



Friends OF COLOMBIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE COLOMBIA RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of Colombia,

The cherry blossoms are in bloom around town. It is a welcomed soft touch and a little diversion to the hot seat of politics.

Everyone should have received the FOC fundraising letter in December 2016, which brought in over \$13,000 in donations. Thank you to all who contributed. These funds will be used to help support our projects for 2017. Our donations for 2016 were as follows: Paso a Paso \$5,000 (with \$3,529 held in reserve for a special project in 2017); Fundehumac \$500; American University Archives \$1,000; The Colombia Project \$2,000; the Marina Orth Foundation \$2,000; Colombia Teacher Training \$1,000; The Magdalena Foundation \$1,000; Peace Corps Volunteer grants program \$1,000; for a total of \$13,500.

Mark your calendars: the 2017 Peace Corps Connect conference will be August 4-6 at the University of Denver. The theme is "Partnering for Progress: Taking Collaborations to New Heights." As usual, FOC will be sponsoring an event

and social gathering. We are hoping to see our West Coast members in Denver.

The Marina Orth Foundation is looking for a new director to be located in Medellín as well as a project manager to serve as a consultant residing in Colombia. If you are intrigued by the prospect of returning to Colombia to employ your career-developed management skills, you may contact me at arlches@aol.com.

Finally, you should have received a special mailing asking for your support of the survivors of the recent floods in Mocoa, Colombia. Friends of Colombia is seeking to raise \$15,000 to help the people of Mocoa. For every dollar contributed, FOC has a generous donor who will match donations to a total of \$15,000. Please go to our website—www.friendsofcolombia.org to donate through PayPal or send your contribution to Friends of Colombia, P.O. Box 15292, Chevy Chase, MD 20825. Please mark your check "mocoa."

Wishing you a lovely spring,

Arleen Stewart Cheston
President, Friends of Colombia



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FROM THE *Field*

LA CLAUSURA

CERTIFICATES AND BINOCULARS FOR ECO-TURÍSTICO GUIDES

BY ABBY WASSERMAN, COLOMBIA XIII

The graduation, *la clausura*, of Dibulla's first eco-guides course last September was an unprecedented celebration in the life of this resilient Caribbean town, which calls itself "La Colombia Verdadera." With speeches, certificates, gifts from Friends of Colombia, and a slide show, it was one more step towards establishing Dibulla as a tourist destination. On hand were Stanley Boynton, the Peace Corps Response Volunteer who organized the training, a pair of 1960s Colombia PCV's, Howard Converse (Colombia XV) and I, and my husband, Potter Wickware.

Dibulla sits at the intersection of the Jerez River and the Caribbean Sea on the northeast coast of Colombia near the Venezuelan border. It is the seat of the municipality of Dibulla in the state of La Guajira. The largely Afrocolombian residents (around 5,000) are proud, independent, generous and friendly. Temperatures are extreme, in the 90's with high humidity. Consequently, the best times of day for activity are very early or very late. Water

shortages and irregular blackouts occur. Almost no one speaks English. There is a handful of small hotels in town (some with A/C), a few restaurants, bakeries, house-front pop-up eateries, *tiendas*, three pool halls, a nicely kept cemetery, and an attractive beach with daytime *estaderos*, structures that offer food, drink and shade. Life in town can be loud, sometimes raucous, but is often very quiet. There's a *hogar infantil*, a school, a hospital, and a rather chaotic transport system of motorcycles, jitneys, taxis, and a few buses. Once in a while a circus comes to town.

The *clausura* did not go off like clockwork. The invitations weren't printed on time because the town's commercial copy machine malfunctioned, so Stan ended up delivering them personally, door-to-door, on the eve of the event. There was a small flaw in the printing of the diplomas and it was hoped it could be fixed by the next morning. As people began to gather in the town's park, *se fue la luz*. With no lights there could be no diplomas, no slide show and no ventilation in the church. And forty-five minutes beyond the anticipated start time, the main teacher, *el profesor* José Luis Pushaina, hadn't arrived.

The newly graduated eco-tourism guides pose with their diplomas after the ceremony. All photos by Howard Converse and Abby Wasserman.

