that one of the great things that came out of World War II, and to a lesser extent out of Korea and even Vietnam, was the way in which millions of young men learned to work together, to take responsibility, to become part of a team. They learned, too, to savor deferred



CCC workers near Camp Au Sable, Mich.

gratification, and to take pride in contributing to their fellow man.

Today, too often, our youngsters hardly know one another. Middle class kids have little or no contact with inner-city kids. As we become a more diverse society, it is critical that we provide our youth with experiences that bring Hispanic-Americans and European-Americans, Jewish-Americans and Muslim Americans, Asian-Americans and African-Americans together, working, living, serving side-by-side. Lord knows there are plenty of challenges out there and much to be done, improving educa-

tion, fighting poverty, and protecting the environment.

In Europe, several nations require that, at 18, young people give a year of service to their country. In the U.S. it is not required, but AmeriCorps provides a voluntary opportunity to make a similar commitment. Instead of fighting enemies abroad these young Americans battle against the everyday enemies of illiteracy, poverty, and violence that plague our nation. In four years, AmeriCorps members have taught, tutored and mentored more than 2.2 million children, provided after-school programs to more than a million at-risk youth, removed close to 70,000 tons of trash from neighborhoods, and recruited more than 1.8 million volunteers to assist in these and other efforts.

AmeriCorps members, most of whom are between the ages of 18 and 24, receive a loan living allowance, and after a year of service a stipend of almost \$4,800 to help pay for college. This is similar to the 1944 GI Bill of Rights, which was the best piece of legislation Congress ever enacted. The GI bill sent hundreds of thousands of GIs to college—guys who never dreamed it would be possible for them to get a higher education—and after earning their degrees they went out and built modern America. They were part of the best educated, best disciplined, hardest working, most innovative generation of Americans ever. Today's young people, through AmeriCorps and other volunteer groups, can emulate them.

Our young people are our future. Our very soul as a nation is at stake. I cannot imagine a better investment than in youth who want to work for others and then go on with their education, taking a hand up rather than a hand out. Since 1994, more than 100,000 young men and women have pledged to "get things done" for America. This month, as AmeriCorps celebrates this milestone, let us congratulate them for their service to our country—and hope that future generations have the opportunity to follow in their footsteps.

Mr. Ambrose is author, most recently, of "Citizen Soldiers" (Simon & Schuster, 1997).

THE BOSTON SUNDAY GLOBE • AUGUST 1, 1999

AmeriCorps transcends the politics of the moment and offers Americans a focus for their energy and idealism.

Keeping alive the spirit of national service

RICHARD NORTH PATTERSON

I doubt that many of us are nostalgic for the Great Depression, global warfare, or the military draft. But one need not wish to reprise history to notice what has been lost to America's young people — a common experience, a chance to serve, which cuts across the barriers of race, class, and education.

In the 1930s, thousands joined the Civilian Conservation Corps, undertaking scores of needed projects while trading their adverse circumstances for a broader experience of the country's needs and promise. The compelling need to wage World War II reinforced the belief that common sacrifice for the common good is an incident of citizenship. It was this spirit

which led many to join the Peace Corps — a governmental call to action — or to respond to the moral call of the civil rights movement. And, in the process, their vision of America and the world became less parochial and more compassionate.

But somewhere in the last few decades, we mislaid the idea that national service is either obligatory or enriching. As with many shifts in social attitudes, Vietnam serves as a fault line. One of the ugliest truths of the Vietnam draft — with its class biases and small corruptions — is that Americans who served (and died) were disproportionately poor, black, and less educated. And one of its ugliest legacies is the elitist notion that (the officer corps aside) military service is not for everyone but is a job and a training program for those without a better place to go.

The result is that all too often, we offer young people a vision of community which extends to the nearest shopping mall.

One byproduct is to exacerbate our growing division — the

America of the inner city, the worst schools, the least hope versus the America of the designer label, the gated community, the best (and, sometimes, most isolated) education money can buy.

Yet anyone who spends time with the new generation is struck by how many — while corrosively cynical about politics and politicians — are passionate about and committed to helping others. From tutoring children to building houses through Habitat for Humanity, these young people eagerly seek chances to serve. All of which makes the recent proposal to expand AmeriCorps so refreshing.

