

## **2014-01: Thomas Paine Recognition**

Whereas, Thomas Paine, a non-aristocrat and military veteran of our revolution against England, was the leader in declaring for the separation of church and state, against the death penalty and slavery, and for women's rights, and

Whereas Thomas Paine is the finest example among all the founding fathers of democratic leadership, as demonstrated by his lifelong pursuit of Truth, Reason and Common Sense through his continuous writings and publications of great democratic social value, and

Whereas Thomas Paine who wrote," These are the Times that try Men's Souls, when the summer Soldier and the Sunshine Patriot...." gave our organization the opportunity to declare "the Winter Soldier" which is the central concept of the Veterans For Peace.

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace urges all it's Chapters to recognize and celebrate the birthday of Thomas Paine, January 29, 1787, in public, in the press, and as widely as possible, every year from now forward.

**Submitted by** Jay Wenk, Chapter 58, [jaywenk@hvc.rr.com](mailto:jaywenk@hvc.rr.com), 845-679-6970

**Board Vote:** Unanimous

**Convention Vote:** Unanimous

**Board Rationale:** No rationale needed

### **PRO:**

I've read biographies of the Founders and a lot of the history of the revolutionary period, when we shook off the English Parliament and their King, and took on a bunch of rich white male property owners (slaves). Those "sainted" rich men fought among themselves as to how much so-called democracy they would allow everyone else, and we still suffer greatly from their lack of comprehension of a truly Democratic world. Tom Paine clearly stands out, alone. Paine and his writings fanned the spirits of the populace, opened their thoughts to a real sense of what the world could be. He wasn't loved by the 'founders'; being a deist was not popular; the French public adored him, but their big shots didn't appreciate his stand against the death penalty when they were chopping off each other's heads. He never became wealthy, as all the other 'founders' did, he was truly a man of the people. His face doesn't appear on Mt. Rushmore or on any currency, he was, and remains an outsider to the privileged, but his voice still resonates among us because we recognize him as a man who speaks the truth to the powerful.

### **CON:**

No one spoke against this resolution.

## **2014-02: Deceased VFP Member Memorial**

Whereas, VFP members may wish to arrange an end of life memorial, and

Whereas, the memorial might be faith based, secular or personal, and

Whereas, among the latter is the traditional U.S. military, grave side, memorial service with a folded American flag presented to a family member or friend while taps is played by a bugler in dress uniform from the branch of the military of the deceased veteran, and

Whereas, Chapter 45 offers materials reflecting the values of VFP to supplement a member's end of life memorial plan, and

Whereas, it initiates from the Veterans For Peace Statement of purpose, and

Whereas, this statement of peaceful nonviolence may become a meaningful language delivered at a veteran's memorial service.

We, having dutifully served our nation, do hereby affirm our greater responsibility to serve the cause of world peace. To this end we will work with others

- To increase public awareness of the costs of war
- To restrain our government from intervening, overtly and covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations
- To end the arms race and to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear war.
- To seek justice for veterans and victims of war
- To abolish war as in instrument of national policy

To achieve these goals, members of Veterans For Peace pledge to use non-violent means and to maintain an organization that is both democratic and open with the understanding that all members are trusted to act in the best interests of the group for the larger purpose of world peace.

Therefore Be It Resolved that an end of life memorial kit be available that includes a VFP Statement of Purpose Certificate with the deceased veteran's name and a VFP flag to be presented symbolically to the family. The kit will be obtainable from the national VFP office.

Submitted by David Wise, Chapter 45 [davewise100@gmail.com](mailto:davewise100@gmail.com) 978-546-7395

**Board Vote:** Unanimous with amendment, "upon request and at the expense of the local chapter"

**Convention Vote:** 56 Aye 4 Nay

**Board Rationale:** We believe in the dignity of our VFP members to have available a kit, with a Certificate of Honor and a VFP flag, that members, or their family, might wish to add to a traditional memorial service, religious, secular or personal.

### **PRO:**

Samantha Smith, Chapter 45 found important consensus in its efforts to develop a supplementary memorial plan for the end of life.