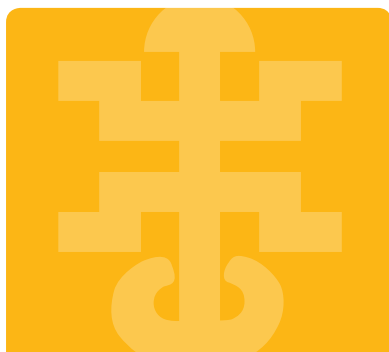


There are several birdwatching options for tourists in Dibulla. The website, turismodibulla.com, identifies the sites and the guides for each site, gives their phone numbers and email addresses. The local guides are from the tourist sites, are trustworthy and know the area. However, for those tourists who want to go birding I strongly suggest hiring two guides, one for his or her knowledge of the area and another who knows birds.

It also is helpful if the tourists know how to speak Spanish. For that reason we recommend hiring Wayúu guides who know the birds in Wayúu, Spanish and English. The local Wiwa guides, for example, know the birds, but they know the names only in Wiwa, not in Spanish or English. In every case try to start at dawn, apply sunscreen and take water.

—Stanley H. Boynton

FROM THE FIELD (CONTINUED)



“

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LA CLAUSURA (CONTINUED)



(Left) Peace Corps Response Volunteer Stanley Boynton. (Above top) Stan opens the ceremony by praising the commitment and hard work of the trainees. (Above bottom) Ramón “López” Calvo, center with white hat, and the other Wiwa eco-tourism guides from Seyamuke, the Wiwa community east of Dibulla, with Jose Luis Pushaina, Wayúu guide and instructor, his wife, Noreidis, and their three daughters, Eliana, Oriana and Ariana. (Right) Graduating guides (left to right) Manuel Antonio Barro (kneeling) Wilson Guarín, Mrs. Calvo, Marciano Ipuana Ipuana, Ramón Calvo, Luz Ipuana, Pedro José Epinayú, Luis Pereira.

Most everyone took the delays in stride. The old church, with its impressive steps, had been retained as a meeting hall when the new church was built. People chatted at the base of the steps while Teresa Sabán, the extraordinary vice president of Fundación Turismo Dibulla, swept and tidied. The guides were comprised of Native and non-Native groups: Wiwa, Wayúu, Afrocolombianos and displaced Colombians. The group of Wiwa guides, striking in white homespun cotton, sat apart in the shade of an arbor.

Suddenly, several things happened. The electricity went back on, the certificates were printed and delivered, the fans inside whirled into action, and José Luis, with his wife and three daughters, all Wayúu, arrived on Indian time. We gathered inside where chairs had been placed in a semi-circle. I was told by Luz Ipuana, one of the Wayúu guides, to sit up front with her and the event's leaders. The Wiwa guides took their seats. They had come from Seyamuke, a small Wiwa village at the base of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, twenty minutes by car northeast of Dibulla.

José Mendoza, president of Grupo Turismo Dibulla, welcomed everyone, Stan spoke about the context for the training, and José Luis, the visionary *profesor*, commented on the tours, eco-tourist guiding, the importance of mythology and local lore, and the diverse groups involved. I was designated to hand out the diplomas. Each group of four to six stepped forward to receive his or her diploma, and the leader of each group received a pair of new Bushnell binoculars (*láminas*) from Friends of Colombia. They had recently used *láminas* for the first time and were delighted with the gift. I also brought a new copy of the excellent paperback *Birds of Colombia* for identification purposes. These materials will be very well used.



FROM THE FIELD (CONTINUED)

LA CLAUSURA (CONTINUED)

At the conclusion, Hermana Lidia, one of the three nuns in town, showed a Power Point slide show with photos by Stan and Bryce Daley, a recent Dibulla PCV. Here were guides during training, walking the paths, watching birds with binoculars, identifying trees and plants of the region—preparing for the tourists who all hope will come. Afterwards, photos were taken of the historic group, and everyone dispersed with good fellowship.

The eco-guides were the final element of a PCV project that also included training in English and business administration, forming an NGO (Fundación Turismo Dibulla), and establishing a website (www.dibullaturismo.com). Many of the guides came from impoverished communities of Native and displaced peoples near Dibulla and represented an effort to strengthen the community tourism effort in Dibulla and surrounding areas. Stan left Dibulla in October after 11 months, shortly before a new two-year volunteer, Alexandra Tracy (alexandra.tracy4@gmail.com), arrived. Stan

(stanboynton@yahoo.com) is now a Peace Corps Response volunteer in Matucana, Peru, working on an eco-tourism project.

