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JFK

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well-lived, and not to mourn a life that has passed away. This is a celebration of life," said Katy Hansen of Orange City, Iowa, who taught in a Nigerian high school in 1967-68 and is president of the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers.

She led off the "journals of peace" vigil in which former volunteers from across the country took turns giving brief speeches, singing songs and reading from their journals or letters from abroad, reflecting on what the time they spent in Peace Corps service meant to them.

Also today, Dallas-area painters, poets, performance artists and musicians planned a series of exhibits and live performances at the Texas Theater, where assassin Lee Harvey Oswald was apprehended only hours after the assassination of the president.

At Dealey Plaza, a small American flag with a bouquet of flowers lay in front of a plaque, about 200 yards from the memorial and across the street from the Texas School Book Depository Building, where authorities say Oswald fired

"It's something that I can tell my kids what happened. I'm going to tell them that 25 years ago this event changed the history of the United States, the history of the world."

— Raul Miranda —

from a sixth-floor window into Kennedy's motorcade.

On Sunday, 30 former Green Berets and 150 onlookers gathered at the memorial to remember Kennedy. The members of the U.S. Army Special Forces wore their berets — the ones Kennedy had authorized in 1961 — as they saluted four wreaths laid at the memorial.

At Parkland Memorial Hospital, where Kennedy was taken after being shot, a roundtable discussion was planned today with five doctors and nurses who were at the hospital when the president arrived.

The attention given to the 25th

anniversary has aroused more interest than usual in the site, said Gary Mead, who drove one of several tour buses that stopped at the memorial yesterday.

"They're very much aware of it," Mead said. "They don't want to miss this part of the tour."

The Dallas County Democratic Party, which had been in charge of the official observance, last marked the anniversary five years ago. Since then, it has sponsored ceremonies every May remembering Kennedy on his birthday.

"We got the impression that the family preferred we remember the

happier moment celebrating his birth," said Sandy Kress, county party chairman. "We think the family was right, and we feel good about what we're doing."

The Washington vigil ends at noon today, the 25th anniversary of Kennedy's assassination in Dallas, with remarks by Sens. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., himself a former volunteer in the Dominican Republic; and commentator Bill Moyers, former deputy director of the Peace Corps.

A commemorative service will be held afterward at St. Matthew's Roman Catholic Cathedral, where Kennedy's funeral service was held on Nov. 25, 1963. Officiating will be the Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, first chairman of the Peace Corps advisory committee.

They are among an estimated 130,000 former volunteers who have served in 94 countries since Kennedy founded the Peace Corps in March 1961 as his first major initiative as president. Today there are 7,000 volunteers serving in 64 countries.

Rep. Tom Petri, R-Wis., one of six House members who are former volunteers, said Kennedy taught him that "Americans should be involved with the world, not just as diplomats or the military, but as citizens."