This "domestic peace corps" engaged more than 40,000 people in intense service to communities around the country. It is not a wasteful bureaucracy, a program to redistribute dollars in return for a year of

civic basketweaving and singing folk songs around the campfire.

Two-thirds of its money passes through governors to grass-roots community groups; the rest goes to traditional nonprofits. Volunteers spend a year living and working wherever they're needed. They mentor, tutor, and teach, ensuring that kids stay in school. They help build housing. They augment neighborhood safety programs. They combat drug abuse. They assist disaster relief efforts: In Oklahoma, more than 60 are now working with victims of the recent tornadoes.

In short, they fulfill Robert Kennedy's vision of the original VISTA program: that Americans "invest a year of their lives . . . under Spartan conditions, to help millions of their fellow citizens who, through no fault of their own, are denied the essentials of a decent life."

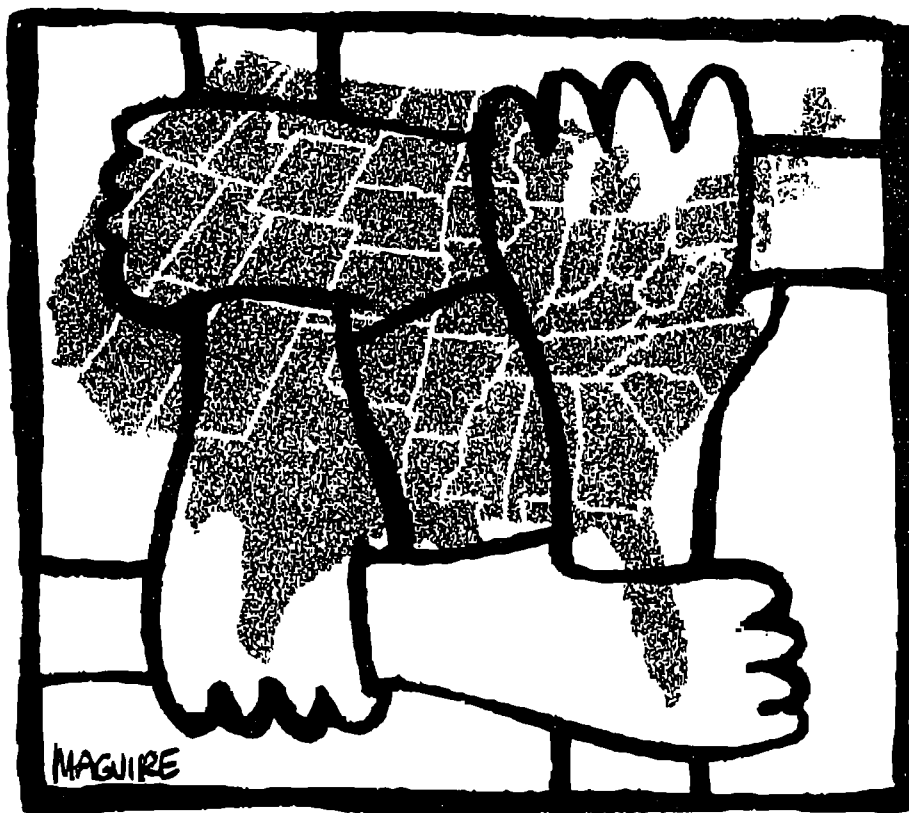
And, at the end of their service, they receive a maximum stipend of \$4,725 to pay off student loans or for graduate or post-graduate education.

Politicians across the political spectrum have recognized that this has been a good investment. Now, five years after its inception, AmeriCorps requires congressional reauthorization.

Those of us who believe in national service hope to make the program a continuing call to service that transcends the politics of the moment and that offers up to 100,000 Americans every year a focus for their energy and idealism.

This may fall short of a universal commitment to national service. But it's an important step in keeping alive something of universal value: the chance for our young to make their best contribution to a stronger country and a better society. We should take it.

Richard North Patterson is the author of "No Safe Place," a novel of presidential politics in the year 2000.



