

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 158) to recognize the Peace Corps on the occasion of its 35th anniversary and the Americans who have served as Peace Corps volunteers.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 158

Whereas the Peace Corps has become a powerful symbol of America's commitment to expand hope, create opportunity, and encourage development at the grass roots level in the developing world;

Whereas more than 140,000 Americans have served as Peace Corps volunteers in more than 125 countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Central Asia, Eastern and Central Europe, and the Western Hemisphere since 1961, and have strengthened the ties of friendship and understanding between the people of the United States and those of other countries;

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

Whereas Peace Corps volunteers, enriched by their experiences overseas, have brought to their communities throughout the United States a deeper understanding of other cultures and traditions;

Whereas Peace Corps volunteers embody and represent many of America's most enduring values, such as service, commitment to the poor, and friendship among nations;

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

Whereas March 1, 1996 will mark the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Peace Corps: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the achievements and contributions of the Peace Corps over the past 35 years be celebrated; that the dedication and sacrifice of Peace Corps volunteers be recognized and their continued contributions be acknowledged not only for their service in other countries but in their own communities; and that the President is requested to honor Peace Corps volunteers and reaffirm our Nation's commitment to international peace and understanding.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] and the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. MORAN] will each be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER].

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Joint Resolution 158 recognizes the Peace Corps and its volunteers on its 35th anniversary year. Mr. FARR and the five other original cosponsors of this resolution are all former Peace Corps volunteers now

serving their country here in the Congress. Their resolution recognizes the sacrifice and dedication of Peace Corps volunteers, both in their assigned countries and here at home after they return on the occasion of the Corps's 35th anniversary.

I will note that since the first volunteer stepped off the plane in 1961 at a little airport in Ghana, over 140,000 Americans have become Peace Corps veterans in the service of peace, understanding and development. Today, Peace Corps volunteers are older, more experienced and specialized but their mission is still the same: development and basic American values in the developing world at the grassroots level.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], the distinguished chairman of the full committee.

Mr. GILMAN. I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, we all can agree on the bipartisan strength of the Peace Corps in the 104th Congress. Founded under President Kennedy and its first Director, Sargent Shriver, the Peace Corps grew through the 1960's and 1970's but really came to the crossroads in the 1980's. I want to make a special note for the longest serving Peace Corps Director, Ms. Loret Ruppe, whose energy, drive, and dedication set the Peace Corps' goal that we still support today: 10,000 volunteers by the year 2000. Loret is now struggling with cancer but her mission and her impact on the Corps is still felt today. As Loret used to say, "Peace Corps volunteers are working today to help the African farmer and her husband * * *."

Last month, we debated a highly controversial State Department bill on the House floor. I think that one provision of that bill we could all support was the funding levels for the Peace Corps. The House conferees and especially former Peace Corps Director, Senator PAUL COVERDELL of Georgia, joined together to ensure funding for the Peace Corps, even in these tough budgetary times. Under its new Director, Mark Geran, I think this Congress is expecting a lot from the Peace Corps in its next 35 years.

I recommend this resolution to the House and urge its support.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER], the subcommittee chairman, and the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], the full committee chairman, for bringing this resolution before the House. It is actually cosponsored by six Members of the House who are former Peace Corps volunteers: MIKE WARD, JIM WALSH, TONY HALL, CHRIS SHAYS, TOM PETRI, and SAM FARR.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California [Mr. FARR] who has come all the way from his district to speak on this.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as one of the six returned Peace Corps volunteers now serving in the House, and I rise in support of House Resolution 158, recognizing the Peace Corps' 35th anniversary.

Let me first take a minute to thank Chairman GILMAN and the Ranking Minority Member HAMILTON for bringing this measure to the floor. I also want to thank Mark Geran, who is the Director of the Peace Corps, who has been instrumental in the continuing success of the agency, as well as the other returned Peace Corps volunteers now serving in this country and serving in this Congress, my colleagues Representative TONY HALL of Ohio, Representative TOM PETRI, Representative MIKE WARD, Representative JIM WALSH, and Representative CHRIS SHAYS.

President Kennedy created this international service organization 35 years ago to promote international goodwill. During his powerful inaugural address, he challenged Americans with, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," and many of them, including myself at that time, responded to that call and joined the Peace Corps in the early 1960's. The creation of the Peace Corps was part of this vision of his.

Today, there are currently 7,000 Americans working as Peace Corps volunteers. The average age in 1961, when President Kennedy made his call, was 22 years of age. Today, in 1996, the average age is 29 years old. Over 500 volunteers are over the age of 50. The educational experience of volunteers has grown; more volunteers with graduate degrees than ever before.

