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On behalf of the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) board of directors and membership, we are writing to express our wholehearted support for the "Peace Corps Volunteers Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2026".

A Congressional Gold Medal to honor United States Peace Corps Volunteers collectively, represents a significant milestone in recognizing over six decades of selfless service, and commitments to global peace and friendship that have been achieved through Peace Corps service. Coincidentally, awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to Peace Corps Volunteers in 2026 will occur during the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. There is no better time to celebrate the contributions of hundreds of thousands of these dedicated Americans.

Since its founding in 1961, the Peace Corps has embodied the spirit of American compassion and cross-cultural understanding. More than 240,000 Americans have served as Peace Corps Volunteers across more than 140 countries, immersing themselves in diverse communities, working to empower individuals, and contributing to sustainable development. From promoting health and education – especially crucial roles in pandemic response and health improvement – to advancing economic growth and environmental benefits, Peace Corps Volunteers have consistently put service above self, fostering goodwill and cooperation worldwide.

The Congressional Gold Medal is a fitting tribute to Volunteers' invaluable contributions, recognizing the ingenuity, dedication, and sacrifices of those who answered the call to serve our nation and foreign communities. This medal will honor the achievements of past and present Volunteers and reaffirm the Peace Corps' ongoing mission to build a more interconnected, peaceful, and prosperous world. Without question, the results of Peace Corps Volunteers' projects in their host nations and Returned Peace Corps Volunteers' contributions back home have made the United States stronger, safer, and more prosperous.

We are proposing the Congressional Gold Medal for United States Peace Corps Volunteers because it will be an enduring testament to the bonds of friendship and understanding that these Volunteers have forged with people and communities across the globe. It will also inspire future generations of Americans to continue the Peace Corps' legacy of service.

Thank you for considering this important honor for Volunteers who have represented the best of America abroad. We stand ready to assist in any way necessary to support the passage of this Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Baker".

Dan Baker, President and CEO
National Peace Corps Association

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Lee Evans".

John Lee Evans, Board Chair
National Peace Corps Association