Contact the author at abby.wasserman@gmail.com.



(Left) Abby hands out diplomas to graduating guides from Santa Rita la Sierra, left to right, el profesor Jose Luis Pushaina, Wayúu, Francisco Javara, Wilson Guarín, Wilfredo Acosta, Mauricio Muñoz. (Right) Each small group of trainees was presented with a pair of birdwatching binoculars, gifts from Friends of Colombia. Left to Right, Abby Wasserman, José Luis Pushaina, Juan Pereira and Luis Pereira, Dibulla.

“Many of the guides came from impoverished communities of Native and displaced peoples near Dibulla and represented an effort to strengthen the community tourism effort in Dibulla and surrounding areas.”

F.O.C. TREASURER'S REPORT, 2013–2015

	2014	2015	2016
REVENUES			
Dues	\$5,985	\$10,054	\$4,535
Donations to FOC	5,695	9,968	12,360
Dues from NPCA	1,170	850	510
TOTAL REVENUE	\$12,850	\$20,872	\$17,405
EXPENDITURES			
Donations by FOC	\$10,000	\$9,000	\$8,194*
Newsletters, other mailings	2,463	6,202	4,476
Website	4,384	450	1,190
USPS permits	124	128	132
D & O insurance	700	735	
Embassy reception			2,997
Other business expenses	298	1,048	153
Reaffiliation of FOC with NPCA	400	400	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$18,369	\$17,963	\$17,142
On Hand (as of 12/31)	\$10,147	\$13,056	\$13,319

* An additional \$5,500 was contributed to projects in January 2017

After PEACE CORPS

COLOMBIA SIXTIES PCVS GOING STRONG AS VOLUNTEERS IN MALAWI AND MOZAMBIQUE

BY PETER KAPP, COLOMBIA V, REFUGIO I.
ROCHIN, COLOMBIA II, AND CASSIE MORTON

Refugio (Will) Rochin and Peter Kapp worked rural community development in Sandoná, Nariño, serially in 1962 and 1963. Rochin was appointed volunteer leader by Director Chris Sheldon in '63 and later introduced newcomer Kapp to Steve Murray, Colombia I, in Sandoná. Kapp inherited Will's horse in Sandoná and Will got the green Jeep he used to support volunteers all over Nariño from his base in Pasto.

Rochin and Kapp met again in Berkeley for the Peace Corps meetings in 2015. There Peter met Will's wife, Cassie Morton. Will had by then completed no fewer than eight USAID assignments in various African countries during and after his many years as professor of Agricultural Economics at the University of California at Davis, and subsequent work in international development agencies. Will and Cassie volunteered with Farmer 2 Farmer programs in Wenchi, Ghana; Kenya and Chimoio, Mozambique, assisting organizations of farmers with plans and strategies for marketing horticultural produce. Both returned to Mozambique shortly after the Berkeley meetings and completed yet another project with the Farmer 2 Farmer program.

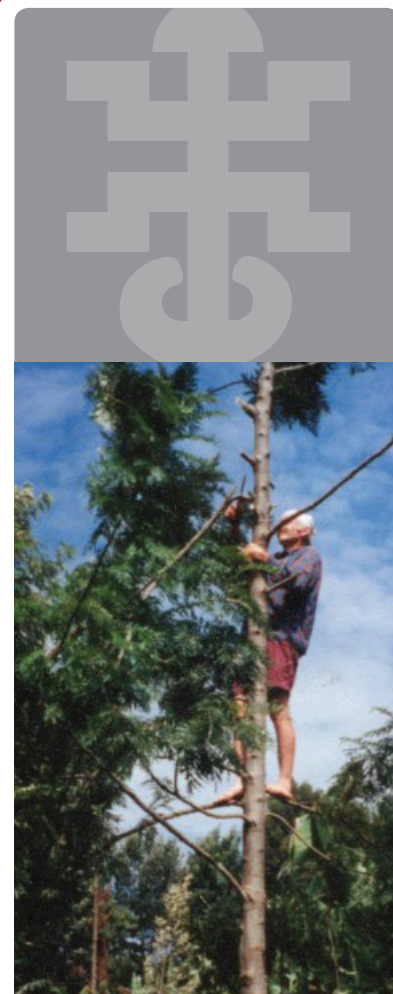
(Below) Mulanje Mission Farmers Forum participants.
(Right) Tree-trimming on Guama Mathai's farm near Nyeri, Kenya.



