



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sargent Shriver Announced as a Recipient of the 2011 Citizen of the World Award

Fort Collins, CO, USA – March 1, 2011 – Nonprofit organization Global Explorers announced R. Sargent Shriver was the recipient of their 2011 Citizen of the World Award for Lifetime Achievement. The award will be presented to the Shriver family in November 2011. The award is an honor bestowed upon individuals whose actions and accomplishments with youth have exemplified the principles of responsible global citizenship.

The Citizen of the World Award for Lifetime Achievement has previously been given to Dr. Jane Goodall and pioneering blind climber Erik Weihenmayer. For 2011, the honor will be bestowed posthumously on Sargent Shriver who died on January 18, 2011. Among many storied accomplishments in a life of public service, Shriver led the task force commissioned by President John F. Kennedy to outline the mission and design of the government agency now known as the Peace Corps. Sargent Shriver served as the director of the organization for its first five years. To date, more than 200,000 Peace Corps volunteers have served in 139 countries. In Shriver's own words, "The Peace Corps represents some, if not all, of the best virtues in this society. It stands for everything that America has ever stood for. It stands for everything we believe in and hope to achieve in the world." Shriver's lifetime of service extended far beyond the Peace Corps through his involvement with organizations like the Special Olympics, Head Start, VISTA and the National Center on Poverty Law.

"Sargent Shriver's life is an example for all who seek to build bridges of peaceful understanding between people of different backgrounds, countries and abilities," said Global Explorers Board President Tom Lillig. "As someone who worked at the Peace Corps, I had the opportunity to witness up-close and contribute to the ongoing legacy of our founding director's work. He was a personal inspiration to me while I worked at Peace Corps and continues to be one for all of us at Global Explorers. I cannot think of another person who embodies the term 'Citizen of the World' better than Sargent Shriver. Global Explorers believes this award will inspire many more young people to learn Sargent Shriver's story and motivate them on their respective journeys toward becoming global citizens."

About Sargent Shriver

Robert Sargent Shriver, Jr. was born November 9, 1915 in Westminster, Maryland. Shriver enrolled at Yale University in 1934. During college, Shriver was the senior editor of the *Yale Daily News*. Shriver enrolled in Yale Law School in 1938, receiving his L.L.B. in 1941. Shriver went on to serve five years in active duty in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

In 1953, Shriver married Eunice Kennedy, sister of John F. Kennedy. Shriver's commitment to public service made him one of the most effective leaders of John F. Kennedy's New Frontier and Lyndon Johnson's Great Society in the 1960s. He inspired, directed, or founded numerous social programs and organizations, including Head Start, VISTA, Job Corps, Community Action, Upward Bound, Foster Grandparents, Special Olympics, the National Center on Poverty Law, Legal Services, and the Peace Corps, serving as the program's first director under President Kennedy. Shriver also ran the War on Poverty during Johnson's tenure as president. Shriver served as U.S. ambassador to France from 1968 to 1970.

In 1972, Shriver was nominated by the Democratic Party as a candidate for Vice President with presidential candidate Senator George McGovern. In 1978, Shriver began the Kennedy Institute of Ethics "Dialogue" between leaders of Christian, Jewish and Muslim religions, the first such forum for discussion since medieval Spain.

Shriver went on to become President of Special Olympics in 1984 and was appointed Chairman of the Board of Special Olympics in 1990. Under Shriver's leadership, Special Olympics greatly expanded its international sports programs for young people around the world.

On August 8, 1994, Sargent Shriver received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Clinton, the United States' highest civilian honor, as recognition for his lifetime of public service. Shriver died on January 18, 2011, but his legacy lives on in the many organizations he propelled forward, and in the lives of his five children: Robert Sargent Shriver III, Maria Shriver, Timothy Shriver, Mark Shriver, and Anthony Shriver.

About Global Explorers

Global Explorers is a nonprofit organization based in Colorado whose mission is to inspire responsible global citizenship through meaningful travel for students and educators of all backgrounds and abilities. Their comprehensive educational experiences include extensive preparation, a 1-3 week travel expedition and a follow-up service leadership project. Destinations include Central and South America, Africa, North America, and Asia.

Contact:

Dave Shurna, Executive Director, dave@globalexplorers.org, 970.484.1425, 420 S. Howes St, B300, Fort Collins, CO 80521 (795 words)