Over 140,000 returned volunteers have served in the Peace Corps in more than 125 countries, in Africa, Asia, Eastern and Central Europe. They have also served in the South Pacific and in Latin America.

The Peace Corps was formally established by Executive order on March 1, 1961. Volunteers were sent to Ghana, Colombia, and Tanzania, and over 850 volunteers were in the field by the end of the first year.

Soon volunteers teaching in schools were joined by those working in agriculture, health and nutrition, forestry, and fisheries. In the 1980's, the Peace Corps was refined and developed new initiatives in response to the special needs of the developing world.

In Lesotho, in Mali, and Niger, Peace Corps began the Africa Food Systems Initiative to assist farmers in need of innovative ways to increase food production. In the Caribbean, the Peace Corps has developed initiatives to stimulate job-creating small enterprises.

The Peace Corps has undertaken a lot of new initiatives. The Peace Corps has plans to send volunteers to South Africa in response to a request for assistance from President Nelson Mandela. The Peace Corps has also resumed its presence in Haiti following

the successful presidential elections. Currently the Peace Corps is investigating the feasibility of sending volunteers to the Middle East and to Cambodia.

The agency plans on development of a Crisis Corps to respond to natural disasters in developing countries. The story about that reached our office when volunteers were calling about the situation in Rwanda, saying that they had been there and served and spoke the language and knew the customs and the culture. They knew the history and the politics and they wanted to be able to go back. We did not have a facility in law to allow that, so we had to ask the State Department to make a special process for that, and that is what is now being developed into this Crisis Corps, so that indeed when we do have people that have the skills that are needed in countries with disasters, we can immediately get them there.

The purpose of the Peace Corps' mission is to promote world peace. Peace Corps volunteers have made significant and lasting contributions around the world in agriculture, business development, education, environmental health, and youth development, and they have improved the lives of thousands all over the world. The Peace Corps has become a powerful symbol of international humanitarianism.

The Peace Corps teaches volunteers the value of service and the value of commitment. The agency is an example of America's commitment to expanding hope, to creating opportunity and offering the volunteers an experience that they will remember for a lifetime.

At a time when funding for foreign assistance programs is under severe constraints, it is notable that the Peace Corps continues to enjoy strong support in this Congress and among the American people.

The agency is facing a strong future. In Friday's Washington Post it was quoted that the Peace Corps is the employer with the most job openings for graduates of the class of 1996. In fact, the demand for Peace Corps volunteers overseas far exceeds our ability to supply that demand, and I hope that in Congress we will appreciate that as we look at its budget next year and realize this is one area that is extremely cost effective. If we want to get a good bang for the buck, the Peace Corps is there and the countries want us to come.

The annual survey by Black Collegian magazine stated that the agency plans to recruit over 3,000 graduates. That is the third highest employer in the country. So while the Peace Corps is promoting international goodwill, it is key in benefiting our domestic economy as well.

Please join me and my colleagues in supporting this resolution to recognize the Peace Corps on the occasion of its 35th anniversary, and the contributions and achievements that its volunteers have brought home to America and are now achieving in countries all over the world.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FARR of California. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman I have been on the Foreign Operations Subcommittee for 14 of the last 16 years, and the Peace Corps is one of the best things that we do in foreign relations, without any question. Even in the tough budgetary times in which we find ourselves, we have to maintain that commitment and increase it if we possibly can, and make certain that this good program, which after all is people-to-people, not government-to-government, people-to-people, continues and is strongly supported by the Congress.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the support on both sides of the aisle. I think this program is one that we can all be proud of, and in a time when people think that there is debate and rancor among the parties in Congress, I can tell that this is one area where we all agree that America has created a fantastic opportunity for its youth, for its people of all ages to be able to experience overseas living as minorities in another land.

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As a return volunteer, I reflect on my experience every day, and I appreciate the support Congress is giving it.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is amazing that there have only been 140,000 volunteers over the last 35 years, when you consider the profound impact that the Peace Corps has had in the lives of individuals and in fact in the progress of nations around the world. But the impact has also been felt in terms of the volunteers. We just heard from one. There are several others in this body.

The fact is that the leaders in government and in industry in America today in many ways share that common experience of having been Peace Corps volunteers. I hope that will continue to be the case, because not only do we share our national know-how and goodwill, but we benefit a great deal with that broadened experience.

I just want to say that we in the minority, as well as the gentleman from New York, Chairman GILMAN, expressed for the majority, applaud President Clinton's selection of Mark Gearan to be Director of the Peace Corps. We could not have had a better choice. We appreciate the fact that again we have a broad bipartisan support for this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Joint Resolution 158 recognizing the Peace Corps on its 35th anniversary.

