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[USDA (Department of Agriculture)/AmeriCorps 1995 Graduation, August 4, 1995, Forestry Center, Woodworth, Louisiana] [loose]

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Agenda

Opening Remarks

Donald W. Gohmert, State Conservationist
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Service for a Year/Service for a Lifetime
Lieutenant Governor Melinda Schwegmann
State of Louisiana

Macon Ridge Economic Development
Chip Rogers, Consultant
Macon Ridge Economic Development Region

Member Commitment to Getting Things Done
Benny R. Dobson, RC&D Coordinator
Twin Valley RC&D Area

USDA/AmeriCorps Caring for the Land and
Serving People
Danny Britt, Forest Supervisor
Kisatchie National Forest

USDA/AmeriCorps Commitment to Rural Fire
Protection
Charles Achane, President
Imperial-Calcasieu RC&D Council

Presentation of Awards by Agency
Representatives

Picnic Luncheon

Mission

*The mission of the USDA
AmeriCorps program is to
engage a diverse group of
Americans in working
partnerships with
communities to provide
real and measurable
service to meet
environmental and human
needs, while earning
educational benefits and
building an ethic of
service, responsibility,
and citizenship.*

USDA/AmeriCorps 1995 Graduation

August 4, 1995

Forestry Center
Woodworth, Louisiana

*Getting Things Done for
America*



1995 USDA/AmeriCorps Graduates

DOMINIC M. BEGGAN, NRCS
MARJORIE D. BETHEA, RECD
NAOMI W. BOLEY, RECD
CARL O. COLLINS, NRCS
SANDI L. ELEY, RECD
BOBBIE J. IGNONT, RECD
KIMBERLY G. KITTERLIN, RECD
TRESSA K. LANTZ, NRCS
CHRISTIE D. LEBLEU, NRCS
AMINUL H. MAHFUZ, FS
SUSAN H. MULLINS, FS
JUDITH T. NED, FS
ANGELA B. NORSWORTHY, NRCS
ZELMA POWELL, RECD
HENRY D. ROSENTHAL, RECD
ROBIN L. TORRENCE, NRCS
ALICIA TRISSLER, FS
WYDETTE L. WILLIAMS, RECD
LEE W. WOOLDRIDGE, RECD

NRCS - NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
RECD - RURAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
FS - FOREST SERVICE



Getting Things Done. . .

Today, Lieutenant Governor Melinda Schwegmann will address Louisiana's first class of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) AmeriCorps graduates at the Forestry Center in the Alexander State Forest near Woodworth, Louisiana. Participating USDA agencies will conduct a graduation ceremony to honor nineteen USDA/AmeriCorps members for their commitment to a *season of service*.

The Forestry Center was originally constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the early 1930's. As the CCC was created to provide national service through the enlistment of thousands of young Americans to do forestry, soil, and water conservation work, the AmeriCorps national service initiative was created to achieve results in addressing the nation's critical education, human service, public safety, and environmental needs at the community level.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program that passed with bipartisan support from Congress. Sometimes called the domestic Peace Corps, AmeriCorps engages 20,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs in return for an educational award. This educational award may be used to pay for college, job training, or graduate school, or to pay back student loans. The majority of AmeriCorps members are working in partnerships with states, local governments, and nonprofit organizations.

Lieutenant Governor Melinda Schwegmann established the Louisiana Serve Commission in 1992 to rekindle the spirit of service and citizenship among all Louisianians. The Commission serves as the focal point for national service efforts in the state and receives funding from the federal Corporation for National and Community Service, which was established under the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993. This Act also created the AmeriCorps National Service Program.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is operating three types of AmeriCorps teams in 38 states, composed of approximately 1,200 members: an Anti-Hunger Team, a Public Lands and Environment Team, and a Rural

For the Nation and Louisiana

Development Team. Community-based organizations sponsor many AmeriCorps projects and all projects are designed to get things done, while boosting community, opportunity, and responsibility. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Forest Service (FS), and Rural Economic and Community Development (RECD) are three USDA agencies in Louisiana with AmeriCorps Rural Development Teams.

The first class of USDA/AmeriCorps in Louisiana began their service to America in the fall of 1994. These new pioneers of national service have served their country by helping rural communities plan and install more than 2,000 dry fire hydrants on ponds or reservoirs to provide a source of water for rural fire districts; developing groundwater protection plans for rural landowners; preparing grant proposals for timber bridge funding; preparing grant proposals and brochures to increase tourism in the delta region; helping local school boards with projects to increase ACT scores; establishing tutoring programs to help students prepare for GED exams; preparing grant proposals for a Head-Start program and a program in folk art education; promoting the availability of various USDA Rural Economic and Community Development loan and grant programs for both agricultural and residential interests; promoting *Farm Safety 4 Just Kids*; and working with recent Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Community designations.

This year's graduating class of USDA/AmeriCorps members is continuing the long tradition of national service begun by the Civilian Conservation Corps and Peace Corps - a new generation *Getting Things Done for America!*

