

Senators Bieda, Kowall, Anderson and Gleason offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 9.

A resolution to recognize the Peace Corps on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary on March 1, 2011.

Whereas, On October 14, 1960, then-United States Senator John F. Kennedy spoke before students at the University of Michigan to challenge America's youth to realize a greater purpose for their education than a mere economic advantage; and

Whereas, Since the institution's establishment on March 1, 1961, more than 200,000 Peace Corps volunteers have served in 139 host countries to help meet the need for trained individuals while promoting better understanding between Americans and the other people of the world; and

Whereas, Across the globe, Peace Corps volunteers have fought the HIV/AIDS epidemic, administered technical training for organizations, promoted cross-cultural understanding, and provided education and support in the areas of the environment, youth development, agriculture, and business development; and

Whereas, Since 1961, the Peace Corps has enriched the lives of 6,564 of Michigan's finest citizens by allowing them to explore new lands and cultures while making tangible, immediate differences in the wider world around them; and

Whereas, Michigan public universities have consistently ranked among the top 25 universities with graduates in the Peace Corps, as exemplified by former Michigan State University graduate and past Michigan State University President M. Peter McPherson, who served in Peru from 1964-1966; and

Whereas, The Peace Corps has enhanced the education and personal growth of young college graduates and volunteers in general by connecting them with a grander world where any possibility can become a reality through hard work and perseverance; and

Whereas, The Peace Corps will celebrate 50 years of promoting peace and service throughout the world on March 1, 2011; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we honor the Peace Corps for its inspiring humanitarian mission of peace and cooperation; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Peace Corps Headquarters in Washington, D.C., and the Chicago Regional Office which covers Michigan's Peace Corps activities.