Intrigued by this, Kapp was motivated to apply to Creating New Frontiers in Agriculture (CNFA) and found himself in Africa last summer. He went to Mulanje Mission, Malawi and helped traditional farmers improve crop production with techniques Kapp learned during 15 years of organic farm management in Mendocino County, California. In 1999, for example, Kapp had organized a small group of volunteers including two graduates of the UC Santa Cruz Farming Apprentice program to journey at their own expense to Kenya to help on traditional Kikuyu farms. They learned about Kenyan farming techniques. They were introduced to the unique women's fund-raising groups instrumental in building local infrastructure on small family farms. One of these groups built water tanks cooperatively for members. They learned that women's groups in Kenya are organized to achieve a wide variety of enterprises and do not admit men as members.

Both of Kapp's African adventures were singular but very different. "In Kenya we simply descended upon families with little or no warning and we were amazed by the warmth of our welcome," said Kapp. "They stopped everything to accommodate us. Some had been taught by PCV teachers back in the Sixties and were by then schoolteachers themselves as well as subsistence farmers. In Mount Kenya they told us how 17 elephants had come out of the forest and wouldn't leave. No one left home to go to school for a week. In Nyeri we traveled in the school bus to girls' drama contests where fully half of the plays addressed the perils of AIDs. We were invited to tour the country with them and to play bagpipes at their performances."

The Malawi experience was tightly organized to fit into 19 days. Kapp got his farmers very interested in a shrub called Tephrosia which is interplanted with crops in the far North and in Zambia as a natural insecticide and fixer of nitrogen. No one used it in Mulanje but they found it growing wild and the farmers made arrangements among themselves to propagate it with their maize crops. In recent years chemical fertilizers and insecticides were



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AFTER PEACE CORPS (CONTINUED)

COLOMBIA SIXTIES PCVS GOING STRONG... (CONTINUED)

introduced in Malawi but they are no longer affordable. On the other hand, over 400 varieties of Tephrosia are known in Sub-Saharan Africa and even so the plant is not native.

Tephrosia is also a good source of firewood. Charcoal vendors all along the highway from Lilongwe to Mulanje were testimony to the need for it. The deforestation rate in Malawi is estimated at 3 percent annually.

Introduction of homemade solar cookers to help reduce the need for charcoal could become a future project.

The discussion groups were the best part of the experience. Roger Engstrom, another CNFA volunteer who had served with Peace Corps in India, pointed out that nowhere in the world do farmers routinely share information. Least of all in his native Iowa.

Kapp learned that collective farming knowledge among Malawian farmers is comprehensive in scope but that it is unevenly distributed. He felt that was the major challenge volunteers could address through organizing forums and workshops. Cell phones and the Internet have radically changed communications in rural Africa. But while the Facebook messenger service is free and universally available, email accounts and individual websites are not affordable for most users in Africa.



(Above) Members of SIWAMA board holding examples of super sized cabbage. Chimoio, Mozambique.

(Left) Creating essential compost at Mulanje Mission.

(Below) Singers and dancers at Mulanje Mission.

The Malawi program finished up with diplomas, speeches, traditional music and dance and included drama presentations reminiscent of the school experience in 1999 in Kenya. This time the dramas reprised the subject matter of the class in Mulanje Mission.

In Mozambique, Rochin's and Morton's work focused in part on strategic marketing skills practice and development. They met with their committees and helped them formulate plans, walking them through the marketing steps with their clients. This was hands-on experience designed to break down barriers in the markets and improve livelihoods in a fundamental way. For their work, Rochin and Morton received a gift from their board.



“This was hands on experience designed to break down barriers in the markets and improve livelihoods in a fundamental way.”

