

*The Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of
Washington, D.C.*



Peace Corps 50th Anniversary Event Report

March 14, 2012

Written by

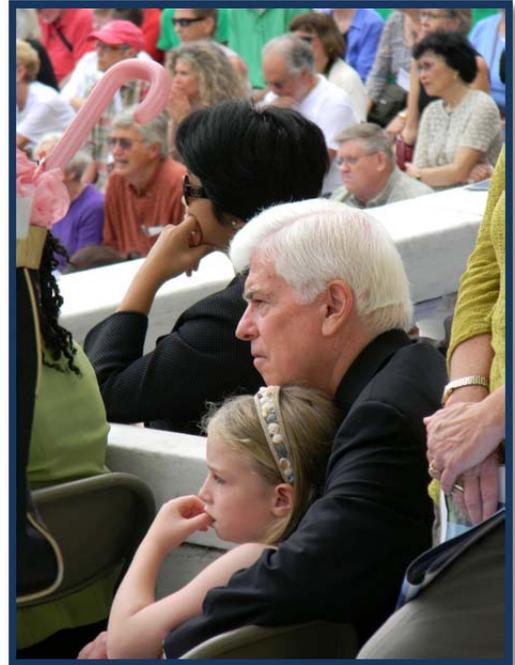
Kristina J. Owens and Chris Austin

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Executive Summary

On Sunday, September 25, 2011, the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Washington, D.C. (RPCV/W) had the distinct honor of hosting three events at Arlington National Cemetery commemorating 50 years of the Peace Corps. These events included a private wreath laying ceremony for families of fallen Volunteers at President John F. Kennedy's gravesite, an inspirational spoken and musical program at the Memorial Amphitheater, and a celebratory walk of flags (WOF) representing all 139 countries Peace Corps Volunteers have served.



These events reflected not only on the first 50 years of the Peace Corps, but also touched upon the next 50. Together, we honored half a century of building global friendships and cultural understanding, helping others help themselves and bringing our service back home.

The day officially began with an intimate wreath laying ceremony dedicated to Volunteers who lost their lives during their Peace Corps service and their families. This reflection started at the 101st Airborne Memorial and concluded at the Eternal Flame, where a wreath and flowers were laid.

Next, thousands of RPCVs gathered at the Memorial Amphitheatre for a spoken and musical program honoring the sacrifice of Fallen Volunteers and highlighting the contributions of all past and future Peace Corps generations. Maureen Orth (Columbia 64-66) served as the Masters of Ceremony. The speaking roster began with Keynote Speaker Senator Chris Dodd (Dominican Republic 66- 68) and ended with Peace Corps Director Aaron Williams (Dominican Republic 67-70). Musical accompaniment was

performed by the Duke Ellington choir.

Following the event at the Memorial Amphitheater, the estimated 4,000 RPCVs, family and friends gathered on Memorial Drive in front of Arlington's Visitors Center for the start of the Walk of Flags (WOF). Director Williams and one of the Peace Corps' founders, Senator Harris Wofford, led the parade of RPCVs carrying all 139 country flags down Memorial Avenue.

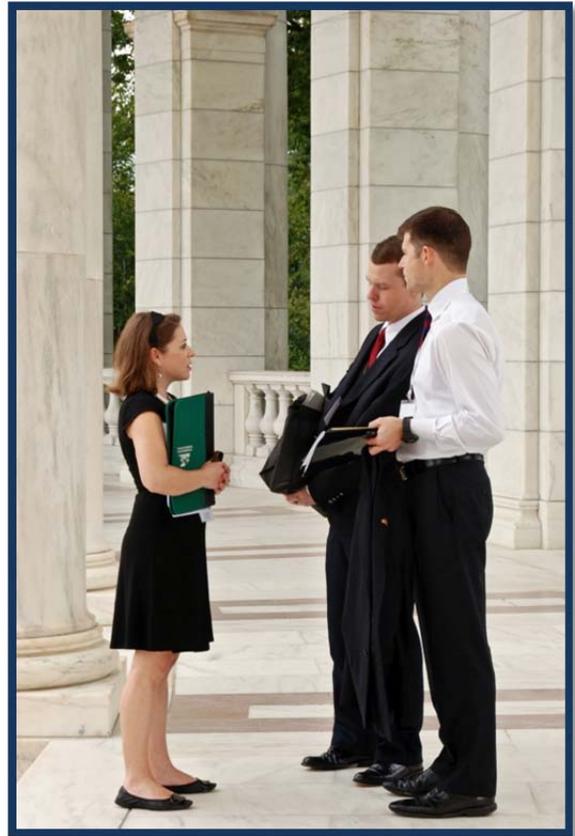
Given that the three events of that Sunday were the result of over a year of planning, it was a bittersweet moment to see the massive crowd disperse. We realized that we had carried out a fitting way to commemorate the experience that changed all of our lives, the Peace Corps.

Appropriately, the day's events were planned and carried out entirely by volunteers. Throughout the planning process, we relied on the values we refined during our Peace Corps service: patience, perseverance, cooperation, and relentless optimism. Success meant listening to the RPCV community about previous events and anniversaries. We are grateful for your guidance. To all of these volunteers and mentors, thank you for the time and energy you gave.

The purpose of this report is to provide future leaders of the Peace Corps community a detailed history of how RPCV/W envisioned, planned and executed these landmark events.

Early Planning and Leadership

At the January 2010 RPCV/W Board of Directors meeting, the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) asked RPCV/W to organize the Arlington Presentation and Walk of Flags (WOF) events –a challenge which RPCV/W readily accepted. RPCV/W Treasurer Kristina Owens began developing an outline of events and a budget. In June of 2010, Ms. Owens resigned from her position as Treasurer and was appointed by the RPCV/W Board as 50th Anniversary Events Manager. In August 2010 Ms. Owens organized a 50th Anniversary information and volunteer recruitment event at the bar [Local 16](#) in Washington, D.C.



The RPCV/W 50th Leadership Committee was formed at the RPCV/W Board of Directors annual retreat. The Leadership Committee, which was to have oversight over the entire year of 50th Anniversary events, consisted of RPCV/W Board Members Chris Austin, Andrienne Konstas, Kristina Owens, Tamar Lechter and Bea Tijerina. Ms. Owens then solicited volunteers from the RPCV/W membership to staff committees that would plan and execute specific events. The committees included: Arlington Presentation Committee (APC); Communications; Development; Social and Outreach; and Walk of Flags (WOF). These committees met on a monthly basis to envision, plan and execute their responsibilities. Ms. Owens maintained day-to-day supervision of the planning process and consulted closely with the RPCV/W Presidents (Tamar Lechter 2009-2011; Chris Austin 2011-2012) and RPCV/W 50th Leadership Committee.

In July of 2011, RPCV/W Board elections were held. President Tamar Lechter retired and Mr. Austin was elected to succeed her. However, despite handing over her official responsibilities as President, Ms. Lechter served as an Honorary Director and provided invaluable guidance.

Throughout the planning process, the committees worked extensively with 50th Anniversary staff at Peace Corps Headquarters, National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) staff, Donna and Chelsea Mack of the Fallen Peace Corps Volunteer Memorial Project, and RPCVs Mike Wolfson (Peru 64-66), Ken Hill (Turkey 65-67) and Don Wilson (Sierra Leone 79-83), who helped direct previous landmark Peace Corps anniversaries.



Wreath Laying Ceremony



Vision

Each year, RPCV/W honors the memory of the Peace Corps founder President John F. Kennedy with a wreath laying ceremony at his gravesite in Arlington National Cemetery. Attendees of this annual event include RPCV/W members, NPCA officials, Peace Corps staff, ambassadors and diplomats of various Peace Corps host countries and RPCVs from around the United States. Words of reflection about the many positive impacts of the Peace Corps and President Kennedy's role are usually shared before a silent procession is led to the Eternal Flame where a wreath and flowers representing the first 13 host countries are laid.

In honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Peace Corps, the RPCV/W 50th Anniversary Leadership Committee decided to incorporate this tradition into the day of events on September 25, 2011. The RPCV/W 50th Anniversary Leadership Committee envisioned a small, intimate gathering that not only served as an opportunity to honor President Kennedy, but also an opportunity for the families of the Volunteers who lost their lives in service to the ideals of the Peace Corps to reflect on the sacrifice of their loved one. The event was led by RPCV/W and NPCA and was attended by the families of the fallen Volunteers, Arlington Presentation speakers, and a small group of dignitaries.

Lead-Up

The decision to incorporate the Wreath Laying ceremony into the events of September 25th was made by the RPCV/W 50th Anniversary Leadership Committee in spring of 2011. A formal letter of request was sent to Arlington National Cemetery (Appendix III) for holding the ceremony at the President Kennedy's gravesite.

To accomplish the vision of an intimate and reflective program for the families of the fallen Volunteers, the Leadership Committee decided not to publicize the event, although it would be open to the public.

In July 2011, the Leadership Committee asked RPCV/W Honorary Director Corey Taylor to serve as the Wreath Laying Ceremony Director. Mr. Taylor developed this program for the event. He decided it would begin at the 101st Airborne Memorial on Memorial Drive with reflective words from himself and NPCA President Kevin Quigley. The family members of fallen Volunteers were given the opportunity to speak aloud about their loved one. The event concluded with a silent procession from the 101st Airborne Memorial to the Eternal Flame where a wreath and flowers were laid. Following this event, participants were led to the Memorial Amphitheater for the Arlington Presentation event.



In July 2011, Arlington Presentation Committee Member Norma Wilson procured the wreath and 13 red roses as in-kind donations from Bell Flowers of Silver Spring, Maryland. 30 yellow roses were purchased from Park Florist of Takoma Park, Maryland, and given to the families of the fallen Volunteers. Donna and Chelsea Mack coordinated the invitations to the event for the families of the Fallen Volunteers. RPCV/W President Chris Austin and 50th Anniversary Event Manager Kristina Owens coordinated invitations to NPCA, Arlington Presentation speakers, and dignitaries, and confirmed their attendance.

The Event

At 8 a.m. on Sunday morning, September 25, 2011, RPCV/W, NPCA leadership and the families and friends representing more than 20 Fallen Volunteers gathered around the 101st Airborne Memorial. The event went as planned and concluded at approximately 9:15 a.m. Participants were led by Mr. Taylor to the Memorial Amphitheater for the Arlington Presentation event.



Arlington Presentation

Vision

To celebrate and reflect upon the 50th Anniversary of the Peace Corps with a spoken and musical program at Arlington National Cemetery's Memorial Amphitheater. The event reflected upon the first 50 years of the Peace Corps the future, and seeks to accomplish these goals by:

- *Paying tribute to the Volunteers who lost their lives in service to the ideals of the Peace Corps.*
- *Highlighting the positive impacts of 50 years of Peace Corps service, specifically on those who served, the people of the 139 host countries, and our local communities.*
- *Honoring the legacies of President John F. Kennedy and Sargent Shriver*
- *Looking forward to the next 50 years*

The Lead-up

On August 30, 2010, then RPCV/W President Tamar Lechter and NPCA President Kevin Quigley sent a joint letter to Arlington National Cemetery requesting the use of the Memorial Amphitheater for the 50th Anniversary of the Peace Corps. Arlington accepted the proposal.

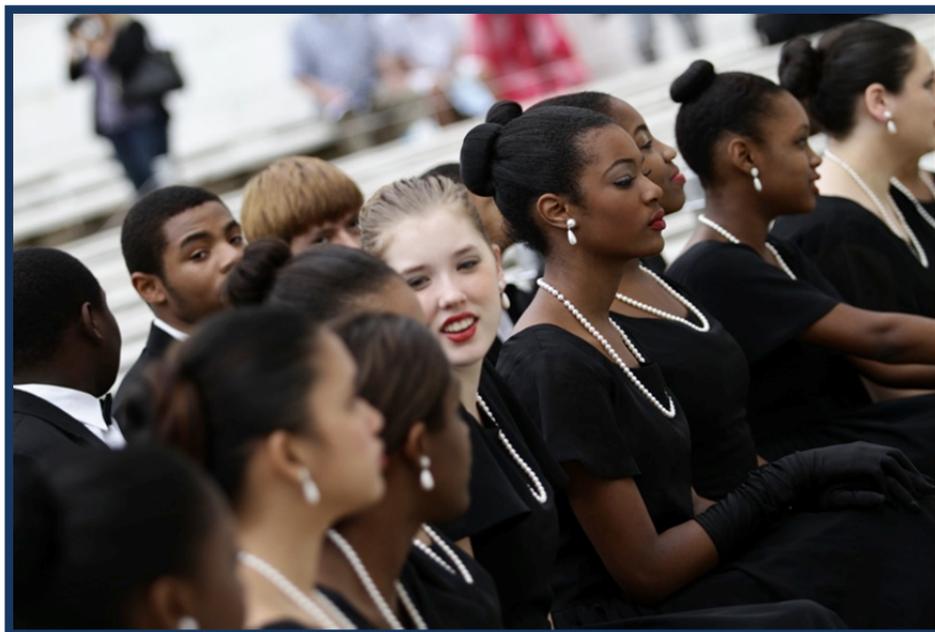


In September 2010, Ms. Lechter and Mr. Quigley sent a joint letter (Appendix III) to President Barack Obama, inviting him to be the Keynote speaker at the Arlington Presentation.

September 2010, on behalf of RPC V/W, NPCA, and all RPCVs around the world, Event Manager Kristina Owens was charged with the task of organizing the 50th Anniversary of the Peace Corps. The Arlington Presentation Committee (APC), which would be directly responsible for the planning and execution of the Arlington Presentation, was formed.

Two RPCV/W members volunteered to chair the APC, Jason Smith (Bulgaria 07-09) and Katie Cook (Paraguay 05-07). Ms. Cook resigned in May 2011. Laara Manler (Burkina Faso 01-02; Paraguay 08-10) replaced Ms. Cook as chair.

From October 2010 to June 2011, the APC held monthly meetings. When not meeting in-person, APC members emailed and shared many documents on the APC Google Docs page. The committee also acquired it's own email account through RPCV/W.



In order to create tribute to the 50th, Anniversary, several speakers were needed. In choosing speakers, the committee sought diversity in age, gender, year of service, and continent of service. The APC created a list of possible speakers to aid in their search:

- *A parent of a volunteer who gave their life in service to the ideals of the Peace Corps;*
- *A sibling of a volunteer who gave their life in service to the ideals of the Peace Corps;*
- *An RPCV who was one of the first volunteers to serve;*
- *A recent-RPCV;*
- *A prominent host country national that had been personally impacted by a Peace Corps Volunteer;*
- *An RPCV public leader;*
- *RPCVs from the Kennedy family; and*
- *The Director of the Peace Corps.*

Through the connection of Mr. Ken Hill, Ms. Lechter reached out to Ms. Maureen Orth, who graciously accepted the role of emcee. APC Committee Member Gail Doughty (Iran 73-75) made arrangements to have an Armed Forces Color Guard to present and retire the colors at the beginning of the event and a vocalist from the U.S. Air Force Band to sing the National Anthem. The program included instrumentalists to perform at the beginning and end of the Arlington Event. The Duke Ellington choir performed at various points throughout the ceremony. (RPCV/W members Karen Walsh (Senegal 91-93) and Kristi Ragan's (Fiji 78-81; Tanzania 84)



personal connections to the Duke Ellington School of the Arts proved to be the deciding factor in selecting the talent.) Beginning in January of 2011, Ms. Owens began coordinating the details of the event with Arlington National Cemetery. Specifically, Ms. Owens worked with LTC Keavan Stevenson at multiple meetings. The Cemetery has strict rules and offered many suggestions for designing a program in the Memorial Amphitheater in accordance with the somber, respectful setting. It is important to note that while the Commander in Chief had been invited to speak; inviting other sitting politicians was strongly discouraged. Also, because President Kennedy had served the United States as a Naval Officer during World War II, it was important to honor his decorated service.

In July 2011, RPCV/W Board elections resulted in a significant leadership change. RPCV/W President Tamar Lechter retired from her position and RPCV/W Development Director Chris Austin was elected President. To make sure there was a smooth transition in the RPCV/W presidency, Ms. Lechter was named by the RPCV/W Board as an Honorary Director until the end of October 2011 she provided guidance and the day-to-day oversight to Mr. Austin until the 50th event was complete. Ms. Bea Tijerina and Mr. Corey Taylor were also named RPCV/W Honorary Directors to ensure a smooth transition of the boards and the 50th events.

In late summer of 2011, the APC worked closely on the details of the event with a small number of Peace Corps staff that was responsible for the agency's own 50th Anniversary events. The Peace Corps 50th Staff was an invaluable resource for the APC, as they provided guidance and feedback regarding the program and assisted in developing a "show flow" and a GANTT chart for the event. (Appendix III)

In early August, the APC decided upon the final program:

Instrumental Prologue by Halley Shoenberg and Aaron Myers

National Anthem and Honor Guard

Welcome by Maureen Orth

Senator Chris Dodd

Kyle Chow

Pamela Cameron

Duke Ellington School of the Arts

Chris Austin and Kevin Quigley

Al Guskin

Maeve Kennedy McKean and Joseph P. Kennedy III

Caitlin Givens

Vice President of Liberia Joseph N. Boakai

Duke Ellington School of the Arts

Aaron William

Mr. Austin and Ms. Owens sent official invitation letters to the speakers and continued corresponding with each speaker to ensure that they were sufficiently informed of the details of the event.

The APC coordinated extensively with 50th Anniversary Development Committee Chair and Volunteer Director (and new RPCV/W Development Director) Mr. Chris Robinson for in-kind donations and contracted services. Mr. Robinson oversaw the drafting of the Arlington Presentation program booklet, which was contracted out to a former colleague of his, Adam Brooks, and reviewed and edited several times by the Committee.

To assist speakers, dignitaries and those needing physical assistance in getting to the Memorial Amphitheater from the parking lot and Metro station at Arlington on the day of the event, Ms. Wilson and Mr. Austin procured an in-kind donation of three passenger vans from the Ourisman Chevrolet dealership in Bethesda, Maryland.

In the final two months before the event, the committee led by the Chairs conducted three walk-throughs at the Memorial Amphitheater. The first was attended by the APC, key leaders from RPCV/W, and volunteers who had signed up to work at the event. They were given an introduction to the space and the program. The second walk-through was similar to the first, but was attended by more volunteers who had signed up. At the third walk-through, held a week before the event, volunteers and APC members conducted a near full dress rehearsal.

In the weeks leading up to the event, Volunteer Director Mr. Robinson recruited and managed the distribution of labor and communications among volunteers. Tasks given to volunteers included checking-in volunteers (verifying assignments, distributing volunteer t-shirts and lanyards), directing guests along the path to the Memorial Amphitheater, driving the passenger vans, and ushering VIPs and guests within the amphitheater.

With the event planned, the APC Members assigned themselves specific roles and duties for the event day. These roles are described below.

- *Jason Smith (chair): stage manager*
- *Laara Manler (chair): stage manager*
- *Rajun McCoy: head of assistants, coordinated seating of VIPs*
- *Christie-Anne Edie: head of assistants, coordinated seating of VIPs*
- *Glorious Broughton: head of general seating*
- *Chris MacDonald: head of route retainers*
- *Norma Wilson: music coordinator*
- *Gail Doughty: head of ushers*

The Event

The event day began at 7:00 a.m., when APC Members, RPCV/W Board Members and volunteers gathered at the Arlington Cemetery Visitor Center. The volunteers quickly established the check-in site and proceeded to register themselves before heading off to their respective jobs throughout the cemetery.

The committee members got to the Memorial Amphitheater at 7:30 a.m., and began carrying out their respective roles as the speakers, musical talent, VIPs and guests arrived. All of the speakers arrived on time and the presentation began promptly at 10:00.

The program started with a presentation of colors by the United States Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team and with Master Sergeant Ryan Dolan who sang the national anthem. Vanity Fair Special Correspondent Maureen Orth (Colombia 64-66) served as the Master of Ceremonies for the Arlington Presentation. Senator Chris Dodd (Dominican Republic 66- 68) gave a resounding keynote address, RPCV/W 50th Anniversary essay contest winner Caitlin Givens (Senegal 07-09) read her essay on delivering a baby roadside in her host country, and Peace Corps Director Aaron Williams (Dominican Republic 67-70) closed out the program with a powerful speech.



Other speakers included (in order of appearance):

- *Kyle Chow, brother of fallen Volunteer Joseph Chow (Kenya 07-08; Tanzania 08)*
- *Pamela Levin Cameron, mother of fallen Volunteer Matthew Costa (Chad 03-05, Mali 05);*
- *RPCV/W President Chris Austin (Kenya 03-05);*
- *NPCA President Kevin F. Quigley (Thailand 76-79);*
- *Al Guskin, Antioch University professor and former co-leader of the Americans Committed to World Responsibility at the University of Michigan – the group credited with inspiring President Kennedy to fulfill his campaign promise of creating the Peace Corps;*
- *Maeve Kennedy McKean (Mozambique), Senior Advisor at the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Global Affairs;*
- *Joe Kennedy (Dominican Republic 04-06), Middlesex County, Massachusetts Assistant District Attorney; and*
- *Joseph N. Boakai Sr., Vice President of Liberia*

In addition to the speakers, the crowd was uplifted by a powerful performance by the Duke Ellington School of the Arts Choir, which sang two songs a cappella. Instrumentalists, Haley Schoenberg and Aaron Myers, also performed beautiful compositions before and after the spoken program.

The program was executed as planned and ended at 11:45 a. m. with Mr. Austin directing the assembled crowd to head down to Memorial Drive for the Walk of Flags.



Walk of Flags

Vision

The vision for this event was to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Peace Corps through a Walk of Flags (WOF) representing all 139 countries that Peace Corps Volunteers have served in. Since the first WOF at the 25th Anniversary, the event has become a traditional event for landmark Peace Corps anniversaries. However, unlike many of the past anniversaries in which the WOF occurred before the Arlington Presentation, for the 50th, the WOF occurred after the Arlington Presentation. As the capstone event, the WOF would symbolize the Peace Corps community marching towards the next 50 years. The WOF began immediately after the Arlington Presentation near the Visitors' Center on Memorial Drive. The WOF crossed the Arlington Memorial Bridge and ended at the National Mall near the north side of the Lincoln Memorial.



The Lead Up

Planning for the WOF began in August of 2010 with the formation of the RPCV/W 50th Leadership Committee at the RPCV/W Board of Directors annual retreat. Immediately following its formation, the Leadership Committee made contact with the Peace Corps asking to use the agency's flags for the WOF.

RPCV/W 50th Anniversary Event Manager Kristina Owens, solicited volunteers among the RPCV/W membership to specifically plan and execute the WOF. The 12 person Walk of Flags Committee (WOFC) formed in September 2010 under the leadership of Chairs Liz Doughty Kane (Mozambique 01-03) and Rivka Deutsch (Uganda 07-08). The WOFC met monthly at various locations and venues for the purpose of: planning the logistics for the WOF; coordinating with the Arlington Presentation Committee, NPCA, Peace Corps, and the RPCV/W Board of Directors; and adhering to the policies and procedures of the National Park Service (NPS) and Arlington National Cemetery.

In January 2011, the RPCV/W 50th Leadership Committee contacted NPS and to officially apply for a permit for the WOF, requested the necessary streets be closed down, and that police provide security. It is important to note that the name of the event was changed from "Parade of Flags" to "Walk of Flags." The NPS definition of "parade" includes floats and vehicles, which was beyond the scope of the WOF. The plan submitted to NPS for the events of September 25, 2011, consisted of the following schedule:

- 10:00 a.m. Set-up on Memorial Drive*
- 12:30 p.m. Official start of WOF (1 mi. route across the Memorial Bridge)*
- 2:00 p.m. WOF ends on National Mall near Lincoln Memorial*

Throughout the planning process, members of the Leadership Committee and WOFC members met with NPS to map out the event, review logistics and verify that the event was in compliance with the requirements for obtaining a permit. Having two First-Aid stations (each with an EMT, a tent with three sides, wheel chair, cot, AED, ice packs, etc.) or two ambulances (one at each end of the WOF) and providing drinking water to participants were among the specific requirements. Ms. Kane and Ms. Deutsch arranged the First-Aid stations and Ms. Owens procured the water as an in-kind donation.

There were multiple phases of logistical planning for the WOF. First, the direction of the WOF had to be decided upon. At previous anniversaries, the WOF began on the National Mall and ended at the site of the Arlington Presentation at Memorial Amphitheater. This option was discussed among the WOFC & RPCV/W Board of Directors, but ultimately it was decided by a vote of the RPCV/W Board of Directors to hold the WOF after the Arlington Presentation, therefore reversing the traditional course by marching from Arlington to the National Mall. Arguments made in support of this case were that the WOF is more participatory than the Arlington Presentation and that by occurring after the Arlington Presentation, it would symbolize marching into the future.

With the direction and starting point settled, distance had to be decided. Two destinations were discussed as endpoints: the Washington Monument (2 miles) and the Lincoln Memorial (1 mile). Ultimately, given the potential for hot weather in September and the vast array of age and physical condition of the 4,000-5,000 expected participants, the shorter option was chosen.

Another important logistical detail involved the transportation of the 139 flags that were borrowed from the Peace Corps. On the evening of September 23, the Washington Nationals baseball team hosted a "Peace Corps Night," at which the flags would be

showcased around the baseball diamond by RPCVs and Peace Corps staff. The WOFC worked with Peace Corps to arrange for the pick-up of the flags from the stadium, storage and use over the weekend, and the return of the flags to the Peace Corps Headquarters. WOFC Chair Ms. Deutsch and WOFC committee members did an initial inventory in June 2011. The WOFC wrote a detailed plan on how they would pick up, store, distribute and return the flags. Ms. Owens on behalf of RPCV/W signed a Memorandum of Understanding to ensure that the Flags were properly taken care of. The distribution of flags to their bearers would be managed by the WOFC with the help of the Social and Outreach Committee. RPCVs, usually Country of Service group leaders were asked to select a point of contact (POC) to pick up and/or to carry a country. Not all countries had groups, therefore RPCV/W reached out to its members for volunteers. Each POC was given instructions to arrive at 11 a.m. to pick up their flag. In addition to the flags, RPCV/W and NPCA arranged to have RPCV/W and NPCA banners carried at the front of the WOF.

In accordance with previous anniversaries, Manuela McDonough (Panama 03-05) arranged to have the Fire Department located in Southwest Washington, D.C. provide a water salute from a fireboat that was anchored in the Potomac River near the Memorial Bridge. This was an in-kind donation.

The 50th WOFC consisted of 10-15 key volunteers who were extensively involved in the planning of the WOF. Additionally, about 50 volunteers were needed for the day of the event and were recruited by 50th Volunteer Director (and 50th Development Committee Chair) Chris Robinson. One of the recruitment methods was an event held at Marx Café in the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood. Mr. Robinson also solicited volunteers through the RPCV/W list serve. These volunteers were assigned the following jobs: water distribution; First-Aid; sanitation patrol; and crowd control. Volunteer orientation and training was held twice before the event. Each volunteer was given a red t-shirt with the word “volunteer” on the back in big, white letters to be worn on the day of the event for easy identification.



The Event

On the day of the event, key WOFC members and volunteers gathered on Memorial Drive as early as 9:00 a.m. and began setting up by 10:00 a.m. Flag bearers began arriving at 11:00 a.m., but many were late as they were still at the Arlington Presentation. However, this was not a serious problem. As RPCVs gathered on Memorial Drive, country signs were passed out. Volunteers were in place along the WOF route by 11 a.m. At 12 p.m. Arlington Presentation attendees began to gather on Memorial Drive. At 12:30, a police salute officially began the WOF as motorcycles cleared the route. An estimated 4,000 people then walked from Arlington across the Memorial Bridge and around the Lincoln Memorial to 23rd Street., NW where the WOF officially ended. Due to construction on the National Mall, the terminus was obscure and a bottleneck emerged, but ultimately subsided thanks to volunteers and NPS employees who ushered the crowd off the road into the park space. The crowd dispersed by 2 p.m. The flags were collected Mr. Joe Ford (WOFC) and Ms. Deutsch and returned to Peace Corps Headquarters by 3 p.m.



Development Committee

Vision

The vision of the RPCV/W Development Committee was to raise \$25,000 –the total amount needed to carry out all RPCV/W events honoring the 50th Anniversary of the Peace Corps. To meet this goal, the Development Committee engaged RPCV/W membership and the broader D.C. metropolitan area business community (especially businesses that employ or who are patronized by RPCVs) in four key areas: individual donors, corporate sponsors, in-kind donations and fundraising events (happy hours).

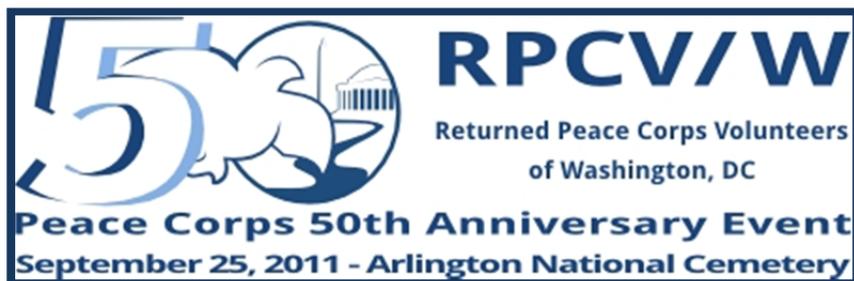
Lead Up/Execution

Planning for fundraising efforts began in March 2010. Ms. Kristina Owens, who was then serving as RPCV/W Treasurer, devised a preliminary agenda of events and an estimated budget of \$15,000. In July 2010, Chris Austin was elected to the RPCV/W Board as Development Director. While the focus of Mr. Austin's position was fundraising for RPCV/W as an organization and not the 50th Anniversary, he, Ms. Owens and then RPCV/W President Tamar Lechter jointly led development efforts for the 50th until a 50th Anniversary Development Committee was formed in February, 2011. Before the creation of the committee, RPCV/W raised \$7,490, mainly through one major corporate donation and from several personal donations of RPCV/W members. In January 2011, a revision of the 50th anniversary event agenda increased the budget to \$25,000 and the RPCV/W Board voted to establish this as the official budget and also voted to create a rainy day fund of \$5,000 (to be paid for through RPCV/W's general budget) for the events should the Development Committee fail to meet its goal. Led by Chairs Chris Robinson (Jamaica 07-09) and Natalie Rico (Uganda 07-09), with oversight from the RPCV/W board, the 50th Development Committee developed a fundraising strategy and set monthly escalating targets, to reach the goal of \$25,000 by August 2011. The development strategy (see appendix) was centered on soliciting major corporate donations through both financial and in-kind contributions. The

Development Committee met twice a month in order to track the fundraising progress. They recruited volunteers, created materials for solicitations, and identified potential donors. A master list of targets with contact information was compiled and shared with development volunteers along with the following materials:

- *Letter templates (initial contact, engaging high-profile RPCVs, requesting in-kind donations, soliciting personal tributes in the event program);*
- *RPCV/W tax information;*
- *Frequently Asked Questions sheet.*

Additionally, Mr. Robinson and Ms. Rico ordered business cards, networked at events throughout Washington and reached out to dozens of companies, organizations, and individuals, with special attention to companies contracted by the Peace Corps, organizations that hire large numbers of RPCVs, and local businesses popular with the Washington RPCV community. Several grant applications were submitted to large companies. A concentrated push was made to identify RPCVs working in various companies that would be willing to champion the cause and advocate for donations. The Development Committee created a new logo for the RPCV/W 50th Anniversary events. After approval from the RPCV/W Board, the 50th logo was attached to all fundraising materials and incorporated into the RPCV/W letterhead.



The Development Committee produced a letter offering a personalized tribute in the event program in exchange for a \$500 donation, which was widely circulated by the RPCV/W 50th Leadership team. The Development Committee followed up with these "Tribute Sponsors" and printed their brief messages in the program. In addition to "Tribute Sponsors," the following is a breakdown of the different levels of sponsorship that were offered:

Official Corporate Sponsor (\$5,000 and above)

The Official Corporate Sponsor was: [Egret Business Solutions](#) . Their contribution provided the seed money for the entire project and was thus placed in a class of its own. The sponsor received its hyperlinked logo posted prominently on the RPCVW.org home page, the 50th Anniversary Page, and in every weekly e-newsletter up until January, 2012. The Official Corporate Sponsor also received a full-page tribute in the 50th Event Program designed to its specifications and special seating at the event for company representatives. This level was restricted to a single entity. RPCV/W's Program Director Liza Cushion secured this donor by November 2010.

Friendship Sponsors (\$1,000 – \$4,999)

Donors at this level received a customized quarter-page tribute in the event program, their company logo and link on RPCV/W's 50th Anniversary Page, and their hyperlinked logo in the weekly RPCV/W e-newsletter until January, 2012. There were six Friendship Sponsors: [Irex](#) , [MSI](#), [Chemonics](#), [Happy Tenant](#) , [Deloitte](#), and [Linden Resources](#)

Tribute Sponsors (\$500)

Donors at this level received an eighth-of-a-page personalized tribute in the 50th Anniversary Event Program. There were six Tribute Sponsors: Peace Corps India Group 4, Maureen Orth (<http://peacecorpspostcards.com/about/>), Tamar and Jonathan Lechter, Mary Pendelton, The Souza Family

Anniversary Sponsors (\$10 - \$499)

Donors at this level had their names listed in the 50th Anniversary Event Program. Names of these donors can be found in the Appendix

Development activities continued over the summer with fundraisers at local restaurants and a steady stream of small contributions through the Donations page on RPCV/W's website. Ms. Rico recruited photographers who volunteered their services as in-kind

donations. Towards the end of July, in-kind donation solicitations were ramped up with an emphasis on procuring water and transportation (passenger vans). Items such as lanyards and t-shirts were purchased since they could not be acquired through donation.

By September 2011, the Development Committee had met its target by raising \$25,000 in cash donations and in-kind contributions.

Mr. Robinson led negotiations with the designer and printer of the event program. He ensured that all sponsors were acknowledged appropriately. In the final weeks before the event, Ms. Wilson and Mr. Austin secured the donation of three passenger vans. The recruitment of volunteers to drive the vans was managed by Mr. Robinson.



Communications Committee

Vision

The Communications Committee was charged with raising the visibility of RPCV/W's Peace Corps 50th Anniversary events on September 25, 2011. The committee's goals were to support monthly 50th events and the three keystone events: Wreath Laying, Arlington Presentation, and Walk of Flags.

Lead-Up

The Communications Committee was formed in October 2010. The committee held periodic strategy meetings and promoted the upcoming 50th Anniversary events by issuing press releases, blogging, and tweeting (@pc50th). The committee also assisted in promoting some of the Outreach and Social Committee events.

In August 2011, former RPCV/W Board member Jessica Benton-Cooney (El Salvador 05-07) joined and led the committee through the culmination of the 50th celebration. The committee developed a three-pronged media approach, which included reaching out to broadcast, radio, and print media. Committee members reached out to each through phone calls, submissions of op-eds and personal contacts.

The committee coordinated with Arlington National Cemetery press contact Jennifer Lynch on the logistics of hosting the media at the Arlington event. Arlington National Cemetery had contacts with several media sources. Arlington National Cemetery also promoted the event through Facebook and traditional media avenues. A media advisory was drafted and sent out to various media entities. Masters of Ceremony Maureen Orth also reached out to her media contacts.

The committee produced an official press release, which was reviewed by Peace Corps. The agency provided a quote from Director Aaron Williams and a quote from keynote speaker Senator Chris Dodd was also included. The committee prepared press credentials and media kits, each containing a list of speakers with biographies, a full itinerary and a copy of the official press release.

The Event

On the morning of September 25, the committee set up a table near the Arlington Visitors' Center where they registered members of the press and issued credentials and media kits.

The Arlington Presentation and Walk of Flags were covered by a team of volunteer photographers, a RPCV/W videographer (arranged by Ms. Rico, Development Committee Chair), NPCA, Peace Corps, and local news channels ABC 7 and CBS 9. Immediately following the event, a press release was sent to a full media list in the Washington, D.C. area. The official video was posted on the Peace Corps website and photos were posted on RPCV/W, NPCA and Peace Corps new media outlets. The photos taken by the volunteer camera crew were immediately uploaded to RPCV/W's SmugMug account (www.rpcvw.smugmug.com), where they remain available for purchase.

Social and Outreach Committee

Vision

The Social and Outreach Committee was to honor the 50th Anniversary of the Peace Corps and the first 13 countries in which volunteers served by holding a social event each month leading up to the landmark events on September 25, 2011. These events were coordinated with the respective "friends of" groups and would consist of dinners, happy hours, films, book signings and fundraisers.

Lead-Up/Execution

Led by Co-Chairs Renetta Boyd (St. Kitts 04-06), Caroline Barrett (St. Kitts 08-10) and Jesse Bailey (Morocco 08-10), the Social and Outreach Committee organized the following events:

Country honored: Ghana

Date: September 15, 2010

Event: Happy Hour

Location: [Ghana Café](#), Washington, D.C.

Notes: This was the first RPCV/W 50th event-and filled the cafe

Country honored: Chile

Date: October 7, 2010

Event: Latin Film Festival

Location: [AFI Cinema](#), Silver Spring, MD

Notes: This was a small gathering of RPCV/W members who enjoyed traditional Argentinean food and a movie

Country honored: Pakistan

Date: November 18, 2010

Event: Happy Hour/Fundraiser for Pakistan flood relief

Location: [Recessions](#), Washington, D.C.

Notes: RPCV/W, Friends of Pakistan USA, and Recessions teamed up on this event.

Country honored: Malaysia

Date: January 22, 2011

Event: Dinner

Location: [Malaysia Kopitiam](#) restaurant, Dupont Circle, Washington, D.C.

Notes: This event was coordinated with the Friends of Malaysia group. 28 RPCV registered although more than that attended.

Country honored: Sierra Leone

Date: February 5, 2011

Event: Book reading with author Aminatta Forna

Location: Borders Bookstore Largo, MD

Note: RPCV/W sold 14 books with 20% of the proceeds going to the 50th fund. This resulted in approximately \$80 for the 50th fund.

Country honored: India

Date: March 28, 2011

Event: Photo exhibit and slideshow with photo-journalist/RPCV Robert Kennedy

Location: Stewart Mott House, Washington, D.C.

Notes: Appetizers were donated by The White Tiger restaurant. 32 guests registered, although more attended through Mr. Kennedy's connections.

Country honored: Brazil

Date: April 25, 2011

Event: Happy Hour

Location: [Rumba Café](#), Washington, D.C.

Notes: This event featured Happy Hour specials and Brazilian music

Country honored: Thailand

Date: May 24, 2011

Event: Dinner

Location: Thai Kingdom, Washington, D.C.

Notes: Over 25 RPCVs attended

Country honored: St. Lucia

Date: June 21, 2011

Event: Caribbean Jazz

Location: [Kennedy Center](#), Washington, D.C.

Note: This was in conjunction with various events happening in honor of the Caribbean.

Country honored: Colombia

Date: July 7, 2011

Event: Film screening and panel discussion

Location: Natural History Museum

Notes: This event was led by RPCVs Maureen Orth, Chris Matthews (Swaziland 68-70), Congressman Farr, and Film Director Susan Koch

Country honored: Philippines

Date: July 31, 2011

Event: Lunch

Location: East Café in Union Station

Notes: Over 20 RPCVs attended

Country honored: Nigeria

Date: August 23, 2011

Event: Dinner and book reading with RPCV author Steve Clapp

Location: [Bukom Café](#)

Notes: The RPCV Nigeria author of *Africa Remembered* conducted a book reading followed by participants telling their favorite PCV anecdotes.

Additional efforts by the committee

Date: August 8, 2011

Event: Conference Call- to answer questions for RPCVs around the country

Note: The Social & Outreach Committee facilitated this conference call for "Friends of" groups to ask and answer questions related to the events during the September weekend. There was close to 45 individuals on the call representing groups nationwide.

Follow-Up Activities

Following the successful planning and execution phases of the 50th Anniversary landmark events, the RPCV/W 50th Leadership Committee made efforts to preserve the goodwill garnered by these events in the following ways:

- 50th Anniversary Event Manager, Ms. Owens, with the assistance Ms. Konstas, set up a SmugMug account to serve as a gallery of the photos taken by the volunteer photographer corps.
- Ms. Konstas, designed and printed thank you cards using photos from the [SmugMug](#) account.
- Mr. Austin and Ms. Owens used these thank you cards to handwrite messages to all of the speakers and the major sponsors.
- The RPCV/W Board established an ad hoc 50th Anniversary Follow-Up Committee to draft this report to chronicle the work of RPCV/W in putting on the 50th events and to serve as a guide to future leaders within the Peace Corps community who may put on similar events for future landmark anniversaries.
- In November 2011, RPCV/W hosted a reception at the Embassy Suites to recognize and thank all of the volunteers who made the 50th events a success. Framed photographs of the events were given to the leaders of the various 50th committees.
- The RPCV/W Board scheduled a mid-year retreat in February 2012 to reflect on the 50th Anniversary and develop strategies to capitalize on its success and build a stronger Peace Corps community in the D.C. Metropolitan Area.

Important contacts

RPCV/W worked with various groups or entities to ensure the success of our event. It was important that we worked each of these groups in the most courteous ways. Below are brief descriptions of how RPCV/W successfully worked with each.

[Arlington National Cemetery](#)

Since the 25th Anniversary, Arlington National Cemetery has hosted a ceremony or presentation in honor of the Peace Corps. Traditionally, events are for military purposes, however due to the fact that President John F. Kennedy is a veteran and the Peace Corps ideals are about service, the Peace Corps community has the unique opportunity to use the Arlington National Cemetery as a venue for Anniversary commemorations.

[National Park Service \(NPS\)](#)

Planning the Walk of Flags from the Arlington Cemetery to the Lincoln Memorial required coordination with NPS to ensure RPCV/W met all requirements. NPS and RPCV/W worked together to design the parade route and decide which streets to close, how much security was needed and how to manage set-up of the walk. RPCV/W needed a clear plan, including walk route and Arlington speakers to present to NPS as early as March 2010. RPCV/W continued to work with NPS until the day after the Event.

[National Peace Corps Association \(NPCA\)](#)

The National Peace Corps Association asked RPCV/W to plan these three keystone events to complement a weeklong commemoration of the 50th Anniversary. RPCV/W as a regional but independent RPCV group coordinated with NPCA staff to ensure cohesiveness. NPCA's online calendar of 50th events was a great resource for publicizing RPCV/W's events.