BARRIE MAGUIRE ILLUSTRATION

CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
 SERVICE

**EMBARGOED UNTIL NOON,
TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1999**

CONTACT: Tara Murphy
PHONE: (202) 606-5000, x158

**AMERICORPS STRENGTHENS COMMUNITIES, NONPROFITS,
STUDY FINDS**

Benefits of Program Valued at \$1.66 or More per Dollar Invested

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Because of the efforts of AmeriCorps members over the past five years, neighborhoods are stronger, nonprofits are more productive, and people are more involved in their communities, according to a new independent evaluation.

"This study confirms what we've long suspected," said Harris Wofford, chief executive officer of the Corporation for National Service. "AmeriCorps works -- and the participants and communities they serve are better off because of it."

After studying survey data from all AmeriCorps programs and examining 60 programs from 1994 to 1996, Aguirre International concluded that:

- AmeriCorps effectively prepares young Americans for the future.
- AmeriCorps strengthens communities and nonprofits.
- The benefits of AmeriCorps far outweigh the costs.

Preparing Americans for the Future

The study found that serving in AmeriCorps significantly improves members' skill in the areas considered the standard benchmarks for job readiness -- communication, interpersonal skills, analytic problem-solving, understanding of organizational systems, and technology. Members gained skills regardless of their skill levels before beginning their term of service, but members who entered with low skills achieved the greatest gains.

AmeriCorps gave all members opportunities to develop new skills and enhance existing skills, the study showed, particularly those who entered with low skills and with little employment experience. The study notes that these findings "may have bearing on overall strategies to develop appropriate, alternative career pathways for young adults and others who may not have been able to fit into the standard sequence of movement through high school, college, and into a career."

(more)



The AmeriCorps experience also reinforced and raised members' interest in serving their communities. Nearly all AmeriCorps members (99 percent) reported plans to continue some form of community service in the future, although only 56 percent of them reported involvement prior to serving. Many members were motivated to pursue careers in public service and community-oriented work.

Strengthening Communities

According to the study, whatever their specific assignment – tutoring children, running after-school programs, helping communities recover after natural disasters, improving health care services, or making neighborhoods safer – AmeriCorps members help bring communities together by providing needed services, strengthening nonprofit organizations, and getting children, families, and others more involved in supporting one another.

Besides the direct services they provided, perhaps just as important, the study revealed that AmeriCorps served as a catalyst for change for entire organizations. Because of their collaboration with AmeriCorps, many institutions were able to expand, improve, and restore service to their communities.

Communities responded favorably to AmeriCorps, which brought additional resources and generated new volunteers, and there was little overlap or conflict between AmeriCorps activities and the work of other community organizations. Summarizing some of the impacts that are hard to measure, the report states: "AmeriCorps sparked community interest and participation; infused hope into depressed communities; and raised awareness of local problems."

A Smart Investment

According to the evaluation, AmeriCorps provides a substantial return on investment. The direct benefits to communities and AmeriCorps members are at least \$1.66 for every dollar spent. "Direct service benefits alone outweighed costs," the study concluded. "These positive returns show that the program was a success not only of its community and member benefits but also a successful investment of federal and community funds."

- 30-

The study by Aguirre International, *Making a Difference: Impact of AmeriCorps*State/National Direct on Members and Communities 1994-95 and 1995-96*, was compiled from information from a survey of program accomplishments, interviews at 60 randomly selected programs, and case studies of eight sites. The report is available from the Corporation for National Service at (202) 606-5000, x437.

TO: Karen Tramontano
✓ Ann F. Lewis
Bruce Reed
Thurgood Marshall, Jr.

CC: Shirley Sagawa, Eric Liu, Lowell Weiss

FROM: John Gomperts, Corporation for National Service

RE: Help with the AmeriCorps Anniversary

DATE: October 5, 1999

Service -
St. Ann

[Handwritten signature]

The plans for the Fifth Anniversary of AmeriCorps are coming together well. In the field, we know there will be a good deal of service and swearing-in activity, including several outstanding events. Interested organizations also appear to be organizing several good events in Washington around the time of the Anniversary. There is significant interest among supporters on the Hill. And the White House event looks very strong. So the pieces are in place for a successful commemoration.

