

and to the same extent as such a health maintenance organization.

(5) STATE.—The term "State" means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

SEC. 4. SUNSET.

Sections 1 through 3 shall cease to be effective on September 30, 2001.

SEC. 5. FEDERAL EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFIT PROGRAM.

For the Federal Employee Health Benefit Program, sections 1 through 3 will take effect on October 1, 1997.

LORET RUPPE: AN UNSELFISH CIVIL SERVANT WITH A VISION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, as the attached excerpts from an Economist obituary indicate, Loret Ruppe was an extraordinarily effective, dedicated, and public-service oriented leader for one of America's most optimistic programs, the Peace Corps. Her leadership of that Agency helped instill in it her own dedication and desire to help those most in need of America's can-do spirit.

As Director of the Peace Corps, Loret Ruppe worked with this Member to facilitate cooperation between that important program and the highly successful, Farmer-to-Farmer Program. The marriage of these two American technical assistance programs insures that Loret Ruppe's outstanding legacy continues in all those villages and out-of-the-way places where her Peace Corps and Farmer-to-Farmer soldiers spread the positive results of her optimism and determination.

[From the Economist, Aug. 24, 1996]

LORET RUPPE

When Loret Ruppe was made director of America's Peace Corps in 1981, it was probably the least attractive of political appointments in the gift of the president. "We called it the peace corpse," recalls a diplomat embarrassed by young Americans dumped in, say, an African village and expected to promote western ideas. Ronald Reagan, the new broom who in 1980 had swept away the Democrats, was prepared formally to bury the corpse. But Mrs. Ruppe, a prominent Republican who had been leader of the Reagan-Bush campaign in Michigan, wanted the job, and Mr. Reagan was happy, though surprised, to repay a political debt cheaply. If she finished it off, no one would be too bothered.

To some, Mrs. Ruppe seemed as naive as her new charges. She was approaching middle age, a mother hen with five daughters, adept at Republican money-raising, but with no foreign experience. But delve deeper. Mrs. Ruppe's mother was an anti-nuclear campaigner who alarmed her family by camping out on the bomb-testing grounds in Nevada. And she had been an admirer of President Kennedy, like her (and Mrs. Ruppe) a Roman Catholic, who had created the Peace Corps in 1961.

So there was a seed, and it germinated. Mrs. Ruppe decided that the Peace Corps was a good idea that had been discredited by its Kennedy-minded sloppiness. The Peace Corps had been the one fresh project that Kennedy had brought to the presidency. He called it his "winning number". He visualized the many thousands of students who had sup-

ported him during his election campaign as "soldiers of peace". He contrasted them with "ugly American" ambassadors who "lacked compassion." In his inaugural address in 1961 Kennedy said that the Peace Corps would help those "in the huts and villages of half the globe struggling to break the bonds of mass misery." For poor countries this was a hurtfully condescending message from a fat cat. They wanted money and investment, not what a critic of Kennedy called "some Harvard boy or Vassar girl" who "lives in a mud hut and speaks Swahili".

KENNEDY'S CHILDREN

In fact, few in the early days of the Peace Corps had equipped themselves even with fluency in a second language before setting forth. Many were innocents abroad. Wise minds in the Kennedy circle did advise caution in the selection of recruits. Notwithstanding, they said, the admirable enthusiasm of the thousands of Americans who applied by every post to be allowed to help the miserable Africans and Asians, they should have appropriate skills and a degree of maturity. But the average age of Kennedy's Peace Corps "children", as they came to be called, was an unmaturing 21.

The corps that Mrs. Ruppe took over in 1981 had shrunk from 15,000 in the 1960s to about 5,000. In the previous decade seven directors had come and gone. The corps budget had been cut, and cut again. The Soviet Union said, perhaps correctly, that the corps was a weapon in the cold war; in those days nearly everything was. The corps, Mrs. Ruppe recalled later, was in "the least liked, least supported, least respected" part of the United States budget.

