



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 09-016

BY SENATOR(S) Bacon and Romer, Boyd, Brophy, Cadman, Carroll M., Foster, Gibbs, Groff, Harvey, Heath, Hodge, Hudak, Isgar, Keller, Kester, King K., Kopp, Lundberg, Mitchell, Morse, Newell, Penry, Renfroe, Sandoval, Scheffel, Schwartz, Shaffer B., Spence, Tapia, Tochtrop, Veiga, White, Williams;

also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Kefalas, Acree, Apuan, Balmer, Benefield, Bradford, Casso, Court, Curry, Ferrandino, Fischer, Frangas, Gagliardi, Gardner B., Gardner C., Gerou, Green, Hullinghorst, Judd, Kerr A., Kerr J., King S., Labuda, Lambert, Levy, Liston, Looper, Marostica, Massey, May, McCann, McFadyen, McGihon, McKinley, McNulty, Merrifield, Middleton, Miklosi, Murray, Nikkel, Pace, Peniston, Pommer, Primavera, Priola, Rice, Riesberg, Roberts, Ryden, Scanlan, Schafer S., Solano, Sonnenberg, Soper, Stephens, Summers, Swalm, Tipton, Todd, Vaad, Vigil, Waller, Weissmann.

CONCERNING THE RECOGNITION OF THE PEACE CORPS ON THE OCCASION OF ITS FORTY-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY.

WHEREAS, On October 14, 1960, presidential candidate John F. Kennedy addressed more than 10,000 students at the University of Michigan and issued the following challenge: How many of them, he asked, would be willing to serve their country and the cause of peace by living and working in the developing world?; and

WHEREAS, The concept President Kennedy evoked that day later became the basis for creating the Peace Corps during his presidency; and

WHEREAS, On March 1, 1961, President John F. Kennedy signed the executive order establishing the Peace Corps; and

WHEREAS, Through the Peace Corps, President Kennedy created a pool of American volunteers sent overseas to help foreign countries meet

their urgent need for trained men and women and to promote understanding between Americans and other peoples; and

WHEREAS, President Kennedy intended that the resources and talents of private institutions and groups would be used to further the goals of the Peace Corps, making it clear that the responsibility for peace is the responsibility of our entire society; and

WHEREAS, The Peace Corps has become an enduring symbol of our nation's commitment to encourage progress, create opportunity, and expand development at the grass roots level in the developing world; and

WHEREAS, One hundred ninety-five thousand Americans have served as Peace Corps Volunteers and trainees in 139 countries since 1961; and

WHEREAS, Over the last 48 years, 6,201 men and women from the state of Colorado have responded to our nation's call to serve by joining the Peace Corps; and

WHEREAS, There are 7,876 Americans, including 272 Coloradans, currently serving in the Peace Corps; and

WHEREAS, The University of Colorado at Boulder, Colorado State University, the University of Northern Colorado, and Colorado College rank among the leading United States colleges and universities for the number of currently serving Peace Corps Volunteers; and

WHEREAS, The late Maurice Albertson, a Colorado State University researcher and Centennial Emeritus Professor, and fellow Colorado State University researchers Andrew Rice and Pauline Birky-Kreutzer were instrumental in the creation of the Peace Corps, as they responded to a request for a proposal in 1960 from the federal government for a model to encourage the nation's youth to serve in developing countries; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's first lady, Jeannie Ritter, who served in the Peace Corps in Tunisia in 1982, is among the many notable Americans who are former Peace Corps Volunteers; and

WHEREAS, Peace Corps Volunteers have made significant and lasting contributions around the world in agriculture, business development,

information technology, education, health and HIV/AIDS, and the environment and have improved the lives of individuals and communities around the world; and

WHEREAS, Peace Corps Volunteers have strengthened the ties of friendship between the people of the United States and those of other countries; and

WHEREAS, Peace Corps Volunteers, enriched by their experiences overseas, have brought their communities throughout the United States a deeper understanding of other cultures and traditions, thereby bringing a domestic dividend to our nation; and

WHEREAS, Returned volunteers nationwide will celebrate a special Peace Corps Week honoring the agency's 48th anniversary from February 23 through March 2, 2009; and

WHEREAS, It is indeed fitting to recognize the achievements of the Peace Corps and honor its volunteers, past and present, and reaffirm our nation's commitment to helping people help themselves throughout the world; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-seventh General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, congratulate and commend the Peace Corps for 48 years of service and contributions that have positively affected many lives around the world.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be transmitted to Jody K. Olson, Acting Director of the Peace Corps, and Sharon Sugarek, Dallas Regional Manager of the Peace Corps, whose jurisdiction includes the state of Colorado.

Peter C. Groff
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Terrance D. Carroll
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Karen Goldman
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES