

Mr. de la Cruz is a resident of Guttenberg in the diverse County of Hudson, which is home to countless Hispanic Americans that I have the privilege of representing. Since its inception and through Ramon's leadership, the HBA has been dedicated to making a real difference in our state, and indeed the nation. Ramon has brought vision and new energy to this organization.

The judicial branch plays such a critical role in the life of our democratic institutions, and the industry is well served by true professionals like Ramon de la Cruz. His credentials and background are indeed impressive.

The HBA's positive impact on the Hispanic community has spread to other communities in a manner that transcends racial and ethnic differences. Mr. President, activism is important to creating a sense of personal responsibility for one's community. The HBA embodies this concept, and should be celebrated for successfully instilling it in others. I take pride in recognizing distinguished individuals in the great State of New Jersey like Ramon de la Cruz. ●

TRIBUTE TO CITY YEAR'S OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to commend City Year, a community service program which began eleven years ago in Boston. This landmark program became the prototype for AmeriCorps, which celebrates its own 5th anniversary this week.

City Year has an impressive history of working closely with Boston's Mayor Menino to support his work in developing youth leadership, protecting public health, and building stronger local communities. City Year also works closely with the Boston Superintendent of Schools, Tom Payzant, and other educational leaders to develop innovative curriculum-based service learning projects. City Year has also engaged area business in supporting its efforts, so that each year they have been able to increase its membership and its effectiveness.

Today, City Year organizations are found in eleven cities across the country. Each local corps is dedicated to offering 17-24 year olds a challenging year of full-time service, leadership development and community involvement. The founders of City Year—Michael Brown and Alan Khazei—has a vision that individuals working together could solve almost any problem. My brothers, President Kennedy and Senator Robert Kennedy, shared that vision. Today, that spirit of idealism is transforming communities across the country and inspiring thousands of young men and women to become involved in helping others.

A recent article in the Philadelphia Inquirer Magazine eloquently describes the extraordinary achievements of City Year, and I ask that it be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows.

CORPS VALUES

(By Melissa Dribben)

"Have you heard Robert F. Kennedy's theory about ripples?" asked Kelly Dura.

She tries to summon up the quote. "It's something like 'If you strike out against oppression with ripples of hope . . .'"

She frowns. "Wait," she says, "it's much better than that. I don't want to guess. I'll get it for you in a minute."

Dura, with a shag of red hair, looks at you straight on, through eyes big and clear as cat's-eye marbles. She wants to get this right. She wants to get everything right.

She's 24. A fervent idealist and veteran volunteer with City Year, an urban community service program, which is a division of the national Americorps.

If she can't rattle off the quotation verbatim, Dura clearly gets the gist.

The words were spoken by Kennedy in a speech about the effect a single person can have on the monumental problems of society. For Dura, as well as the 130 other young men and women who will serve this year in Philadelphia, inspirational quotations are sustenance. They help feed the corps' enthusiasm through what is a frequently difficult, but rewarding, time.

The work is hard, and the relationships intense.

"A lot of optimists come in, wanting to change everything right away," says Dura. "You just can't. Change takes time."

City Year volunteers, who receive a small stipend for their work, spend the year in teams of 10, mentoring elementary school students, distributing books to literacy centers and teaching children how to resolve conflicts without the use of knuckles or steel-toe boots. They spend time listening, really listening, to senior citizens in nursing homes, ladling out chicken and noodles in soup kitchens, rebuilding homes with Habitat for Humanity, painting murals on tenement walls and cleaning up weeds and old tires along SEPTA's train tracks.

While they are in the program, volunteers must promise not to spew any profanity in public, jaywalk, pierce any part of their face or wear Walkmen while out on the street (in case someone wants to ask them a question about the program).

"It's a sacrifice for a good cause," says Nikki Owens, 20, a senior corps member, who has had to postpone putting a stud below her lower lip.

The volunteers wear uniforms—white polo shirts, khaki pants, work boots and scarlet jackets—provided by Timberland, the program's national sponsor. Locally, their work is supported by corporations, who donate \$70,000 or more each year for the City Year projects, a sum matched by federal grants.

The program, which is in its 10th year, was started in Boston by two Harvard Law School grads. There are now City Year teams in nine cities, plus Rhode Island. Three years ago, it landed in Philadelphia, where it has been one of the most successful—with the fastest growing membership in the country.

Some of the volunteers, like Dura, come from comfortable homes in the suburbs. Some are college graduates trying to find themselves before moving on with their lives and careers. Some are the daughters of drug addicts who grew up in the city's worst neighborhoods, or teenage fathers, or high school dropouts who were floundering until they bumped into a City Year recruitment officer.

Dion Jones, 22, had been "sitting around for a couple of years" after finishing high school in North Philadelphia. Last year, he was in the Gallery with his 2-year-old son, Saadiq, when the boy saw some balloons at a

table and asked his father to get him one. At the table was a representative from City Year, doling out information and application forms. Jones filled one out. "I didn't know what kind of job it was," he says. "But I needed a paycheck."

A few weeks later, he got a call to come in for an interview. He missed the appointment. And the next. But after the City Year staff called a third time, he showed up.

"I did service in my own neighborhood," he says, rubbing the heavy ank ring on his pinkie. "The one thing that gives me hope is the kids. They're happy to see you."

"Seeing them smile—it changed me. I've had to be more empathetic. I can't holler or curse. I'm being a role model for my son, 24 hours a day."

At the annual convention, held in Washington, D.C., at the end of May, each city competes for an award—the Cup of Idealism. This year, Philadelphia won. The huge silver cup sits gleaming on a table covered by a red plastic tablecloth in the City Year offices at 23d and Chestnut.

A tour takes less than five minutes. There are a few offices and a lot of snapshots of volunteers. I step into the elevator. "Hold it!" It is Dura, sprinting down the hall. "I found the quote."

"Let no one be discouraged by the belief there is nothing one man or one woman can do against the enormous array of the world's ills. * * * Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends a tiny ripple of hope, and, crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance." ●

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to Public Law 100-696, announces the appointment of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) as a member of the United States Capitol Preservation Commission, vice the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN).

ORDER FOR TAKING OF PHOTOGRAPH

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at the conclusion of today's session, it be in order for the Senate photographer to take photographs of the desk of our late colleague, John Chafee, and the flowers that sit there.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 197 on today's Executive Calendar. I further ask unanimous consent that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD,