



Why Honor the Peace Corps with a Congressional Gold Medal?

This is the Moment

As 2026 will mark the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission notes this moment will provide “an opportunity to pause and reflect on our nation’s past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look ahead toward the future we want to create for the next generation and beyond”. 2026 will also mark the 65th anniversary of the founding of the Peace Corps, a renowned program that is highly admired here at home and in the more than 140 nations where volunteers served.

A Nationwide Honor

A Peace Corps Congressional Gold Medal will honor individuals living in every state and every single congressional district.

A Nonpartisan Honor

Throughout its history, the Peace Corps has been celebrated and supported by lawmakers across the political spectrum. A Congressional Gold Medal will serve as a time-honored testament to the nonpartisan nature of this iconic program.

A Prestigious Honor Roll

Netflix co-founder Reed Hastings. The late Michael McCaskey, former Chairman of the Chicago Bears. Astronauts Mae Jamison and Joseph Acaba. The late Lillian Carter. Numerous former members of Congress, governors, and state legislators, both Democrats and Republicans. These are just some of the nearly 250,000 Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and former staff who served our country with distinction.

Service Beyond Self

Using extremely conservative estimates, Peace Corps Volunteers have provided more than \$8.5 billion in value to our nation’s foreign policy. And, as they return home, these individuals join the network of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers who contribute millions of hours of continued service each year to communities in every corner of our country.

No Time to Wait

The Gold Medal is Congress’s highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions by individuals, institutions, and groups. Of the nearly quarter-million Peace Corps Volunteers who served, those who did so in the early 1960’s are now in their late 80’s or 90’s. Sadly, with each passing week, dozens of these early volunteers are dying.