

Madam Speaker, President Kennedy, speaking 46 years ago at the establishment of the Peace Corps, remarked that, "The initial reactions to the Peace Corps proposal are convincing proof that we have, in this country, an immense reservoir of such men and women--anxious to sacrifice their energies and time and toil to the cause of world peace and human progress." What was true in 1961 is true today; Peace Corps Volunteers are an outstanding group of men and women serving the cause of humanity across the globe.

During this National Peace Corps Week, I want to honor the service and commitment of the Peace Corps Volunteers from Oregon's 3rd Congressional district and express my pride in my fellow Oregonians who have chosen to devote years of their lives in service to others.

In particular, I want to recognize those Peace Corps Volunteers who have begun their service in the past year: Annie Crater (Honduras), Michelle Gerdes (Tanzania), Benjamin Grace (Niger), Eli Mechanic (Morocco), James Murphy (Mali), Nicole Probst (Malawi), Radhika Reddy (Burkina Faso), Michael Thoresz (Belize), and Lauren Towery (Romania).

Their work to empower people and communities in developing countries is an invaluable contribution to creating a safe and prosperous world, building bridges between America and the world, and establishing a better future for people everywhere.