We believed in the dignity of our VFP members to have available a kit, with a Certificate of Honor and a VFP flag, that members, or their family, might wish to add to a traditional memorial service, religious, secular or personal.

We encourage VFP Chapters and members to support this supplementary memorial plan.  
Samantha Smith Chapter 45 - David Wise - davewise100@gmail.com

### **CON:**

Though the idea of a memorial kit for deceased VFP members is admirable, and in fact should have been thought of long ago, like all good ideas it turns into work. And resolutions are specifically prohibited from creating yet more work for the understaffed and overworked national office.

The VFP Statement of Purpose Certificate needs to be formatted to document size and a template created for inserting the deceased VFP member's name, and perhaps some wording about honoring those who have gone before, and a price designated for document creation, materials, and shipping, and a web-store listing designed. It is clear this resolution is not ready, and, as a former Resolutions Committee member, I would argue it should really not have been allowed to go to a vote. These may seem like fairly small chores, but someone, NOT STAFF, needs to do them first, or state that they will do them, before the resolution can properly be considered. Now that the item is before the membership, the proper way to respect resolutions guidelines and our staff is to vote the resolution down and send it back to the proposers to finish preparation.

Ellen Barfield

### **2014-03: Medical Marijuana Treatment For Veterans**

Whereas, there are benefits reported by veterans experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI) and pain to obtain relief by using medical cannabis.

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace advocates further study and use of medical cannabis for treatment of Veterans seeking relief for maladies incurred during active duty as well as post service where medically appropriate and calls upon the federal government to reschedule cannabis so that it can be legally accessed by Veterans for their treatment, and

Be It Further Resolved that it is the right of any Veteran to discuss with his/her healthcare provider any and all possible treatment options related to the Veterans health and clinical care, including the use of medical cannabis, without the threat to the Veteran or provider of disciplinary action, regulatory loss of privilege and/or or benefits, or criminal sanctions.

Submitted by Tom Palumbo, [tpeacenik@gmail.com](mailto:tpeacenik@gmail.com), 828-335-3627

**Board Vote:** Unanimous

**Convention Vote:** Unanimous

**Board Rationale:** By approval of this resolution Veterans For Peace challenges the VA to respect the doctor-patient relationship, putting neither the veteran nor their medical

provider under the threat of sanction for disclosing or recommending the medical use of cannabis.

## **PRO:**

The resolution was passed by unanimous consent of Asheville North Carolina chapter 099.

Throughout the Veterans Administration system medical providers are prohibited from advocating or recommending the medicinal use of cannabis. In states where medical marijuana laws have not yet been enacted a veteran may be subjected to limitations or denial of benefits.

By passing this resolution VFP calls upon the federal government to end its duplicitous, ill-informed and punitive stance towards veterans using cannabis as a treatment of any number of medical conditions.

It calls for a change of the regulatory controls the federal government has enacted that prohibit the access and use of the botanical form of medical marijuana. The resolution seeks to change VA policies that result in a veteran having their treatment options limited or denied because of their use of cannabis.

By approval of this resolution veterans for peace challenges the VA to respect the doctor-patient relationship, putting neither the veteran nor their medical provider under the threat of sanction for disclosing or recommending the medical use of cannabis.

Submitted by tom Palumbo Veterans For Peace National Director and maker of the motion, Chapter 99: Asheville North Carolina.

## **CON:**

No one spoke against this resolution.

### **2014-4: VFP 2014 Resolution on U.S. Policy Towards Palestine and Israel**

Whereas, in the 22 years since the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process began, the Israeli government has taken no real action to establish a viable, independent Palestinian state while increasing the illegal Jewish-Israeli population in the West Bank from 225,000 to more than 650,000, leaving Palestinians little hope for just resolution, and

Whereas, during this period the US has subsidized Israeli intransigence with billions of dollars of military and economic aid and diplomatic protection by 43 vetoes in the UN Security council, thereby violating the Foreign Assistance Act and the Arms Export Control Act and treating Israel as an exceptional nation permitted to operate above both US and international law, and

Whereas, the US and Israel colluded to overthrow the last legally established Palestinian government after Hamas won 76 of 132 legislative seats in 2006, and

Whereas, a unified Palestinian government is necessary for legitimacy and implementation of any peace agreements with Israel.