AFTER PEACE CORPS (CONTINUED)

A LETTER TO MY GRANDDAUGHTER ON JOINING THE PEACE CORPS

NED CHALKER, COLOMBIA I

Dear Nai'a,

I wanted to write you a letter about the Peace Corps during your final year of studying to become a nurse. The question for you, of course, is what do you do when you finish your studies?

I suggest you consider the Peace Corps as a possibility before taking the next big step in your future as a nurse.

Does the Peace Corps have anything to offer young people today before they start careers in the real world of today? I think it does.

The Peace Corps is an opportunity to use your knowledge, hands-on experience and skills in a useful way to help people in another part of the world. Plus, you get to travel, learn another language, and add adventure in a real world much larger than the one you know. The real world today is the globe.

I was very lucky. When I was your age, the world was full of hope that a brighter future for the world was possible. The newly elected young President put out a call to all Americans, especially young people: "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country". Those were powerful words and a challenge to my generation to think "outside the box".



As I look back on my choice to join the Peace Corps, it was probably one of the best decisions I ever made. I had graduated with an engineering degree and was already working as a mechanical engineer on the St. Louis arch. But I was faced with the fact that I had an obligation to serve my country. I chose the Peace Corps.

I was sent to Colombia, South America to serve in a community development program in a rural coffee village high in the Andes for two years. We had trained two months in the States and an additional month in the capital of Colombia. We were supposed to figure out what people wanted to have in their small communities and help them to work together to solve their problems themselves. That's a lot to ask a young person from another country and another culture. But we jumped in and somehow ...after two years...made it work.

We listened. We encouraged people to participate in their own destiny. We started with small projects that showed results like building a lighted basketball court and worked up to larger projects like a one-room school house where all parts of the community enjoyed the successes of their efforts. We made lasting friendships. We made discoveries about human nature and about the good in all people. We had lasting learning experiences about ourselves and about our system especially when we tried to explain how our system worked to others. The civil rights movement was just starting in the US with articles in the local Colombian papers about the issues of equality and the violence in the US. This was very difficult for someone with a technical background to explain. But we did. We discovered we were playing a much larger role. We were representing the face of the American people to the people of Colombia. I was asked about all facets of American life... about issues I had never thought about.

And somehow, I was able to do it and grew through the experience.

In the process, we became catalysts for change in that small community. We gradually persuaded people to make decisions about what mattered to them in their lives and take part in improving those circumstances that were important to them. It was a challenge and an opportunity to do our bit to make lives better for people who traditionally had their decisions made for them by the upper classes and the power elite.

My advice to you is to "Get in the game". Just do it. The two-year experience you'll have will give you a leg up in any future career you pursue. You'll have an opportunity for independence and responsibility like no other entry job and the rewards are great.

My friends who have become managers in large organizations tell me that having "Peace Corps Volunteer" on an applicant's resume frequently puts them on top of the pile of competitors. Returned Peace Corps Volunteers are people who have self-selected to serve others while embarking on adventures. It means they are courageous, are self-starters, show initiative, get along with people of different cultures and opinions, have high tolerance for ambiguity and are strong team players in the workplace.

So, although it may look like serving for two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer means "stepping outside your career path", it actually means enriching your life and developing skills that can position you for even higher achievement in your career.

And the network of friends and colleagues.... in your host country and in the US....will stay with you for a lifetime.

OXO,
GPN (Grandpa Ned)

Ned Chalker, Colombia I, wants his granddaughter to consider the Peace Corps as she plans for her future career.

Books, BOOKS, BOOKS

TIME PASSAGES

BY JUAN GABRIEL VASQUEZ

A REVIEW BY JERRY NORRIS, GROUP VI

Rather than a typical book review, this one includes extensive quotes from an accomplished Colombian novelist. It allows FOC readers to experience his exquisite literary powers matched to a fevered imagination when painting a picture of events in the everyday life of a caricaturist on one of Bogotá's leading newspapers, *El Independiente*.

The central setting for this novel is the caricaturist's home in Bogotá where Javier Mallarino is throwing a party for his young daughter, Beatriz. She and her friend, Samanta, surreptitiously go around the rooms, draining unfinished glasses of aguardiente, whiskey and rum, to the point that, when discovered by their parents, they are in a stupor and put to bed in an upstairs room.

