

2011-J875

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the United States Peace Corps for 50 years of promoting peace and friendship around the world, to congratulate the organization on the occasion of its 50th anniversary, and to honor the active and returned Peace Corps volunteers of New York

WHEREAS, The United States Peace Corps traces its roots and mission to 1960, when then-Senator John F. Kennedy challenged students to serve their country in the cause of peace by living and working in developing countries; and

WHEREAS, From that inspiration grew a new agency of the federal government, established by Executive Order 10924 on March 1, 1961, and devoted to world peace and friendship; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its history, the United States Peace Corps has adapted and responded to the issues and challenges of the times with innovation, creativity, determination, and compassion; and

WHEREAS, Peace Corps volunteers have made significant and lasting contributions around the world in agriculture, education, health, business development, and the environment, and have helped people build better lives for themselves; their work in villages, towns, and cities around the globe represents a legacy of service that has become a significant part of America's history and positive image abroad; and

WHEREAS, This unique heritage continues to inspire and, since 1961, more than 200,000 Americans have joined the United States Peace Corps, serving in 139 countries and making a difference every day; of these, 12,392 volunteers have come from New York State, including members of this legislature, making it the second highest volunteering state; and

WHEREAS, Currently, 8,600 volunteers and trainees serve in 77 nations, including 445 volunteers from New York State; and

WHEREAS, Peace Corps volunteers have strengthened the ties of friend-

ship and understanding between the people of the United States and those of other countries; and

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

WHEREAS, Today's Peace Corps is more vital than ever; Peace Corps volunteers continue to help countless individuals who want to build a better life for themselves, their children, and their communities; and

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

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the United States Peace Corps for 50 years of promoting peace and friendship around the world, to congratulate the organization on the occasion of its 50th anniversary, and to honor the active and returned Peace Corps volunteers of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the United States Peace Corps.