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans for Peace encourages the US government to:

- Support the formation of a Palestinian unity government;
- Remove Hamas from the US list of terrorist organizations;
- Oppose Israeli demands that Palestinians make concessions prior to peace talks;
- Encourage restoration of the PLO as the only organization recognized by the UN as representing all Palestinians;
- Refrain from interfering with Palestinian efforts to seek justice through the United Nations which may include UN recognition of Palestinian statehood and/or filings of war crimes charges against Israel;
- Revoke Israel's de facto status as an exceptional nation immune to domestic and international law, and

Be It Further Resolved that VFP pledges to lobby US senators and representatives to demand immediate suspension of all foreign aid to Israel contingent upon Israeli conformity with US and international law and international human rights standards, and to support Palestinian self-determination.

Submitted by Eduardo Cohen and Dr. Jack Dresser, Chair and co-Chair, VFP Working Group on Palestine and the Middle East, [eduardoben@prodigy.net](mailto:eduardoben@prodigy.net)

<b>Board Vote:</b>	11 Aye	0 Nay	1 Abstain
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<b>Convention Vote:</b>	62 Aye	1 Nay	9 Abstain
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**Board Rationale:** Self-determination, the key operating principle specified in the UN Charter for peoples emerging from colonial domination, has been denied the Palestinians since 1948. We Must correct that terrible, long-lingering injustice.

## **PRO:**

Without a unity government there can be no legitimate voice representing all Palestinians. Israel created Hamas in order to fragment the resistance, and maintaining this fragmentation was undoubtedly a principal objective of Operation Protective Edge. Hamas is a political party with an armed resistance wing that remains the only elected government of Palestine. As an occupied people, armed Palestinian resistance is permitted under international law. Outside Israel and the US, Hamas is widely recognized as a resistance organization opposing a UN-designated "belligerent occupation" that violates international law. The Palestinians are severely disadvantaged in their grossly asymmetrical power relationship with Israel, and must be able to take full advantage of their recent UN status upgrade including potential use of the ICC and ICJ to charge Israel with war crimes and human rights violations. A unity government will strengthen their ability to pursue rightful legal remedies. Self-determination, the key operating principle specified in the UN Charter for peoples emerging from colonial domination, has been denied the Palestinians since 1948. We must correct that terrible, long-lingering injustice.

Israel has repeatedly violated US "friendship" by lying about their nuclear program to US presidents, stealing US nuclear materials, attacking the USS Liberty, threatening the "Samson Option," operating an extensive espionage network in the US, and attacking civilians and abusing human rights in violation of eligibility requirements for aid under our

Arms Export Control Act and Foreign Assistance Act. They have no moral or legal right to the immunities they have long enjoyed, which should be discontinued entirely.

## **CON:**

No one spoke against this resolution.

### **2014-05: 2014 VFP Letter to Congress To Initiate Impeachment Proceedings Against President Obama for War Crimes as per Passed VFP Resolution 2011-7**

Whereas, following the passage of resolution 2011-7 to impeach the current Democrat President Obama for War Crimes, the VFP National President wrote in an email to the resolution's sponsors that he would issue a signed letter to members of the U.S. Congress regarding the passed resolution 2011-7 as was done on 19 March 2005 following the passage of the 2004 resolution to impeach the former Republican President Bush, yet he later abdicated that duty to the unelected temporary VFP Executive Director who would do no more than send a fax of resolution 2011-7 itself with a one-sentence statement on a fax cover-page that the resolution was passed at the recent VFP national convention;

Therefore Be It Resolved, that no later than 3 weeks after passage of this resolution the current VFP National President (1) update the 19 March 2005 letter VFP sent to each member of the U.S. Congress calling on them to impeach the former Republican President Bush so as to reflect VFP's passed resolution 2011-7 calling on the U.S. Congress to impeach the current Democrat President Obama and sign his name to it, (2) send a copy of the updated letter to each member of the U.S. Congress, and (3) make available for download as a document file on the VFP national website a copy of the updated letter to the U.S. Congress as was done in regards to the 2004 VFP passed resolution calling for the impeachment of the former Republican President Bush, and

Be It Further Resolved, that to the extent that VFP's national office is unable to carry out the work called for in fulfilling this resolution and/or fund its mailing to members of Congress, the sponsors of this resolution will perform the work and/or provide the funding required to fully implement the resolution.

