

THE DIRECTOR OF THE PEACE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

May 5, 2005

Afghanistan Returned Peace Corps Volunteers
Peace Corps Afghanistan Reunion 2005
Las Vegas, Nevada

Dear Afghanistan Returned Peace Corps Volunteers:

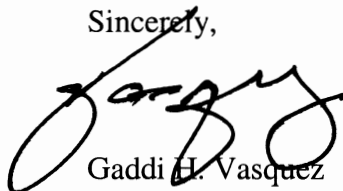
On behalf of the Peace Corps, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to all of you who have gathered in Las Vegas, Nevada, to celebrate the 30th anniversary of your Peace Corps service in Afghanistan. Let me also take this opportunity to thank you for your service to the Peace Corps and to the people of Afghanistan, and for the service that you continue to provide as returned Peace Corps Volunteers.

Beginning in 1962 and continuing until the program was closed in 1979, nearly 2,000 Peace Corps Volunteers, including yourselves, had the opportunity to contribute to Afghanistan's development, and you did an outstanding job. I had the opportunity to visit Afghanistan at the beginning of my tenure as Director of the Peace Corps in early 2002 and to learn of the strong regard that Afghans continue to have for the Peace Corps. In fact, Ms. Sima Simar, then-Minister of Women's Affairs, spoke warmly of the Peace Corps Volunteer who taught her English. Perhaps that Volunteer was one of you gathered for this anniversary celebration.

The ties of friendship and understanding that exist between the people of Afghanistan and the Peace Corps were forged 30 or more years ago by Volunteers such as you. In the years ahead, it is my hope that another generation of Volunteers will have the opportunity to meet the standards you set during your service there. They, and we, remain forever in your debt.

Again, congratulations on the 30th anniversary of your Peace Corps service in Afghanistan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gaddi H. Vasquez', written over a white background.

Gaddi H. Vasquez
Director