President John Kennedy created this international service organization 35 years ago to promote international goodwill. During his powerful inaugural speech the young President challenged Americans with, "Ask not

what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." The Peace Corps was part of this vision for how Americans could play a positive role in the developing world. In its 35 years, the Peace Corps has come to represent what is best about our country and our character as a people: our ability to forge a spirit of idealism with a commonsense approach to what works for people who need and want our help.

My other returned Peace Corps volunteer colleagues and I know the value of volunteer service and the significance of this fine agency. I had the benefit of serving in the Peace Corps in Colombia in the early 1960's. That experience has led me to serve my community in local, State, and Federal government. Peace Corps taught me the value of service, responsibility, and commitment.

Currently, there are nearly 7,000 Americans working as Peace Corps volunteers. They work at the grass-roots level in places far from their homes and families. Some volunteers do not see other Americans for months at a time. They are completely entrenched in their countries of service. They speak the language, eat their food, and share their culture. They put a face on America and its values around the world.

Volunteers serve in many different programs ranging from the traditional education and health programs to promoting new sustainable programs to benefit agriculture, the environment, and economic development.

Education remains Peace Corps' largest program. Over 40 percent of all volunteers teach English, mathematics, science, and business studies. They work in special education, vocational educations, and nonformal education activities for adults and at-risk youth. In addition to classroom teaching, volunteers work closely with local educators to share methodology, integrate relevant content and resource centers and teaching materials. In Cameroon, volunteers have helped develop a manual on teaching HIV/AIDS prevention in English-language classes. The manual has since been adopted for public use by the Ministry of Education.

Teaching and prevention of HIV/AIDS to citizens in high-risk groups has played a major part in the health services provided by volunteers. In Thailand, volunteers have conducted surveys to help the country update its HIV/AIDS education materials. Other health services performed by volunteers include providing primary health care services to many of the world's women and children including maternal and child health activities, nutrition, community health education, and water and sanitation projects.

Peace Corps is the leader in protecting the global environment. The focus of the environmental strategy is on community work, teaching conservation of national resources, and sustainable resource management. Much of the environmental work is in forestry management, reforestation, and watershed management. The fastest growing new project activity is environmental educations. Volunteers in Tanzania, home of the largest wildlife refuge are involved in projects ranging from codifying Tanzanian environmental law to ensure protection of exported birds to preparing a management plan for Ileje Forestry Reserve and teaching environmental education in the schools.

Food production remains to be a priority for many nations in Africa, Asia, Latin America,

and the former Soviet Union. Rapidly expanding populations, changes in climate, and a series of natural and man-made disasters have created serious food shortages. With most people in developing nations still practicing subsistence farming, there is a critical need to introduce and apply sustainable agricultural techniques to village farmers. In Guatemala, volunteers are teaching farmers how to increase their family incomes and produce animal protein for dietary intake through the integration of fish and small animal production.

The fastest growing program for volunteers is economic development especially in Eastern Europe. Volunteers promote local economic development through self-sustaining income and employment producing practices. Working with local community leaders, businesses, and trade associations, volunteers teach business management, commercial banking and related skills assisting local efforts to establish free market economies. In Poland, a volunteer has been instrumental in establishing 46 small businesses with no-interest loans from the local government with only a 6-percent default rate.

The Peace Corps has become a powerful symbol of international humanitarianism. It is a goal which hundreds of people strive toward each year. Not just young college graduates, but people of all ages. In fact, 9 percent of Peace Corps volunteers are over 50 years old.

The Peace Corps remains a popular calling; there is not one State in the country which has not sent a Peace Corps volunteer. In my State of California, over 20,000 people have volunteered to serve around the world.

The Peace Corps has become a powerful symbol of America's commitment to expand hope, create opportunity, and encourage development at the grassroots level in the developing world.

Volunteers embody and represent many of America's most enduring values, such as service, commitment to the poor, and friendship among nations. Returned volunteers, enriched by their experiences overseas, have brought to their communities throughout the United States a deeper understanding of other cultures and traditions.

At a time when funding for foreign assistance programs is under severe constraints, it is notable that the Peace Corps continues to enjoy strong support in the Congress and among the American people. That is a tribute to the thousands of Americans—young and old—who have served over the past 35 years, often under very difficult conditions. And it is a tribute to the visionary but simple idea behind the Peace Corps; that the world will be a more peaceful place if we understand one another better and if we can help those in need improve their own lives and that of their families and communities.

Join me in supporting House Joint Resolution 158, recognizing and honoring the Peace Corps' achievements and contributions and its volunteers over the past 35 years.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking my colleague from California, Mr. FARR, for his work on this resolution, and his consistent efforts in the past to recognize and support the Peace Corps.

