

“If you were living in poverty, would you cross a border to save your family?” - **Heyra Avila**, speaking to us



Photo by Roger Smith

CPS senior Jose Cabrera was four when his family left Mexico for the United States to live as undocumented immigrants. His American dream? To be an automotive engineer.

In poignant session, immigration issues took on a human face

Your children are hungry, your opportunities limited and your family's future dark. Dark, that is, unless you act to change it.

Would you be willing to leave your family, slip across an international border at great personal peril, go to a strange city and find work doing hard labor, save until you had enough to get back home, slipping back across the border to gather your family and bring them to back to a foreign land where all you had was hope?

Such is the immigrant's story today, just as it has been across the arc of

American history, though today's immigrants are more likely Latino than British or German or Irish.

Cincinnatus members were reminded of the reality of this story at our May meeting, when the Inclusion Panel hosted two high school seniors, Heyra Avila and Jose Cabrera, who told us what is it like to leave family and familiarity behind to

MYTH BUSTING

Q: True or false: Immigrants don't pay taxes?

A: False: They pay an estimated \$90 to \$140 billion a year in federal, state and local taxes.

ALMOST THERE

OUR NEW WEBSITE TELLS THE CINCINNATUS STORY

\$25 FROM EACH MEMBER WILL SEAL THE DEAL

Haven't donated to the website revamp yet? Don't leave tonight without doing so. We need you.

HOW MUCH?

The math is simple: If every member gave \$25, we'd be there. But any amount helps. Some have given more. Because of their generosity, we've reached our \$3,000 goal to build the site. But we need a reserve fund to cover updates and the cost to troubleshoot any glitches.

LAUNCH DATE

We'll launch the new website on the evening of our October meeting.

WHY DID WE DO THIS?

Our old site was so 1990s. That is, out of date. It was dense with text and light on graphics, difficult to navigate and generally unfriendly to users. For the new site, our Marketing Committee met with experts to seek professional advice on building a 21st Century site with simple, clear navigation to robust, dynamic content.

HOW TO GIVE

Check. Cash. Online.

See **Roger Smith**.



HISTORY WAS MADE: HOMER'S NO-HITTER & OUR GOLDEN GLOVES

You can attend a lot of Reds games and never come home with a foul ball, much less two. But Cincinnatus did it on July 3rd, when President Mark Silbersack hosted the Executive Committee in his law firm's box to watch what turned out to be Homer Bailey's historic night. Historic for us, too, when **Bob Schrage** fielded one fly ball and **Colleen McTague** another. Cool!

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1 /

IMMIGRATION

start anew in a land where you don't speak the language, don't know anyone other than your immediate family and often feel unwelcome.

Their message to us was a familiar one, often heard in today's political discourse: We need immigration reform — a path to citizenship for the millions of undocumented immigrants who work, pay taxes and otherwise contribute to our nation's vitality.

But if the story and the issue were familiar, the power with which Heya and Jose told it was not. Before us were two strikingly poised, well-spoken young people whose passion for America and its opportunities were evident.

FACT CHECK

A record 7-in-10 Hispanic high school graduates in the Class of 2012 enrolled in college that fall, 2 percentage points higher than the rate (67%) among their white counterparts. At the same time, the high school drop-out rate among Latino youths has come down by half — from 28% in 2000 to 14% in 2011.

-Pew Hispanic Center

What they endured to reach this point in their lives was also striking, crossing deserts in the dark of night, afraid and uncertain. Heya ended up in school in Northern Kentucky, a kindergartner who would have to teach herself to speak English. While she learned, she was

ostracized. Eventually, tests identified her as "gifted and talented," and she was put on an academic path of support that made her a star student and statewide winner in speech contests.

Jose, a troubled kid who was angry at the world, came to a realization before he was 10 that to succeed he would need to excel in school. He saw how hard his mom, a single mother, worked — and committed himself to honor that work. His high school GPA, a 3.6, was evidence of his commitment.

So are his college goals; he loves cars and intends to be an automotive engineer. No one who heard him speak doubts he'll achieve that goal.



Gov. John J. Gilligan

FAREWELL, GOVERNOR

Gov. John J. Gilligan, who died Aug. 26 at age 92, was an honorary member of Cincinnatus, and it was an honor he took seriously.

As member **John Simpkinson** put it, "Jack came to many meetings and often had some sage remarks and questions for the speakers."

The governor's obituary included a summary of his beliefs that reads, in a very real sense, like a call to action for all of us in Cincinnatus:

"Jack Gilligan believed that politics was the noblest of professions. He believed that citizens, properly informed, could work together to solve their most difficult problems. He often reminded us never to underestimate the intelligence of the voters or to overestimate the quality of information they have to make decisions vital to their lives."

... FRANK, TOO

Frank G. Davis passed away on May 20 at the age of 95.

Frank was president of Cincinnatus in 1970-71 and major contributor to many of the association's accomplishments, especially in education. "Frank was very smart, had a wonderfully dry sense of humor and was a true friend," said **John Frank**, another past president.

OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

The Executive Committee approved three new members at its August meeting: **Anne Sesler, Barbara Meyers** and **Gayle Hilleke**.

KROGER CARD & CINCINNATUS

We are now participating in the Kroger Community Rewards Program. More info on the table but be sure to register online.