

T H E O R A N G E C O U N T Y
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1952 | **Rusty Kennedy**
Fullerton
Fighting injustice

Rusty Kennedy starts standing up for human rights when he's lying down. In his stroller. His mother, Natalie, pushes baby Rusty around their Golden Hills neighborhood in Fullerton as she collects signatures to fight a deed restriction that discriminates against an Asian family wanting to move in.

By age 11, it's Rusty who's knocking on doors and doing the talking. He later marches with Cesar Chavez to protect farm workers' rights and faces dozens of Fullerton police officers in full riot gear during a Vietnam War protest at California State University, Fullerton. He comes close to being suspended from Fullerton High School and tossed off the tennis team because his hair grazes his collar.

"My parents taught us that we live a very privileged life, and there



are injustices all around us," he says, "We have a responsibility to give back and to fight injustices."

— **RUSTY** is executive director of the Orange County Human Relations Commission. He lives in his childhood home in Fullerton.