**Board Vote:** Unanimous Nay

**Convention Vote:** 7 Aye 62 Nay                      9 Abstain

**Board Rationale:** Anyone Can send the resolution to members of Congress and to the press. We do not need to compel the national staff or anyone else to do what they do not wish to do.

The arguments against the original resolutions are still valid today: The measure puts us in cahoots with some of the most reactionary, racist conservatives.

## **PRO:**

Prior to the vote at the 2011 convention, the chapter contacts listed for all of the VFP chapters were contacted by telephone, email and mail over a month's period of time so that each chapter would be able to brief its respective membership and so that delegates

attending the convention would be able to cast their vote on the impeachment resolution (Res 2011-7) based on the wishes of their respective chapters. The resolution to impeach President Obama for war crimes passed by a vote of the delegates to the VFP national convention in August 2011 on its 3rd year in a row of being presented.

Upon passage of the resolution, VFP members expected to be provided the same tools to use for local individual and chapter action as was provided following the passage of prior resolution to impeach President Bush. That tool consists of a simple update of the 19 March 2005 letter to each member of Congress signed by VFP's national president already available to all members via the VFP website. The update would be simply to change the name of the president from Bush to Obama and then name of the VFP president from Cline to the current VFP president, along with listing the additional war crimes cited in the 2011 impeachment resolution, and again be made available to all VFP members via the VFP website.

For three years since the passage of Res 2011-7, the national leadership of VFP has refused to provide its membership an updated version of the 19 March 2005 letter to Congress reflecting the 2011 impeachment resolution and thus has gone against the will of VFP's membership to which it is supposed to serve. As a result, Res 2014-5 is being presented to a vote of the general membership so as to upon passage require VFP's national president to issue the updated letter to Congress and make the updated letter available as a download on the VFP website for any member or chapter of VFP who wishes to use it in their own local efforts, just as was done following the passage of the resolution to impeach President Bush.

Following another month-long campaign of calling and mailing the chapter contacts listed for all of the VFP chapters in the Fall of 2013, the following 13 VFP chapters voted on and passed as a chapter endorsement of the resolution now presented as 2014-5: VFP chapters 002, 003, 010, 014, 022, 026, 062, 109, 119, 136, 149, 151 and 154 with the rationale that those VFP members not wishing to pursue the impeachment resolution should not prevent VFP members who do wish to pursue the impeachment resolution from having the same standard of tools to do so as was provided by VFP's national office following the passage of the prior resolution to impeach President Bush for the same war crimes.

We ask that you take the same democratic approach as the 13 chapters listed above have and vote yes on Res 2014-5. For more on the history of the impeachment resolution, please review the article "Timeline to Veterans For Peace's Vote to Impeach Obama (2009-2013)" posted on ActivistPost.com on line.

Submitted by Phil Restino, Chapter 136, [RestinoP@aol.com](mailto:RestinoP@aol.com)

## **CON:**

The VFP resolution to impeach President Obama already passed in 2011. That VFP action is on record and can be accessed and used as any member or chapter sees fit. So, anyone can send the resolution to members of Congress and to the press. We do not need to compel the national staff or anyone else to do what they do not wish to do.

The arguments against the original resolution are still valid today: The measure puts us in



cahoots with some of the most reactionary, racist conservatives. And because Barack Obama is popular among African Americans, our position on impeachment may further hinder our efforts to attract veterans from that community.

This follow-up resolution has been hotly debated and defeated at 3 VFP National Conventions. It is dispiriting, disruptive, and divisive. Let's put this issue to rest, once and for all.

Prior to the vote at the 2011 convention, the chapter contacts listed for all of the VFP chapters were contacted by telephone, email and mail over a month's period of time so that each chapter would be able to brief its respective membership and so that delegates attending the convention would be able to cast their vote on the impeachment resolution (Res 2011-7) based on the wishes of their respective chapters. The resolution to impeach President Obama for war crimes passed by a vote of the delegates to the VFP national convention in August 2011 on its 3rd year in a row of being presented.

