

ACROSS

# STATESLINE

FROM USA TODAY'S NATIONAL NEWS NETWORK

## JFK MEMORIES

### Peace Corps recruits remember Kennedy

A 24-hour vigil for the Peace Corps — called President Kennedy's living legacy — ends at noon today in the Capitol Rotunda in Washington. Sponsored by the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, it featured readings from volunteer's journals: (Today's Debate, 12A)

#### He 'elicited idealism instead of cynicism'



Tim Murphy, USA TODAY  
**MARTIN:** Corps benefited  
USA as well as others

"Dear President Kennedy,  
"I look longingly to the year — more than a quarter of a century ago — when you appealed to our better instincts and elicited idealism instead of cynicism and opportunism. When you uttered the much-quoted 'Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country,' you were wise enough to provide us with some answers. One . . . was the Peace Corps, which I think has benefited our country as much as its host countries by giving us a larger perspective and teaching us to think globally."

Tina Martin of San Francisco.  
Served in Tonga.

#### Isolated tribe knew, honored president

"My wife, Elizabeth, and I worked as a nurse and public health volunteer in Andhra Pradesh, India. These tribal people lived a very isolated and independent life. The modern world rarely, and then only barely, ever touched them.

"But they did know of John Fitzgerald Kennedy. On at least one very vivid and most memorable occasion, I was ushered into a hut . . . to see a photograph of Kennedy occupying a place of honor on their earthen wall. Because we were viewed as friends of John Kennedy, as children of his . . . our job was made much easier."

Jim Hagan, Santa Cruz, Calif. Served in India.

## Freed 'from race having a place in my life'

"Mr. President:

"Newspapers in the Dominican Republic carried front page photographs of black demonstrators being assaulted with dogs and water hoses. The spectacle in Birmingham (Ala.) was damaging our country's reputation. In this atmosphere, Marco's brother asked a very chilling question: 'If I go to your country, will they throw stones at me?' I was now seeing my country as others saw us.

"My Peace Corps experience began emancipating me from race having a place in my life. For over twenty years, as a lawyer, citizen, churchman, and now judge, I have worked for racial and economic justice and opportunity."

Meltzer A. Morgan Jr., Reidsville, N.C.  
Served in Dominican Republic.

## Nov. 22: I 'lost part of' myself

Entry dated Nov. 22, 1963:

"Ron Kraus came through the door saying, 'President Kennedy is dead.' Our shouts of denial did nothing to make the moment seem any more real.

"I laid awake feeling sick, listened to the hyenas howling... and the crying of sick children. The sounds of the world seemed to continue, but I felt that I not only had lost a rudder that gave us direction, but lost a part of (myself)."

Sally Timmel,  
Washington, D.C.  
Served in Ethiopia.



**TIMMEL:** JFK's death was like loss of rudder for direction

## 'The lamp is still lit' in corps

"Dear President Kennedy,

"We were asked by the Islamic city of Marawi to consider re-introducing volunteers to the university. In 1962, these volunteers had helped build the university and the curator remembered each of them in great detail.

"You taught me... that we live on through our contributions. We didn't lose you 25 years ago, you live on through the ideals of the Peace Corps. The lamp is still lit."

Larry Foley, Bethesda, Md.  
Served in India and the Philippines.

## Around the world

The Peace Corps has sent more than 120,000 volunteers to work in more than 95 countries since its 1961 inception. There are now some 6,000 volunteers in 63 countries:

AFRICA		Belize	125
Benin	65	Costa Rica	220
Botswana	204	Dominican Republic	169
Burundi	28	Ecuador	261
Cameroon	133	Guatemala	263
Cape Verde	8	Honduras	387
Central African Republic	100	Jamaica	158
		Paraguay	190
Chad	20	NORTH AFRICA, NEAR EAST, PACIFIC	
Equatorial Guinea	10	Cook Islands	1
Gabon	89	Fiji	81
The Gambia	58	Kiribati	16
Ghana	101	Marshall Islands	37
Guinea	62	Micronesia	50
Kenya	259	Morocco	160
Lesotho	97	Nepal	168
Liberia	154	Pakistan	8
Malawi	107	Palau	15
Mali	155	Papua New Guinea	69
Mauritania	74	Philippines	308
Niger	137	Seychelles	10
Rwanda	11	Solomon Islands	65
Senegal	95	Sri Lanka	35
Sierra Leone	172	Thailand	186
Swaziland	62	Tonga	34
Tanzania	42	Tunisia	66
Togo	141	Tuvalu	1
Zaire	183	Western Samoa	42
INTER-AMERICA		Yemen	64
9 E. Caribbean nations		174	