



◀ Ed Kichi, right, came to the aid of his colleague, Ed Velasquez, who suffered a seizure at work and lost consciousness.

Colleague's Quick Thinking Helped Save a Co-Worker's Life

By ERIC RAPP

(May 30, 2002) Contract Administrator Ed Velasquez was working in his cubicle at MTA Headquarters, April 1, when he suffered a sudden seizure and lost consciousness.

"I was on the phone talking to a law firm," he says, "and the next thing I knew I was in the hospital."

Fortunately for Velasquez, a colleague – Senior Contract Administrator Ed Kichi – was the first person able to help. He knew right away that the problem was serious. "Ed was turning colors and he had no pulse."

Using training he had received in the Marine Corps, Kichi quickly stabilized Velasquez and administered CPR. "There was no hesitation," he says. "I never gave it a second thought."

Kichi was able to revive Velasquez and start him breathing again. Mark Penn and Steve Goodwin, also of the Contract Administration department, helped move Velasquez onto his side so he could breathe more easily.

When emergency medical technicians arrived, they credited Kichi's quick action with saving Velasquez's life.

The MTA Board later recognized Kichi with a Resolution of Appreciation for his courage and compassion in helping to save the life of his co-worker.

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