**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO COMMEND THE UNITED STATES PEACE CORPS FOR ITS MANY YEARS OF PROMOTING PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP AROUND THE WORLD, TO CONGRATULATE THE ORGANIZATION ON THE OCCASION OF ITS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY, AND TO HONOR THE RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS OF SOUTH CAROLINA ON ITS TWENTY‑FIFTH ANNIVERSARY.

Whereas, the United States Peace Corps traces its roots and mission to 1960, when then‑Senator John F. Kennedy challenged students at the University of Michigan 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, since that time, more than two hundred thousand Peace Corps Volunteers have served in one hundred thirty‑nine host countries to work on issues ranging from AIDS education to information technology and environmental preservation. Currently, there are 8,600 volunteers and trainees serving in seventy‑seven nations; and

Whereas, service in the Peace Corps is a life‑defining leadership experience. Volunteers return to the United States with leadership, language, cross‑cultural understanding, and technical skills that enable them to be better citizens; and

Whereas, over the past fifty years, 1,383 South Carolinians have served as Peace Corps volunteers, with eighty‑three presently serving across the globe; and

Whereas, in 1986, the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of South Carolina (RPCV of South Carolina) was established to coincide with the twenty‑fifth anniversary of the United States Peace Corps, making 2011 the twenty‑fifth anniversary of the RPCV of South Carolina; 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, the House of Representatives takes great pleasure in congratulating the Peace Corps and RPCV of South Carolina on their respective anniversaries and in honoring their missions and legacies of service, and the members extend best wishes for continued productive service in the years to come. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, commend the United States Peace Corps for its many years of promoting peace and friendship around the world, congratulate the organization on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary, and honor the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of South Carolina on its twenty‑fifth anniversary.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Ford Graham, president of the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of South Carolina.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