

## What some of our leading members have to say ...



Margaret Stevens, member, VFP Advisory Board:

"We as VFP must open our arms to those countless veterans returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan who are seeking peace if even in the smallest most

personal ways. We must let them know that their peace of mind ... is part of the reason we fight relentlessly for peace and justice. Whether they are sleeping in cars or living with relatives or friends, ... having witnessed the destruction and pain that the militaries of this and many other countries are causing in the interests of, geopolitical domination and greed, they too have a voice in VFP. So let us open our arms warmly, widely and with an open mind, to veterans from near and far, from the deepest crevices of inner-city Pittsburgh to the open fields of Montana."



Ben Griffin, British paratrooper, SAS soldier, a founder of Veterans For Peace UK. He refused to return to Iraq and blew the whistle on war crimes in Baghdad. He was gagged by the high court and promised jail time if he

ever spoke about UK involvement in rendition again:

"I knew I would get in trouble for speaking about our activities in Iraq, but I felt then and now that the public needs to be told about the true nature of war."



Michael Prysner, member, VFP National Board; founder, March Forward!:

"They're not going to end the wars because it's not our government. It's the government of the rich. It's the government of Wall Street, the oil giants, the defense contractors. And the only language they understand is shutting down business as usual. And that's what we're going to do until these wars are over. We're going to fight until there's not one more bomb dropped, not one more bullet fired, not one more soldier coming home in a wheelchair."



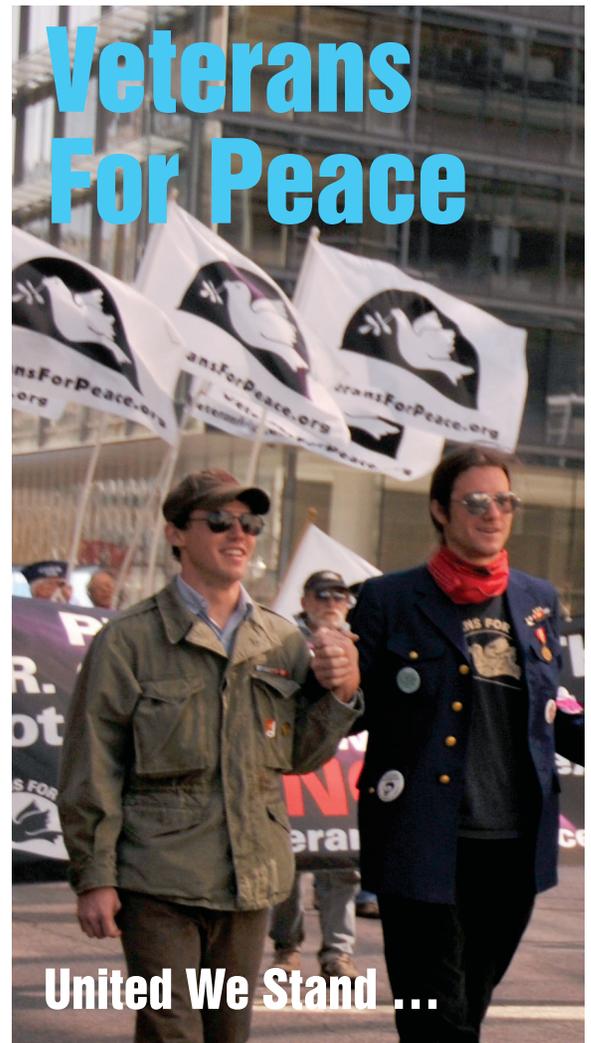
Michael McPhearson, VFP executive director:

"[T]he U.S. military juggernaut grinds on, powered by the blood, bones and sanity of those who serve. We are treated as pawns in a game that benefits the rich. The poor and working class of America fighting the poor and working class of the world to forward policy goals that increase the fortune and influence of the rich."



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# Veterans For Peace

**United We Stand ...**

**Veterans For Peace, an internationally respected peace organization composed of dedicated veterans and allies actively working to end war, needs you ...**



If you're a socially conscious individual who cares about peace and our planet, you can help more than you might imagine by joining in solidarity with like-minded veterans. Since 1985, Veterans For Peace has been a brother- and sisterhood of military veterans and allies whose mission is to abolish war and build a culture of peace. VFP is widely respected in the activist movement. The name itself, as well as the reality, conveys something unique.

### A Bond of Comradeship

As Marine Corps General Smedley Butler, a two-time Congressional Medal of Honor winner, pointed out years ago in his book, *War Is a Racket*, **veterans are held together by a common bond of comradeship that can never be dissolved by religious or political differences, and as leaders of the movement for world peace, this is the only group of citizens that can hope to inspire and attract the moral support and confidence of the people.**

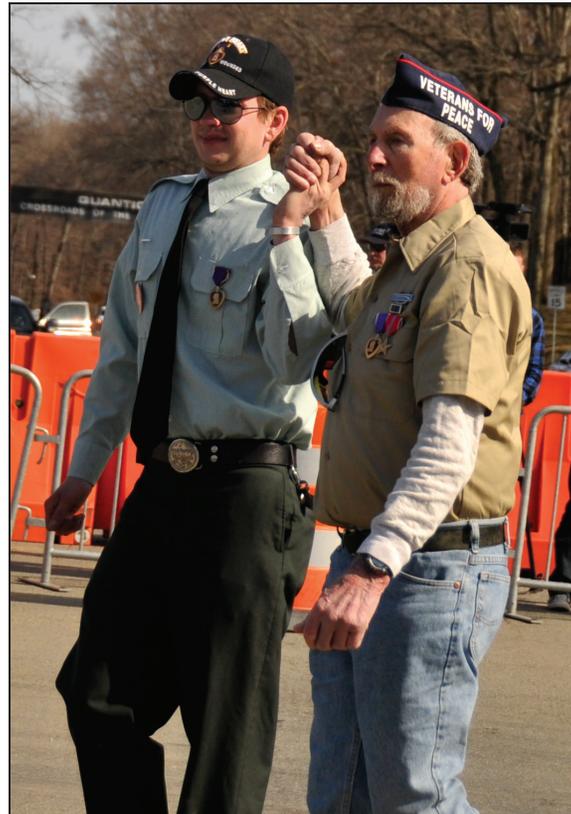
Many veterans find that their military experience has left them reluctant to join organizations. Even those deeply concerned with wars and the state of the



world emphatically say, "We're not joiners." But as individuals who, like you, care deeply about justice and peace, we recognize that united we stand, divided we fall.

### Healing the Wounds of War

Our members are active in healing the wounds of war and addressing the social and environmental problems caused by militarism and the U.S. military. Convinced by our own experiences, we raise our voices to inform the public of the true causes and enormous costs of war. Our work includes: educating the public, advocating dismantling the war economy, providing assistance to veterans and victims of war, and most significantly, working nonviolently to end all wars.



### Connecting Core Issues

On a national level, the board and staff connect members working on core issues. Specific areas that VFP members currently focus on include:

- Closing Guantánamo
- Supporting GI resistance
- Opposing drone warfare
- Redirecting the military budget from war to human needs
- Current and threatened wars in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran, and Korea, among other places
- Remembering the Christmas Truce: 1914-2014
- Full Disclosure: Toward an Honest Commemoration of the American War in Vietnam

**Veterans For Peace is looking for people who are willing to be actively engaged in the struggle for peace, justice and human rights. Are you one of them?**