Now the question is how much all of this activity will help to spread the word about AmeriCorps and support the recruiting effort the President launched at the University of Maryland and that the Corporation has been pursuing so vigorously this year. You can be sure that we are doing everything we can to push the story out. But our resources are limited and to move this story to a higher level, we need your help. Below is a list of things that would advance the story substantially. I am not so naïve as to think that you can clear the decks and do everything on the list. But I do hope that you can help make some of these things happen.

Message of the Day – Of course I know that there are many major events (internal and external) occurring in the same time frame as the AmeriCorps anniversary. But we all agreed that this would be our chance to push out the AmeriCorps story at a high level, and we must clear space to get this message out.

Presidential Interview – It would be a great help if the President would do an exclusive interview on AmeriCorps with a reporter or reporters and/or columnist(s) who have a special interest in service. Ideas include Jon Alter, Susan Page, Walter Shapiro, David Gergen, Jeff Greenfield, Tavis Smiley or others. An exclusive radio or TV interview is another attractive possibility.

A Written Product by the President – I don't know whether it is possible to pursue a written product by the President. When AmeriCorps was launched, the President had an op-ed in the *New York Times*. It may be the only op-ed he has done as President. I am not suggesting that venue or format, but some type of column by the President about his pride in the accomplishments of AmeriCorps members would have great power.

Senior White House Surrogates – In addition to making the President available to talk about AmeriCorps in some way, it would be helpful to have senior White House surrogates available to talk about the AmeriCorps anniversary. Likely surrogates include: John Podesta, Ann Lewis, Bruce Reed. Of course, it would be helpful to have Joe Lockhart mention the anniversary as often as possible. In addition to “on the record” interviews, it would be especially helpful if those in White House who talk regularly to the media really emphasize the importance of the AmeriCorps story. Even in the midst of other activities, we have to push the story that AmeriCorps is central.

Radio Address and Service – Under separate cover, I am submitting a scheduling request for the President to use the radio address on October 23rd to sweep together the AmeriCorps anniversary and the philanthropy conference. He could press the theme that by giving of themselves individuals can make a huge difference in communities and in the spirit of the nation. To put flesh (and a picture) to those words, I will recommend that the President participate in a terrific service project here in Washington DC.

Weekend shows – Whoever represents the White House on the weekend talk shows (both the weekend before and the weekend after the event) should be sure to talk about the success of AmeriCorps and the significance of the anniversary.

Help with Networks – Simply stated, we need help with the networks. We just haven’t succeeded in breaking through with them. White House contacts and pitching could help enormously. This includes the evening news, and other news shows including the morning shows.

Regional Press – We will have approximately 20 winners of the first annual All* AmeriCorps Awards. We want to do a full-court press in getting their stories out to regional press outlets, and the help of the White House press office will be key to our success.

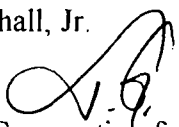
* * *

Again, I realize all of the different pressures and impulse and externalities to which the White House must react. That is precisely why I have written this memo. To make the AmeriCorps anniversary the success it ought to be, we need your help in a major way. We are ready, anxious and able to provide all the support that you need in terms of material, stories and talking points. If it is useful to have a quick meeting to discuss how to make at least some of these requests come to pass, we are ready and available.

Please let me know your reaction, and how we can follow-up on these requests.

October 5, 1999

TO: Thurgood Marshall, Jr.

FROM: John Gomperts 
Chief of Staff, Corporation for National Service

REQUEST: For the President to use the radio address on October 23rd to discuss AmeriCorps, national service and the Philanthropy Conference, and to participate in Make a Difference Day service project in Washington DC with AmeriCorps members.

PURPOSE/

BACKGROUND: In the course of the week, the President will host the Fifth Anniversary of AmeriCorps (October 20) and the Philanthropy Conference (October 22). The radio address is an opportunity to pull together the theme of individuals giving of themselves, improving their community and building the spirit of the nation. Make a Difference Day (October 23 this year) is an annual day of service and volunteering on which millions of people will be involved in local projects. Thus, the radio address would not only extend the AmeriCorps and philanthropy stories, but it would coincide with Make a Difference Day. Participation in the service project would put flesh (and a picture) on the President's words.

