

NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Ms. BEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, during National Peace Corps Week, in recognition of the Peace Corps on the 44th anniversary of its founding and of the thousands of volunteers who have done invaluable humanitarian service in countries throughout the world.

The 7,700 volunteers in the field today have left their families and friends in the United States to serve as teachers, business advisors, information technology consultants, health and HIV/AIDS educators, and youth and agriculture workers.

Leaving your comfort zone behind and plunging into work in another country and another culture is a great challenge. I would like to take this time to congratulate the current Peace Corps Volunteers from the Eighth Congressional District of Illinois. Shayne Bell, Heather Breneisen, Brehan Doud, Nina Elisseou, Joshua Friedman, Ryan Giordano, Stacy Greco, Kelly Henshaw, Peter Hicks, Lucie Howe, Kate McCracken, James Norris, Stephenie Park, Kevin Rieder, Diane Sears, John Sears, Debra Stanislawski and Scott Wilhelm are serving in seventeen countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and South America.

These eighteen of my constituents have joined the Peace Corps in support of three goals. The first two goals are to help provide interested countries with trained men and women and to promote a better understanding of Americans by people of other countries. In a time when the United States is taking an ever greater role in the international community, Peace Corps Volunteers present the best of what America can offer to the rest of the world.

When their time in the Peace Corps is complete, I look forward to those volunteers' return to the United States and Illinois' Eighth district to begin work on what could be the Peace Corps' most important goal: to promote a better understanding of other people and cultures by Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today to acknowledge the thousands of Americans who serve and have served as Peace Corps Volunteers. They are a great credit to our country, and we should applaud them.

HONORING CONESTOGA HIGH SCHOOL ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Conestoga High School of Berwyn, Pennsylvania on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

On March 5, 1954, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for a new senior high school in the Paoli Area High School System. This event was significant because the new and modern high school would be accommodating students from six different communities in

Chester County, Pennsylvania and merging them into one, unified school. In an effort to involve the community in the creation of the new school, the school board decided to hold a local competition to name the school. In the end, a ninth grade student suggested the name "Conestoga" because the Old Conestoga Road passes through each of the six communities served by the school. Conestoga became its name to symbolize the connection of these communities.

Construction on the school continued throughout the summer and into the next year. On September 9, 1955, the Conestoga High School opened with a student enrollment of 549 and a faculty of 35. As the school continued to grow and flourish, along came the need for additional space to accommodate the students. In 1959, just four years after the original school was completed, 19 rooms were added to the building. After the completion of the new wing, student enrollment was at an all-time high of 1036.

During the next forty years, Conestoga High School would undergo many changes. In 1967, 20 additional rooms were added to the main building and, in 1981, the school's library was enlarged and named for Karl Zettelmoyer in recognition of his years as principal from 1957 to 1971. Conestoga continued this tradition of recognizing those who had served the school when a new gymnasium was constructed and named for Principal John C. Rittenmeyer.

Just recently, Conestoga has added fourteen general all-purpose classrooms and ten new science labs. The cafeteria was enlarged and modernized to meet the needs of the student body and the entire music area was reconfigured to house the growing interest in the Conestoga High School choir. In the family and consumer sciences lab, the kitchens were completely renovated and reconfigured and a new welcoming and spacious main lobby was built.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Conestoga High School. Throughout the past 50 years, the school has provided an invaluable exemplary educational service to its students and has contributed greatly to the community. Conestoga High School should be commended for its exceptional record of positive development of the moral, physical, and emotional well-being of the young men and women who have attended the school over the past 50 years.

HUNGARIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO COALITION EFFORTS IN IRAQ

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues an excellent letter that I recently received from his Excellency András Simonyi, Ambassador of Hungary to the United States, which provides specific detail of his country's support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Hungary has been particularly supportive of U.S. military efforts in Iraq in implementing training programs for Iraqis and donating millions of dollars in necessary supplies. Such efforts have furthered U.S. objectives in Iraq, and contributed to efforts to bring peace and stability to the region.

Hungary was among the first countries to support Coalition efforts in Iraq, including the training of Free Iraqi Forces (FIF) in Taszár, Hungary in Fall 2002 and the deployment of a transportation battalion of 300 troops to Iraq.

More recently, the Hungarian Government has decided to send 165 troops to the NATO Training and Implementation Mission in Iraq and donate 77 T72 tanks to the Iraqi army. These actions represent the broader goal of the Hungarian Government to support American efforts in Iraq. I urge all my colleagues to read this excellent and informative letter written from Ambassador Simonyi.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to pay tribute to my dear friend András Simonyi. He has been an outstanding representative of Hungary in the United States and has personally made an important contribution to the relations between our two countries.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the letter of Ambassador Simonyi be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to read it.

THE AMBASSADOR OF HUNGARY,
Washington, March 1, 2005.

Hon. TOM LANTOS,
*Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN LANTOS: As I am sure that you might be interested, allow me summarize for you to the extent possible Hungary's contribution to the Iraqi stabilization process so far. As you well know, Hungary was among the first to support Coalition efforts in Iraq, including by training the Free Iraqi Forces (FIP) in Taszár, Hungary in Fall 2002 and by deploying a 300-strong transportation battalion to Iraq who served in Al-Hillah. Recently the Hungarian Government decided to send 165 troops to the NATO Training and Implementation Mission in Iraq. Hungary donated 77 T72 tanks to the Iraqi Army. 14 high ranking officers are in Iraq to train Iraqi officers in command and control.

In March 2004 the Hungarian Government sent an aid supply of medical equipment to Basra, total value of appx. 300,000.00 USD.

Donation of 80 cardio-equipment to the Iraqi Ministry of Health in March 2004 for a total value of 1,000,000.00 USD and a training program for experts in 2005.

In October 2004 training of 20 experts in drink-water purification, waste-water and waste management.

Training program for the Iraqi Police for 2004-2005 for a value of 500,000.00 USD.

Training program for 25 Iraqi diplomats starting from March 2005 at Corvinus University.

Training program for Iraqi conductors starting from the first quarter of 2005 to form experts in the well-known Hungarian method to help the development of handicapped children.

Training program for 20 civil servants in Hungary for a period of 10 days in the field of privatization, small business promotion, and banking system in the first quarter of 2005.

50 day training program in Hungary for 20 Iraqi experts in the field of fresh-water fish-breeding.

Four-week training program for 10 Iraqi veterinaries in Hungary starting in the first semester of 2005.

Water management training for 10 Iraqi expert starting from the first semester of 2005.

Financial aid for the Iraqi elections.

Sincerely yours,

ANDRÁS SIMONYI.