[Fallen Peace Corps Memorial Project](#)

RPCV/W 50th leadership team reached out to the creators Donna & Chelsea Mack in November 2010 to ensure our event properly honors the more than 284 volunteers who lost their lives to ideals of the Peace Corps. (www.fpcv.org)

In their own words:

“The Fallen Peace Corps Volunteers Memorial Project, Inc. is a non-profit corporation. While the project is independent of the U.S. Peace Corps and the National Peace Corps Association, we are supportive of their missions. The Fallen Peace Corps Volunteers Memorial Project began as a very personal project envisioned by Chelsea and Donna Mack and inspired by Jeremiah Mack. Chelsea is an ESL teacher. Donna is a retired math teacher. We thank our family and friends for their support.”

Donna and Chelsea Mack worked with APC and the 50th leadership team as key representatives of the families, providing invaluable guidance.

They assisted in reaching out to the families, and choosing speakers for the APC program.

[Peace Corps](#)

RPCV/W 50th Leadership team began working with the 50th Anniversary staff as early as August 2010. RPCV/W worked to keep Peace Corps 50th Staff aware of our efforts. The 50th Staff was invited to RPCV/W 50th committee meetings. RPCV/W President and 50th Event Manager began meeting with 50th staff and Peace Corps Leadership beginning in December 2010. Peace Corps provided among many things including:

- Host Country Speaker selection
- 139 Peace Corps Country Flags
- Logistical and event support (Appendices)
- Overall event support

Peace Corps 50th Staff provided invaluable support in the planning of these events especially during the summer of 2011. www.peacecorps.gov

About RPCV/W, the Authors and Contributors

RPCV/W

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Washington, D.C. (RPCV/W) is a Washington-based non-profit organization committed to the Peace Corps' Third Goal: bringing the Peace Corps Service back home. It was founded in 1979 and incorporated in 1990 in the District of Columbia. With over 600 members and representing more than 2,500 returned Peace Corps Volunteers, Peace Corps Staff, Peace Corps families and supporters in the greater Washington, D.C. area, RPCV/W is one of the largest organizations of its kind in the world. RPCV/W is a registered 501 (c) 3 organization and governed by an elected board of directors. www.rpcvw.org

Authors

Kristina J. Owens

Ms. Owens was the RPCV/W 50th Anniversary Event manager. She has served on the RPCV/W Board of Directors since 2009 and led the RPCV/W 50th Leadership team since 2010. She was a Natural Resource Volunteer in Bolivia from 2000-2002.

Simultaneously as Peace Corps Volunteer, she was a Loret Miller Ruppe Peace Corps Master's International Forestry graduate student at Michigan Technological University. Ms. Owens holds a B.A. in Spanish from the State University of New York at Geneseo and M.S. in Forestry (International) from Michigan Technological University. Currently, she works as a Biologist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is RPCV/W's Strategic Partnership Director. She can be reached at strategicpartner@rpcvw.org.

Chris Austin

Mr. Austin is the President of RPCV/W. Prior to this position, he served as Development Director and was a member of the 50th Leadership Team since 2010. He served in Kenya from 2003-2005 as a Health Education Resource Volunteer. Mr. Austin is the Legislative Director for Congressman John Garamendi (Ethiopia 66-68) of California. Mr. Austin holds a B.A. in Geography from the University of Missouri, and is currently pursuing a Masters of Public Administration from American University. He can be reached at president@rpcvw.org.

The Authors would like to especially acknowledge and thank the following for their support and significant contribution to this report.

Anne Baker (Fiji 84-87) Ms. Baker is the Vice President of NPCA. She provided invaluable support to RPCV/W throughout the planning process.

Renetta Boyd (St. Kitts 04-06) Ms. Boyd served as RPCV/W 50th Anniversary Social & Outreach Committee Chair from September 2010 until September 2011. She currently serves as RPCV/W Special Events Director.

Barbi Broadus (Mali 95-97) Ms. Broadus works at Peace Corps and served as the main point of contact to the agency's 50th Anniversary staff. She provided invaluable support to RPCV/W throughout the planning process.

Jessica Benton-Cooney (El Salvador 05-07) Ms. Benton-Cooney served as RPCV/W 50th Anniversary Communications Committee Chair from July until September 2011. She served on the RPCV/W Board of Directors from 2007 until 2009.

Liza Cushion (El Salvador 01-03) Ms. Cushion has served on the RPCV/W Board of Directors since July 2009 and currently serves as Social Director. She supported RPCV/W's 50th Anniversary fund-raising efforts and participated in the events as a volunteer.

Allison Francis (Ghana 97-99) Ms. Francis served on the RPCV/W Board of Directors from 2009 until 2011. She provided invaluable support to RPCV/W throughout the 50th Anniversary planning process.

Liz Doughty Kane (Mozambique 01-03) Ms. Doughty Kane served as RPCV/W 50th Walk of Flags Committee Chair from September 2010 until September 2011.

Andrienne Konstas (Cameroon 07-09) Ms. Konstas served on the RPCV/W 50th Anniversary Leadership Committee from September 2010 until September 2011. She has served on the RPCV/W Board of Directors since July 2010 and currently serves as Vice President.

Tamar Lechter (Uzbekistan 00; Ukraine 01-03) Ms. Lechter served as RPCV/W President from 2009 until 2011. She served on the 50th Anniversary Leadership Committee from September 2010 until September 2011. After retiring from the RPCV/W Board of Directors in July 2011, Ms. Lechter served as an Honorary Director until October 2011. She provided invaluable support to RPCV/W throughout the planning process.

Manuela McDonough (Panama 03-05) Ms. McDonough served on the Walk of Flags Committee from September 2010 until September 2011.

Laara Manler (Burkina Faso 01-02; Paraguay 08-10) Ms. Manler served as the RPCV/W 50th Anniversary Presentation Committee Chair from May 2011 until September 2011. She currently serves as RPCV/W Outreach Director.

Chris Polen (Azerbaijan 08-10) Mr. Polen has served as RPCV/W Treasurer since July 2011. In addition to the normal duties of the Treasurer, he was the RPCV/W point of contact for financial issues related to the 50th Anniversary events.

Brandon Roché (Honduras 03-05) Mr. Roché has served on the RPCV/W Board of Directors since July 2010. He currently serves as Professional Development Director.

Chris Robinson (Jamaica 07-09) Mr. Robinson served as the RPCV/W 50th Development Committee Chair and Volunteer Director from February until September 2011. He currently serves as RPCV/W Development Director.

Sarah Sahr (Ethiopia 96-98) Ms. Sahr served on the Walk of Flags Committee from November 2010 until September 2011. She currently serves as RPCV/W Secretary. Ms. Sahr contributed to the editing of this report.

Jason Smith (Bulgaria 07-09) Mr. Smith served as RPCV/W 50th Anniversary Arlington Presentation Committee Co-Chair from September 2010 until September 2011. He currently serves as RPCV/W Community Service Director.

Corey Taylor (Benin 95-97) Mr. Taylor served as the RPCV/W Wreath Laying Ceremony Committee Chair. He served on the RPCV/W Board of Directors from 2004 until 2011. After retiring from the RPCV/W Board of Directors in July 2011, Mr. Taylor served as an Honorary Director until October 2011.