PREVIOUS

PARTICIPATION: The President participated in numerous events related to AmeriCorps and service. The President's most recent community service projects were just before Christmas at a DC food kitchen, and then on Martin Luther King Day at a local senior center. It has been several months since he has been seen participating in a service project himself.

DATE/TIME: Saturday, October 23, 1999

DURATION: Five minutes for the radio address (could be pre-recorded). One hour for the service project.

LOCATION: East Capitol Dwellings, Washington, DC

PARTICIPANTS: The President, Harris Wofford, Marcia Bullard, *USA Weekend Magazine*, Bob Goodwin, CEO of the Points of Light Foundation, AmeriCorps Members from the Capitol Region NCCC Campus, DC Housing Authority officials and employees, local AmeriCorps Members, participants from Best Friends, residents from East Capitol Dwellings.

OUTLINE OF
EVENT:

East Capitol Dwellings is the place where an elderly grandmother was recently shot and killed while trying to protect young residents. The District of Columbia Housing Authority is making a concerted effort to turn around the neighborhood, including establishing an apprenticeship program and converting two townhouses into a Boys and Girls Club.

Many of the units have been refurbished inside, but the neighborhood still looks untouched because the external property has not been updated. A key part of the project will be to give the whole place a fresh face through plantings and painting. Additionally, renovations will begin to convert two townhouse units to a Boys and Girls Club. Finally, two blocks down the street at Capitol View Plaza, 30 units will be painted to prepare for new occupants.

Participants in the day of service will include community residents, AmeriCorps members, staff from various organizations including *USA Weekend*, Points of Light Foundation, the Corporation for National Service, America's Promise, AmeriCorps Alums, and Best Friends.

REMARKS
REQUIRED:

Yes for radio address. Optional for service project.

OTHER
PRINCIPALS:

First Lady, Vice President

MEDIA
COVERAGE:

Yes

PROPOSED
ATTENDANCE:

Audience for radio address is at discretion of White House.
Approximately 400 – 500 people at the service project

RECOMMENDED
BY:

Harris Wofford

CONTACT:

John Gomperts
Chief of Staff, Corporation for National Service
202-606-5000 ext.121
jgompert@cns.gov

Service -
5th Anniversary

Clinton - Review

**5th Anniversary of AmeriCorps
Possible Policy Deliverables**

*Jim - Philosophy -
Sea Change
Love Part - change*

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

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

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.]

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

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.

"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 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 POLO
S,

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 07, 1999

SERVICE-
AMERICORPS FIFTH ANNIVERSARY
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM: Melanne Verveer and Shirley Sagawa, Office of the First Lady

RE: AmeriCorps Fifth Anniversary Event

DATE: September 15, 1999

As you may know, 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. *We need your help identifying the right people to play this role.* Here is the working list so far:

Military/Space Program (could represent Getting Things Done or Leadership):
Colin Powell, Eileen Collins, John Glenn

Civil Rights (for Common Ground):
Coretta Scott King, Rosa Parks, John Lewis

Religious/Community (for Community Strengthening):
Millard Fuller, Ted Hesburg

Business Leaders (for Leadership or Getting Things Done or Community Strengthening):
Lou Gerstner, Steve Case, Jerry Yang

Sports Figures (for Community Strengthening or Leadership):

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

Celebrities involved in the Community (for Community Strengthening):
Will Smith, Jada Pinkett, Matt Damon

It has also been suggested that we include a visible Republican – there are several that have been supportive of the program, although we have other issues with them (like Dan Coats and John Kasich). A safer choice would be a governor like Mark Racicot, who is under consideration for the Corporation for National Service Board.

We would appreciate your input on these individuals and ideas for others who should be considered. Our next meeting is Monday, September 20, at 1 pm – your response in advance of the meeting would be timely.

Thanks in advance for your help.

Distribution:

Bob Nash
Minyon Moore
MaryBeth Cahill
Karen Tramontano
Maria Escheveste
Ann Lewis
Ben Johnson
Thurgood Marshall, Jr.
Bruce Reed
Stephanie Streett