Since 1961, when President John F. Kennedy signed an Executive order establishing the Peace Corps, 140,000 men and women have represented America by volunteering in 125 countries around the world. I am proud to say that I am among that number.

For me, the Peace Corps represents the best that this Government has to offer. When we bring together dedicated, energetic people and arm them with tools to work in foreign communities as ambassadors of peace, things happen—people's lives improve—and we all benefit. Today, nearly 7,000 such dedicated individuals are serving as Peace Corps volunteers in 94 different countries. They are improving the environmental, agricultural, and business infrastructures in those nations. They are educating the children, caring for the sick, and teaching the poorest of the poor how to help themselves. But, most importantly, these volunteers are the face of America for people across the globe. They are people-to-people diplomats building a peaceful world from the ground up.

But, it's not easy. I know first-hand the challenges and difficulties that these Peace Corps volunteers face. I also know the tremendous rewards. My Peace Corps experience changed my life. When I graduated from college in 1964, I had dreams of playing pro football, making big money, and driving fast cars. Instead, I ended up teaching English and riding a bicycle through the jungles of Thailand.

During my first night in Thailand, I sat in a restaurant and watched a cat chase a rat across the floor and devour it. I thought, "What am I doing here." But, as I got to know the people in the village, my whole outlook changed. I came home from Thailand with a better understanding of the world, with my priorities in order, and prepared for a life of public service.

No other institution does what the Peace Corps does. It serves the needy of the world in concrete, practical ways. It promotes world peace. And, every year, it brings 3,000 experienced, multicultural, and compassionate volunteers back home to America. During its long and distinguished history, the Peace Corps has enjoyed wide public approval and bipartisan support here in Congress. I certainly hope that that support continues as the 1997 appropriation process goes forward.

Today, as it celebrates its 35th anniversary, the Peace Corps deserves our highest recognition and I commend all of its past and current volunteers for 35 years of success.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, House Joint Resolution 158.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the joint resolution was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DETERIORATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 345), expressing concern about the deterioration of human rights in Cambodia, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 345

Whereas the Paris Peace Accords of 1991 and the successful national elections of 1993

ended two decades of civil war and genocide in Cambodia, demonstrated the commitment of the Cambodian people to democracy and stability, and established a national constitution guaranteeing fundamental human rights;

Whereas since 1991 the international community has contributed more than \$3,000,000,000 to peacekeeping and national reconstruction in Cambodia and currently provides over 40 percent of the budget of the Cambodian Government;

Whereas recent events in Cambodia, including the arrest and exile of former Foreign Minister Prince Sirivudh, the expulsion of the former Finance Minister Sam Rainsy from the government coalition FUNCINPEC Party and the National Assembly, a grenade attack against the independent Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party of Cambodia, and mob attacks against pro-opposition newspapers, suggest that Cambodia is sliding back into a pattern of violence and repression;

Whereas rampant official corruption in the Cambodian Government has emerged as a major cause of public dissatisfaction, which in turn has resulted in the government crackdown against these outspoken opposition politicians and the press;

Whereas heroin traffic in and through Cambodia has become so widespread that Cambodia has been added to the Department of State's list of major narcotics trafficking countries;

Whereas the desire to cite Cambodia as a success story for United Nations peacekeeping and international cooperation has stifled the expression of concern about deteriorating human rights conditions in Cambodia; and

Whereas conditions in Cambodia have deteriorated since the House of Representatives passed House Bill 1642 on July 11, 1995, which grants Cambodia unconditional most favored trading status: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) urges the Secretary of State to make human rights concerns among the primary objectives in bilateral relations with Cambodia;

(2) urges the Secretary of State to closely monitor preparations for upcoming Cambodian elections in 1997 and 1998 and attempt to secure the agreement of the Cambodian Government to full and unhindered participation of international observers for these elections;

(3) urges the Secretary of State to support the continuation of human rights monitoring in Cambodia by the United Nations, including monitoring through the office of the United Nations Center for Human Rights in Phnom Penh and monitoring by the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Human Rights in Cambodia;

(4) urges the Secretary of State to encourage Cambodia's other donors and trading partners to raise human rights concerns with Cambodia;

(5) supports efforts by the United States to provide assistance to Cambodia to broaden democratic civil society, to strengthen the rule of law and to ensure that future elections in Cambodia are free and fair; and

(6) urges that the United States raise human rights concerns at the June 1996 meeting of the Donor's Consultative Meeting for Cambodia and during consideration of projects in Cambodia to be financed by international financial institutions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. MORAN] will each be recognized for 20 minutes.