Submitted by Charles Powell, 063 - Albuquerque, NM, [crp66@juno.com](mailto:crp66@juno.com)

### **2014-6: Marshall Islands Lawsuit Against Nuclear Nations**

WHEREAS: the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) requires its parties to negotiate in good faith for the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and nuclear disarmament; and

WHEREAS: the nine nuclear-armed states (United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea) appear to be modernizing their nuclear arsenals and planning to maintain these arsenals into the future and have steadfastly refused to earnestly negotiate in good faith for the reduction and ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons; and

WHEREAS: the use of nuclear weapons would have catastrophic effects leading to the destruction of cities, countries, civilizations, future generations and the survival of the human species; and

WHEREAS: all countries no matter how powerful, should be expected to abide by international law.

WHEREAS: On April 24, 2014, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), a signatory nation of the NPT, filed applications in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) against the nine nuclear-armed states, claiming they have violated their nuclear disarmament obligations under the NPT and customary international law. The RMI also filed a companion case against the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, San Francisco Division (both suits known collectively as Nuclear Zero lawsuits). As to the United States, the RMI seeks, among other things, declaratory judgment and injunctive relief requiring the United States to negotiate in good faith and to fulfill its obligations as required by Article 6 of the NPT.

WHEREAS: Article 2, subparagraph (3) of the Mission Statement of VETERANS FOR PEACE, INC., By-Laws, calls for action, "[t]o end the arms race and to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons"

BE IT RESOLVED, that VETERANS FOR PEACE, INC.: (1) commends the people of the RMI for filing the Nuclear Zero lawsuits against the nine nuclear-armed nations; (2) calls upon the nine nuclear-armed nations to accept the jurisdiction of the ICJ, and the United



States to accept the jurisdiction of the the Federal District Court for the Northern District of California, San Francisco Division; (3) further calls upon the nine nuclear-armed nations to immediately cease modernizing their nuclear arsenals and begin negotiating in good faith to achieve a Nuclear Zero world; (4) advocates for a reallocation of resources away from the continued development and deployment of nuclear weapons to meeting human needs for adequate nutrition, potable water, shelter, education and health care for the world's people.

FINALLY, IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that VETERANS FOR PEACE, INC., encourages it members and all people everywhere to learn more about these lawsuits and breaches of international law that are alleged, and to sign the petition in support of the Nuclear Zero Lawsuits at [www.nuclearzero.org](http://www.nuclearzero.org).

Submitted by Barry Ladendorf, Chapter 091 - San Diego, [bdlvfp@gmail.com](mailto:bdlvfp@gmail.com)

**Board Vote:** Unanimous Aye

**Convention Vote:** Unanimous Aye

**Board Rationale:** It is hoped this resolution will increase the public's awareness that there is path open to the nuclear armed nations to begin eliminating nuclear weapons have a nuclear weapons free world.

### **PRO:**

Through this resolution,VFP continues to express its support for the Marshall Islands lawsuits filed on April 24, 2014, in the United States District Court in San Francisco. The lawsuits seek to compel the United States to comply with its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). VFP also supports the companion lawsuits filed in the International Court of Justice against all nine nuclear-armed countries for breaching their obligations under the NPT.

The NPT went into force in 1970, signed and/or ratified by 189 States Parties, making it the largest, legally binding, arms control treaty in the world. The three pillars of the NPT call for (1) nuclear armed states to negotiate in good faith for the reduction and ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons; (2) nations without nuclear weapons not to acquire them; and (3) all nations to have access to the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

There are currently more than 10,000 nuclear warheads in the possession of the nine nuclear-armed states with 90% of those weapons in the possession of the United States and Russia. Moreover, the world's nuclear armed nations continue to modernize their nuclear arsenals and seem unwilling to consider the total elimination of such weapons. According to the US Congressional Budget Office, the United States will spend \$365 billion on the maintenance and modernization of its nuclear arsenal over the next 10 years with a projected cost of \$1 trillion dollars over the next 30 years. This trend of modernization and the concurrent failure to eliminate nuclear weapons makes the Marshall Island lawsuits all the more important.