At first Mrs. Ruppe took no salary. This was no hardship for her—she came from a wealthy family of brewers—but the gesture was well received. The many liberals in the corps, initially hostile to a Reagan appointee, were won over by her clear belief in the movement and her sensible management. She ensured that anyone sent to the 90 or so countries served by the corps had a skill to offer, most commonly in agriculture as the majority of the world's poor are peasants, but there was, too, a wide range of expertise available, from nursing to computers. These days the average age of members is 29. Some are over 50, bringing to their tasks years of experience. Under Mrs. Ruppe the corps gained flexibility: sometimes a farmer, or a doctor or an engineer, will take a sabbatical from his regular job to spend some useful time overseas. The present director, Mark Gearan, said that Mrs. Ruppe was "the driving force" in its revitalization.

Kennedy's "winning number" has spread far beyond the bounds of his New Frontier. These days all the rich countries have dozens of organisations that send volunteers abroad to poor and not-so-poor countries. Some of them are government-supported, although many are private, relying on charity. In France, voluntary work abroad has been acceptable as an alternative to military service. Such schemes are generally regarded as a Good Thing, perhaps suspiciously so. This year, keeping 6,529 Peace Corps people in the field will cost America \$219m, about \$33,500 a person, a good deal less than the expense of running the most junior diplomat. Neither is Peace Corps work solely altruistic. For a Peace Corps scientist specialising in, say, pest control, Africa is a laboratory not available at home. As a result, the rich world becomes subtly richer. In 1989, after eight years as director of the corps, Mrs. Ruppe became ambassador to Norway, Washington's reward to one of its least-ugly Americans.

TRIBUTE TO SENIOR M.SGT.
FREDRICK D. HAM

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Senior M. Sgt. Fredrick D. Ham who is retiring from the U.S. Air Force at McClellan AFB, CA.

Senior Master Sergeant Ham has completed 26 years of dedicated service to our country. As a senior master sergeant, leader, and finally as a respected first sergeant assigned to the 77th Communications Squadron at McClellan Air Force Base, CA, he has provided dedicated and distinguished service.

Today as we honor his retirement, we reflect on the outstanding career which Fred started in October 1970 when he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. Upon completion of basic training at Lackland AFB, TX, Lackland became his first permanent duty assignment. While there, he performed duties as an interior electrician until cross-training into the work control career field in 1972.

In December 1972, he was assigned to Torrejon AFB, Spain, where he worked as an in-service work programmer, controller, scheduler, quality control technician, service call NCOIC, and NCOIC of customer service. In 1982, he traveled stateside to Kirtland AFB, NM. Selected for promotion to master sergeant in 1983, he attended the First Sergeant Academy. He was selected honor graduate of his class.

In 1986, Fred again went overseas to Bitburgh AB, Germany, where he was first sergeant of the 36th Aircraft Generation Squadron and 36th Equipment Maintenance Squadron. While there, in February 1988, he attended the NCO Academy at Kapau AS, Germany (class honor graduate) and was the winner of the John L. Levitow award. That same year, he was selected as Bitburgh's First Sergeant of the Year.

In 1990, he was assigned to McClellan AFB, where he served as the first sergeant of the 77th Communications Squadron until his retirement. In April 1992, he graduated from the Senior NCO Academy as a distinguished graduate while earning honors as the Military Studies Award Winner.

In 1994, Fred was selected as the McClellan AFB First Sergeant of the Year.

Senior Master Sergeant Ham is married to the former Diane Huse of Chicago, IL. They have a daughter Rebecca, who resides in Othello, WA, and two grandsons, Matthew, 6 and Dustin, 2.

Fred D. Ham's career reflects a commitment to our Nation, characterized by dedicated selfless service, love for the Air Force and commitment to excellence. Senior Master Sergeant Ham's performance, over a quarter of a century of service, personifies the traits of courage, competency, and integrity that our Nation has come to expect from its first sergeants. On behalf of the Congress of the United States and the people of this great Nation, I offer our heartfelt appreciation and best wishes for a first sergeant who served his country so admirably.