Into the party comes an uninvited guest, Congressman Adolfo Cuellar, a man who had been the subject of many unflattering caricatures by Mallarino. He had come not to demand an immediate cessation of those aggressive drawings but to humiliate himself even further with his aggressor. "He is an adult, thought Mallarino, a grown man, and I have humiliated him; he has a wife and kids and I have ridiculed him, and this adult man does not defend himself, this head of family does not respond with similar blows but humiliates himself even more, seeks even more ridicule." This confused Mallarino to a stage beyond contempt: "It seemed close to hatred, and it alarmed him to be feeling it."

He goes on: Cuellar is "weak and that's why I hate him. He's weak and I'm strong now, and I hate him for making the fact so obvious, for allowing me to abuse my strength, for giving me away, yes, for exposing this power that maybe I don't deserve."

As the house party continues, somehow Congressman Cuellar made his way upstairs unnoticed and went into the girls' bedroom. Downstairs, Samanta's father became concerned and went up to see if his daughter, Samanta was okay. This was followed by a huge commotion on the stairway as he chased the Congressman down, followed by shouts to stop him. But the Congressman succeeded in

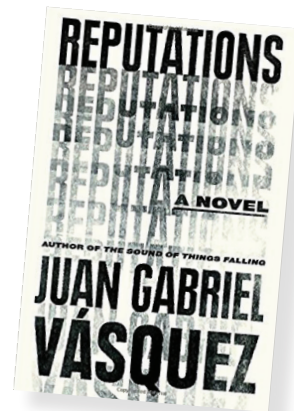
getting out the front door. Apparently, the father's daughter, Samanta, had been sexually molested by the Congressman while she was in an impaired condition.

Although Mallarino doesn't quite know exactly what happened, he knows enough to do a new caricature of the Congressman. It soon appeared on the most read page of *El Independiente* with the following caption: Congressman Adolfo Cuellar: *Suffer the little girls to come unto me.*

This caricature is sufficient to have the Congressman resign his office, then commit suicide. Mallarino rejects the notion by fellow journalists that he is responsible for the Congressman's death, saying "no caricature is capable of such a thing," but he goes on to say that "perhaps Cuellar would have preferred to be one of those men nobody sees, an anonymous and hidden creature. Or, perhaps he was justly turning into one of them: by giving up his privileged position, going into the shadows to blend in with those who were not privileged, he was fleeing future humiliations. Without privileges, Cuellar would be safe from those like him who see the world through the humiliations of others, those who seek out weaknesses in others—bones, cartilages—and pounce to exploit them."

Mallarino believes "the caricature should have fallen into oblivion, dragged away or obliterated by current events which never let up, or at least passed down the list of that capricious and voluble monster, the newspaper reader's priorities. But that was not the case. It had not fallen into oblivion; it had taken on a life of its own and was wandering the city, loose and hazardous, ricocheting around corners."

He is asked by his daughter's friend: "How does it feel to be a caricaturist, being important, being a country's conscience?" He responds: "Look, we live in confusing times. Our leaders aren't leading, much less telling us what's going



on. The important thing in our society is not what goes on, but who tells us what's going on. Are we going to allow ourselves only to be told by politicians?"

Mallarino had hoped to reconcile with his former wife, Magdalena. But when she observed him being interviewed after Cuellar's suicide, she tells him: there was "this look of admiration from your interviewers, and they asked you questions with admiration ... the sort of fear you inspire, yes, a reverential fear. And then came the worst: when I realized that you were proud. You were proud of the question they were asking you ... and who knows, maybe you were proud of something else, too. I don't know you anymore, but I do know one thing: that I don't want to be here. I don't want to be with you. I want to be far, far, far away."

Everyone else congratulates Mallarino on his work. But then he began to ask himself: "What good is ruining a man's life, even if the man deserves ruin? What good was this power if nothing changed except the ruin of that man?" He now realized that his longevity was not a virtue but an insult: forty years and nothing around him had changed. He resigns from *El Independiente*. Then, he goes to his desk and begins to trash all remnants of his long career as a caricaturist, his bottles of ink, his pencil holder, his charcoals ... symbolically obliterating his own considerable reputation.