John Teschner (Kenya 03-05) Mr. Teschner edited this report as well as made significant contributions to the event program. He currently lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota and works at AchieveMpls.

Bea Tijerina (Ghana 97-99) Ms. Tijerina served on the RPCV/W Board of Directors from 2008 until 2011. After retiring from the Board in July 2011, Ms. Tijerina served as an Honorary Director until October 2011. She provided invaluable support to RPCV/W throughout the 50th Anniversary planning process.

Norma Wilson (Brazil 62-64) Ms. Wilson served on the Arlington Presentation Committee from January until September 2011. She provided some of the historical photographs in this report.

Mike Wolfson (Peru 64-66) Mr. Wolfson provided invaluable support to RPCV/W throughout the 50th Anniversary planning process. He currently serves on the Board of Amigos de Peru y Bolivia.

Appendices

Appendix I: Previous Landmark Peace Corps Anniversary Events in Washington, D.C.

10th Anniversary (March 1, 1971)

The 10th Anniversary of the Peace Corps was marked by a small event at the Peace Corps headquarters in Washington, D.C. The Peace Corps organized these events and featured speakers included Senator Ted Kennedy and Astronaut Neil Armstrong.

20th Anniversary (June 19-20, 1981)

For the 20th Anniversary of the Peace Corps, an event was held at Howard University in Washington, D.C. Again, the Peace Corps managed the event. Speakers included Hunter College President Donna Shalala (Iran 62-64), USAID Administrator Peter McPherson (Peru 64-66), Senator Paul Tsongas (Ethiopia 62-64), and Archbishop of Seoul, South Korea, Stephan Cardinal.

25th Anniversary (September 18-20, 1986)

For the Peace Corps' 25th Anniversary, several events were held in the Washington, D.C. area. This summary focuses on three –all of which were organized by the agency itself under Director Loret Miller Ruppe. The first event in September was an RPCV reunion held at the Pavilion on the National Mall (now the site of the National Museum of the American Indian) featuring a keynote address from Philippines President Corazon Aquino.

On Sunday, September 20, two events were held sequentially –the Walk of Flags (WOF) and the Arlington Presentation. The WOF consisted of a large procession of RPCVs carrying the flags of all the countries that Peace Corps had served. Starting at the Lincoln Memorial and crossing the Memorial Bridge the procession entered Arlington

National Cemetery, paused to pay respect at President John F. Kennedy's gravesite and ended at the Memorial Amphitheater.

The Arlington Presentation was a spoken and musical memorial service held in honor of volunteers who gave their lives in service to the ideals of the Peace Corps. Speakers included former Peace Corps Deputy Director Bill Moyers, University of Notre Dame President Reverend Theodore Hesburgh, B'nai Brith Hillel International Director, Larry Moses, Khenpo Konchog Gyaltshen of the Tibetan Meditation Center, and Islamic-American Group President, Dr. H.S. Hamond, Lucas Film President Gordon Radley (Malawi 1968-1970), and the first Director of the Peace Corps, Sargent Shriver., who proclaimed:

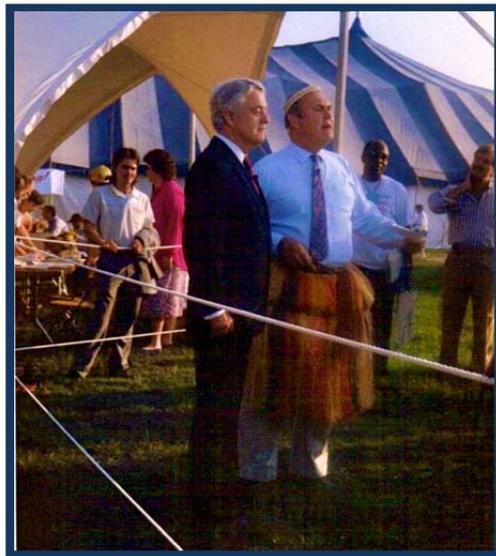
"Be servants of peace. Weep with those who are sorrowful. Rejoice with those who are joyful. Teach those who are ignorant, care for those who are sick. Serve your families, Serve your neighbors, Serve your cities, Serve the poor. Join others who serve. Serve, Serve, Serve! That's the challenge. For in the end it will be servants who save us all."

Music was performed at the Arlington Presentation by the Morgan State University Choir and the Washington International Children's Chorus.

30th Anniversary (August 1-4, 1991)

The 30th Anniversary was marked with several events throughout the D.C. area, although this summary will focus on only two. It is important to note this anniversary was the first of the major anniversaries to be organized and led by the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA), not the agency.

The 30th Anniversary was celebrated by a Walk of Flags, which began on Memorial Drive in Arlington National Cemetery, crossed the Memorial Bridge and ended at the Lincoln Memorial on the National Mall. From the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, musician Peter Yarrow led a ceremony featuring a human outline of planet earth formed by RPCVs standing on the grass beside the reflecting pool in the shapes of the continents where Peace Corps Volunteers have served.



Peace Corps 35th Anniversary (February 29-March 3, 1996)

The 35th Anniversary was jointly organized by the agency and NPCA. A general meeting was held at the Smith Center on the campus of George Washington University, featuring a keynote address from then U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright. A Walk of Flags proceeded from the Smithsonian Castle along the National Mall to the west terrace of the U.S. Capitol, where RPCV Members of Congress Sam Farr (Colombia 62-64), Chris Shays (Fiji 68-70) and Tom Petri (Somalia 66-67) addressed the crowd.

40th Anniversary (September, 2001)

The 40th Anniversary was scheduled for September 23-27, 2001. Due to the catastrophic events of September 11, 2001, most events were canceled or postponed until the following year. Among those that took place, on September 26, a vigil for world peace was held at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial featuring the Peace Corps country of service flags.

“40 Plus One” Anniversary (June 20-23, 2002)

The “40 Plus One” Anniversary was organized by the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA). The opening ceremony was held at the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Constitutional Hall, featuring a keynote address from Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo, who spoke by telephone because he had to cancel his trip to Washington at the last minute. Similar to the 25th Anniversary, two events were held sequentially – the Walk of Flags (WOF) and the Arlington Presentation. The WOF followed the same path and schedule that it had during the 25th anniversary.

Appendix II

Links to key planning documents

<http://www.rpcvw.org/Report>

APC GANTT chart: This document helped the APC and WOFC to breakdown many of the required efforts in order to be successful in planning these events. Assistance was given to the APC by the Peace Corps 50th Anniversary

September 25, 2011 Show Flow: This document was developed by all the APC and WOFC to identify what would happen from 7am to 3pm. Peace Corps 50th Anniversary staff provided assistance in this effort as well

Speakers Packet: Peace Corps 50th Staff provided guidance on developing this key document which was delivered to each of the Speakers. Copies were also provided to key leaders

Volunteer info Packet for WOF & Arlington: For all committees the Volunteer Director Mr. Robinson and each committees volunteer coordinators developed these key packets for the over 100 volunteers who provided logistical support.

Fundraising Documents: These are examples of letters written for requesting in-kind and monetary donations

Letters to Arlington and the Military: These formal letters were written to formally request the use of the space and equipment.

National Park Service Documents: These documents are records of our permits and our request for blocking off the required roads for the WOF