

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 18—RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE PEACE CORPS OVER THE PAST 40 YEARS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. CHAFEE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

S. CON. RES. 18

Whereas the Peace Corps has become a powerful symbol of the commitment of the United States to encourage progress, create opportunity, and expand development at the grassroots level in the developing world;

Whereas more than 162,000 Americans have served as Peace Corps volunteers in 134 countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Central Asia, Eastern and Central Europe, and Central and South America since 1961;

Whereas Peace Corps volunteers have made significant and lasting contributions around the world in agriculture, business, education, health, and the environment, and have improved the lives of individuals and communities around the world;

Whereas Peace Corps volunteers have strengthened the ties of friendship and understanding between the people of the United States and those of other countries;

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 the United States;

Whereas Peace Corps volunteers embody and represent many of the most enduring values of the United States, such as a spirit of service, a commitment to helping others, and a call for friendship among nations;

Whereas the Peace Corps continues to receive broad, bipartisan support in Congress and from the American people; and

Whereas March 1, 2001, will mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Peace Corps: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That—*

(1) the achievements and contributions of the Peace Corps over the past 40 years be celebrated;

(2) the dedication and sacrifice of Peace Corps volunteers, past and present, be recognized and their continued contributions be acknowledged not only for their service in other countries but also in their own communities; and

(3) the President is requested to honor Peace Corps volunteers and reaffirm the commitment of the United States to international peace and understanding.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this concurrent resolution to the President.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a resolution celebrating the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Peace Corps. Many of my colleagues know of my history as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic, and the great impact that that experience had on me. Serving outside of the United States and seeing the shortcomings of other nations, I grew to appreciate this nation more and more, and developed a strong sense of what it means to be an Amer-

ican. And, I was proud to share my experiences as a United States citizen with the people I was sent to help. At the end of the day, the smiling faces of the people in the community in which I was stationed made all my hard work worthwhile.

My experience as a Peace Corps volunteer was almost 33 years ago, when the Peace Corps was still a relatively new organization. But, under the leadership of such distinguished directors as Sargent Shriver, Loret Ruppe, Paul Coverdell, Mark Schneider, and all the other directors in the Peace Corps history, the organization has grown and grown. I am proud to stand here today and report that from its humble beginnings as a method for Americans to share their expertise and assistance with other nations, the Peace Corps has grown into an organization that sends more than 7,000 volunteers to 76 different countries a year.

These volunteers are really the heart and soul of the Peace Corps. They are the ones at the front lines, working hard and making individual connections with the citizens of the countries in which they work. Since 1961, Peace Corps volunteers have brought a wealth of practical assistance to communities in Africa, Latin America, Asia, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and the Pacific. They have worked at such disparate tasks as halting the spread of AIDS, advising small business owners, protecting the environment, educating students, and increasing farm yields. Volunteers have played a vital role in short-term disaster relief and humanitarian efforts. In the face of many personal and physical challenges, Peace Corps volunteers offer their ingenuity and an approach to problem solving that is both optimistic and pragmatic. Above all, the Peace Corps enduring success is rooted in volunteer's commitment to leave behind skills that allow people to take charge of their own futures.

Peace Corps volunteers also make a difference at home by continuing their community service and strengthening Americans' appreciation of other cultures. By visiting classrooms, working with community groups, and speaking with friends and family members, volunteers help others learn more about the world in which we live and help build a legacy of service for the next generation.

Today, the Peace Corps continues to strengthen existing programs and expand its activities around the world, including new programs in Mozambique, Bangladesh, and Georgia. The Peace Corps also plans to graduate from several countries where volunteers have made significant progress during a critical period of transformation, including Poland, the Slovak Republic, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

Current volunteers are somewhat different than the volunteers of the early

years when I was a volunteer. The average age has risen from 22 to 28, the percentage of women has increased from 35 to 60, the number of volunteers with graduate degrees is growing, and today's volunteers represent the most ethnically diverse group so far. However, today's volunteers share a characteristic with their predecessors that is a cornerstone of Peace Corps service—a commitment to the spirit of volunteerism and service that President Kennedy first envisioned 40 years ago.

Today, on Peace Corps Day, thousands of returned volunteers will celebrate by sharing the knowledge and insights gained from their overseas experiences with school groups and local communities throughout the United States. A series of activities are also planned in the Peace Corps countries, where volunteers and their host country colleagues will celebrate their accomplishments and the universal goals of partnership and goodwill.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting this resolution celebrating the Peace Corps and its worldwide network on the 40th anniversary of the Peace Corps, and in honoring Peace Corps volunteers, past and present, for their four decades of service to the world.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Rules and Administration will meet at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, February 28, 2001, in Room SR-301 Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct its organizational meeting for the 107th Congress.

For further information concerning this meeting, please contact Tam Somerville at the committee on 4-6352.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Governmental Affairs will hold hearings entitled "The Role of U.S. Correspondent Banking In International Money Laundering." The upcoming hearings will focus on correspondent banking as a vehicle for money laundering; the role of offshore banks in international money laundering; and the efforts of financial entities, federal regulators, and law enforcement to limit money laundering activities within the United States.

The hearings will take place on Thursday, March 1; Friday, March 2; and Tuesday, March 6, 2001, at 9:30 a.m. each day, in room 342 of the Dirksen Senate office Building. For further information, please contact Linda Gustitus of the subcommittee's minor-ity staff at 224-9505.