Note: Reputations is available on Amazon. It received the 2014 Royal Spanish Academy Prize, and in 2016, the New York Times, Newsweek and the Guardian named it 'best book of the year'.

RICHARD (ROCKY) LEO KUNZ GROUP I, 1960–1962

BY JACK SWENSON, GROUP VI

Rocky Kunz was born in Indianapolis, Indiana March 23, 1940, the third child of Raymond and Frieda Kunz. He graduated from Cathedral High School and attended Purdue University before volunteering in 1960 for the first Peace Corps group to have left the United States. He spent two years in Gramalote, Colombia; upon his return he enrolled in the school of Civil Engineering to complete his degree at Purdue University graduating “cum laude” in 1966. In the same year he married the love of his life, Gloria Patrick, and they began their exciting life. Over the next forty years he enjoyed working on numerous projects including: Lock and Dam #7 in Little Rock, Arkansas, Ft. Calhoun Nuclear Plant in Omaha, Nebraska, three subway stations in Washington, D.C., Kerkoff Underground Electric Power Plant, Auberry, Calif., Balsam Meadow Electric Power Plant, Shaver, Calif., the Red Line Subway, Los Angeles, Calif. and the Ring Road and Tunnel in Izmir, Turkey. He ended his heavy construction career as Vice President of the International Division of Dillingham Construction. He particularly enjoyed working with and mentoring young engineers. He frequently quoted Mark Twain and said he so loved his job that he never worked a day in his life.

After retiring, he continued volunteering with the California Highway Patrol, St. Vincent de Paul Society, and Valley Care Hospital. He and his wife Gloria moved into the Terraces of San Joaquin in Fresno, California, in 2013 to be near their two daughters. There Rocky continued to volunteer: organizing activities, welcoming new residents, championing the “Successful Living” program and the Fresno State Inter-relational University Program. Gloria and Rocky’s life was as full, as active and as enjoyable in retirement as it had always been!

Rocky is survived by his soulmate, Gloria and his loving and loved children and their spouses: Dr. Ann-Maura Cervantes (Christopher), Karl W. Kunz (Marcie) and Heidi C. Kunz. Grandchildren Abbey Loren Kunz, Drake Patrick Cervantes and Pierce Kenrich Kunz have also been a source of joy and love

for him. His sister Carol Ann, brother Ronald (Ann) and his many nieces and nephews join us in celebrating a life well-lived and a soul most tender and kind. The family is most grateful for the care, professionalism and knowledge of the team members at the Terraces who were so dedicated and loving to him during his short illness. He died on October 6, 2016.



BILL KAUPERT GROUP II, 1963–1965

BY JERRY NORRIS, GROUP VI

Bill Kaupert passed away unexpectedly on July 3, 2016. Bill was a Peace Corps volunteer in Choachi Cundinamarca, Colombia. As a member of a rural community development project (Colombia II) he participated in the development of educational and health projects as well as cooperative activities. With the permission of Chris Sheldon, Peace Corps Country Director and Mert Cregar, Director of CARE Colombia, he married Isobel Ruth Obbard in Bogotá, who then joined him in his site in Choachi. This was the first Peace Corps marriage in Colombia and it lasted more than fifty years.

Bill’s hometown was Chicago, and he earned a bachelor’s degree from Northwestern University, and later a Masters Degree from George Washington University. After the Peace Corps, Bill taught in public schools in Washington DC for 35 years and became an important figure in his school and the ESL program there. When he retired, he continued teaching English as a volunteer to immigrants in Montgomery County, Maryland.

Very active and energetic in church and community affairs in Silver Spring, Maryland he was extremely well liked by his friends, neighbors, work colleagues, and community members. He was characterized as having the good qualities of courage, helpfulness and consistency. He is survived by his wife and children, Andrew Kaupert and Jennifer Johnsen and his grand children, Zoe and Levi Johnsen.



Bill Kaupert riding his horse “Gato” circa 1963 in the Andes.

“
Rocky Kunz
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”



Membership FORM

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Please complete one form for each member.

Date _____

Name _____

Name in Peace Corps _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____ Fax _____

Dates of Peace Corps Service _____ Group # _____

Site (include city, village, department) _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

☐ New ☐ Renewal

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