The Republic of the Marshalls, a nation that signed the NPT, has a particular and unique perspective on the issues of nuclear testing and nuclear disarmament. First, as a signatory nation to the NPT it is bound by the treaty's constraints and obligations.

Second, perhaps as much as any nation on Earth except Japan, the Marshall Islands have suffered directly from the effects of nuclear weapons. Between 1946 and 1958, the United States conducted 67 nuclear tests in the Marshall Islands.

As Veterans For Peace, we seek to “end the arms race and to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons.” Let us continue to support the Marshall Islanders and call upon the United States government to accept the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice and the Federal District Court so that this issue can be decided on the merits. Let us also call on the United States to cast aside the modernization of nuclear weapons, and begin the process of negotiating in good faith to end the arms race and eliminate nuclear weapons.

It is hoped this resolution will increase the public’s awareness that there is path open to the nuclear armed nations to begin eliminating nuclear weapons and have a nuclear weapons free world.

At the VFP National Convention in July 2014, the members voted unanimously to support this resolution. Please support this resolution with your vote and let the world hear the call of VFP for the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons.

Submitted by Barry Ladendorf, 091 - San Diego - CA Hugh Thompson Memorial Chapter, bdlvfp@gmail.com

### **CON:**

No one spoke against this resolution.

## **2014-07: FREE CHELSEA MANNING!**

Veterans For Peace salutes former US Army Intelligence Analyst PFC Chelsea Manning for heroically providing the American people, along with the people of the world, important documents exposing the truth of war and the policies of Empire.

Veterans For Peace condemns the outrageous 35 year prison sentence for a crime without a single identifiable victim, government secrecy and embarrassment notwithstanding.

Veterans For Peace urges the Department of Defense to provide healthcare to Chelsea Manning at the US Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, that meets the standards set forth by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, per her request.

Veterans For Peace calls on President Obama to pardon whistle blower, and prisoner of conscience, Chelsea (formerly Bradley) Manning. Having been imprisoned since May 2010, Chelsea Manning has already served more prison time than a number of US service members convicted of murdering Iraqi and Afghani civilians.

**FREE CHELSEA MANNING!**

Submitted by Gerry Condon, Chapter 092 - Greater Seattle,  
[projectsafehaven@hotmail.com](mailto:projectsafehaven@hotmail.com)

Board Vote:

**Board Vote:** Unanimous Aye

**Convention Vote:** Unanimous Aye

**Board rationale:** The resolution calls on President Obama to pardon Chelsea Manning, who “has already served more prison time than a number of U. S. service members convicted of murdering Iraqi and Afghan civilians.”

## **PRO:**

Argument for Resolution: Free Chelsea Manning!

Veterans For Peace has been a strong supporter of Chelsea (formerly Bradley) Manning ever since she was arrested in May 2010 for releasing classified information to Wikileaks, or as this resolution states, “for heroically providing the American people, along with the people of the world, important documents exposing the truth of war and the policies of Empire.”

This resolution was presented to the first VFP Convention following the U.S. Army's conviction of Chelsea Manning on espionage charges and the imposition of a 35 year prison sentence. By passing this resolution, Veterans For Peace is recommitting itself to fight for Chelsea Manning's freedom.

This resolution also takes into account a new development in Chelsea Manning's struggle for truth – her right to be the person she experiences herself to be. It calls on the Department of Defense “to provide healthcare to Chelsea Manning at the US Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, that meets the standards set forth by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, per her request.” Such healthcare, including hormone replacement treatment, is provided in U.S. federal prisons and is being advocated by Chelsea's lawyers and the American Civil Liberties Union.

The resolution also calls on President Obama to pardon Chelsea Manning, who “has already served more prison time than a number of US service members convicted of murdering Iraqi and Afghan civilians.”

This resolution reflects the urgent priorities of Chelsea Manning, her legal team, and the Chelsea Manning Support Network, and was submitted by its Program Director, Jeff Paterson, who is also a member of Veterans For Peace.

