



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**What:** Earth Day Founder, John McConnell at One Sky One World Kite Fly (OSOW)  
**Where:** Stapleton's Central Park  
**When:** Sunday, October 11, 2009, 11:00 a.m. to Noon.  
**Why:** To honor 94-year-old Denverite, McConnell, who has devoted his life to “peace, justice, and the care of Earth.”

**EARTH DAY FOUNDER, MCCONNELL TO APPEAR  
AT INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL**

DENVER – The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual One Sky One World International Kite Fly, (a/k/a World Kite Day) dedicated to peace and the environment will feature special guest, Earth Day Founder, John McConnell and his biographer, Robert Weir. “Peace is not the absence of war but an honest understanding of another person’s point of view. Justice is not ‘an eye for an eye’ but an equal sharing of resources. Without peace and justice, the environmental movement is a one-legged stool.” This is the message of John McConnell, a 94-year-old Denverite, who has devoted his life, with missionary zeal, to this three-part message of “peace, justice, and the care of Earth.”

John McConnell’s accomplishments include founding the *original* Earth Day (not on April 22 but the vernal equinox, which he reveres as “nature’s global holiday”), creating the Earth Flag, nationally broadcasting A Minute for Peace as part of the nation’s tribute to assassinated President John F. Kennedy, establishing a United Nations NGO, and close interactions with UN secretaries-general and numerous world leaders from 1960s through the 1990s.

“John McConnell was a diplomat for Earth,” stated UN Under Secretary-General Robert Muller. “John McConnell is an idealist, a visionary, a peacemaker. Those are the people needed for today, for our future,” said pollster George Gallup, Jr.

John McConnell’s biographer, Robert Weir, views Mr. McConnell as a cornerstone in the foundation upon which today’s environmentalists, peace activists, and social justice advocates now stand. “The statement ‘peace is not the absence of war’ has almost become a cliché in the peace movement today, but I would wager that the majority of those speakers don’t know that

John McConnell was making that declaration 50, 60, and 70 years ago,” claimed Mr. Weir. Likewise, Weir adds that many people have experienced church services and even business meetings that included ‘a moment of silence’ or a time of meditative reflection. These actions follow in the footsteps of peace pioneer John McConnell who developed the Minute for Peace in 1963 and envisioned, “If the world would pause and think silent thoughts of peace for just one minute a day, there would be no more war.”

Both peace visionary John McConnell and his biographer, Robert Weir, will present their remarks at One Sky, One World at Stapletons Central Park in Denver on Sunday, October 11, 2009 between 11 a.m. and Noon. Mr. McConnell will engage the audience with his empowering intonations, which remain strong even today. Mr. Weir will elaborate on his relationship with Mr. McConnell, the “peace, justice, care of Earth” concept, the history of the Earth Flag, and the true story of origination of Earth Day.

Mr. Weir’s book *Peace, Justice, Care of Earth: The Vision of John McConnell, Founder of Earth Day* will be available for purchase and inscription by both the author and his subject.

### **About One Sky One World**

There are hundreds of concurrent One Sky One World events in locations around the world on the second Sunday of every October. Kites have developed in many nations and regions over thousands of years. One Sky One World believes that public education about the culture, history, art, craft, recreation, technology and science of kites generates a greater sense of global community. Participation in OSOW events promotes the enjoyment of nature and greater respect for the environment, leads to respect for cultural diversity, the understanding of and friendship between people at home and around world and an appreciation of all life on earth. To see how people around the globe have become involved visit, the international reporting web site, [www.subvision.net/sky/osow](http://www.subvision.net/sky/osow).

One Sky One World is an international 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Denver. For more information about the festival, to volunteer or to obtain a booth, please call 720-334-4508, email [jpa@earthnet.net](mailto:jpa@earthnet.net), visit [www.oneskyoneworld.org](http://www.oneskyoneworld.org) or [www.stapletondenver.com](http://www.stapletondenver.com).

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Photos and captions:

Man and woman with Earth Flag

Anna and John McConnell pose with their Earth Flag outside their Denver home.

Book cover: *Peace, Justice, Care of Earth*