Gerry Condon, VFP Greater Seattle Chapter 092, [projectsafehaven@hotmail.com](mailto:projectsafehaven@hotmail.com)

## **CON:**

No one spoke against this resolution.

## **2014-8: RESOLUTION TO END DISASTROUS U.S. POLICY OF MILITARY INTERVENTION**

WHEREAS U.S. military intervention around the world in the last decade has created many disasters, especially in the Middle East, Asia and Africa. Thirteen years of war in Afghanistan have killed many thousands of Afghan civilians and thousands of U.S. soldiers, but have achieved neither peace nor democracy.

WHEREAS the U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq caused the deaths of nearly hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, along with thousands of U.S. soldiers, and has led only to the destruction of the Iraqi state and sectarian civil war. The U.S./NATO air war against Libya has led to ongoing chaos and violence there, just as covert U.S. aid and training for rebels in Syria is doing the same.

WHEREAS U.S. political and military aid to Israel is being translated into a mass slaughter of Palestinian civilians in Gaza, and continuing human rights abuses against Palestinians in Jerusalem and the West Bank.

WHEREAS U.S. drone bombings continue to take a toll on civilians in Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia and a growing list of countries.

WHEREAS the many billions of dollars spent on military intervention is a theft from poor and working people who need jobs with decent wages, healthcare, education and hope for a better future;

WHEREAS the militarization of U.S. foreign policy creates more terrorism, not less, and brings with it the militarization of U.S. society, especially police forces and immigration authorities,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that VETERANS FOR PEACE calls for:

The Immediate Withdrawal of ALL U.S. Troop from Afghanistan

No More U.S. Intervention in Iraq

An end to U.S. training and military aid to rebels in Syria

An Immediate End to the Israeli Massacre of Palestinian Civilians;

A cutoff of all U.S. military aid to Israel

An end to U.S. and Israeli threats against Iran

An end to the U.S. drone wars

An end to U.S./NATO meddling in Ukraine and the U.S. policy of confrontation with both Russia and China.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that VETERANS FOR PEACE calls for:

Cease-fires in all these conflicts, an end to the killing and terror, and the beginning of diplomacy leading to an enduring peace, based on mutual respect and human rights for all.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that VETERANS FOR PEACE calls for:

Drastic Cuts in the U.S. Military Budget, with the monies redistributed to meet human needs

The Closing Down of 900 U.S. bases around the world

The abolition of war, including the threat of nuclear war, as the cutting edge of U.S. engagement in the world, to be replaced by a foreign policy based on nonviolence, mutual respect, with true democracy and equality for all.

**Board Vote:** Unanimous Aye

**Convention Vote:** Unanimous Aye

**Board rationale:** In the face of stepped up U. S. militarism, the VFP Board wrote and submitted this resolution, believing it was important to make a strong statement against U. S. military intervention at this time, and to reassert VFP's position that war must be abolished.

**PRO:**

Argument for Resolution: End Disastrous Policy of U.S. Intervention

This resolution was written before President Obama announced renewed U.S. bombing in Iraq and sustained military intervention in both Iraq and Syria. However, it anticipates these developments, making references to instances of U.S. intervention in the Middle East and around the globe. In fact, the U.S. government and military is currently intervening in so many places that it would have been impractical for Veterans For Peace to pass individual resolutions for each occurrence. This "catch all" resolution refers to the most prominent U.S. military engagements at this time, while pointing out that the U.S. policy of military intervention is creating multiple disasters worldwide.

Reflecting the Statement of Purpose of Veterans For Peace, the resolution calls for an end to the "disastrous policy of U.S. military intervention," the closing of U.S. military bases around the globe, and investment in human needs instead of militarism. The resolution goes on to call for the abolition of war, and its replacement by "a foreign policy based on nonviolence, mutual respect, true democracy and equality for all."

In the face of stepped up U.S. militarism, the VFP Board wrote and submitted this resolution, believing it was important to make a strong statement against U.S. military intervention at this time, and to reassert VFP's position that war must be abolished.

by Gerry Condon

**CON:**

No one spoke against this resolution.