



2020 Convention Resolutions

Resolution 2020-1: SATYAGRAHA* Resolution

(Passed - Yes: 366, No: 19)

Resolution 2020-2: Pivot to Peace with China and the World

(Passed - Yes: 439, No: 7)

Resolution 2020-3: Call for a DoD review of the Henoko Base Project, Okinawa

(Passed - Yes: 432, No: 5)

Resolution 2020-4: End Economic Sanctions by the United States

(Passed - Yes: 350, No: 60)

Resolution 2020-5: WITHDRAWN

Resolution 2020-6: Time to End the Korean War with a Peace Treaty

(Passed - Yes: 460, No: 5)

Resolution 2020-7: Cancel Enormous Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Naval War Rehearsals

(Passed - Yes: 423, No: 17)

Resolution 2020-8: Shut Down Red Hill Naval Fuel Tanks

(Passed - Yes: 424, No: 6)

Resolution 2020-9: Resolution Creating My Lai Memorial Moment

(Passed - Yes: 430, No: 8)

Resolution 2020-1: SATYAGRAHA* Resolution

(Passed - Yes: 366, No: 19)

A Resolution that Veterans For Peace be a signatory to the Declaration of Global Satyagraha (see <http://www.plrc.org/docs/200615.pdf>); and thereby become a participating organization in the Global Satyagraha Movement.

WHEREAS nonviolent organizations today, operating independently, have not improved society which, in fact, has worsened over the past decades; and

WHEREAS history shows that cooperation and unity are more effective in achieving common goals than separate and independent efforts; and

WHEREAS the Global Satyagraha Movement – operating under a Global Constructive Program (a vision statement that engages all issues) as a common goal – provides higher unity and effectiveness among participating organizations; and

WHEREAS the Global Satyagraha Movement acts only as a cooperative to enhance individual organizational activity while not impinging on the autonomy of participating organizations in any way;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT VETERANS FOR PEACE:

1. Become a signatory to the Declaration of Global Satyagraha and thereby become a participating organization in the Global Satyagraha Movement; and
2. Encourage its Chapters to likewise become signatories to the Declaration of Global Satyagraha** and thereby become participating organizations in the Global Satyagraha Movement.

Submitted by: Phillip P. Pflager, Chapter Contact VFP101

* Satyagraha = Truth Force, as coined by Mahatma Gandhi from two Sanskrit words (a.k.a. proactive nonviolence).

** [See <http://vfp101.dreamhosters.com/satyagraha/cosponsor.docx> for a list of current participants (organizations and individuals) in the Declaration for Global Satyagraha.]

Resolution 2020-2: Pivot to Peace with China and the World

(Passed - Yes: 439, No: 7)

WHEREAS, Veterans For Peace is a global organization of Military Veterans and allies dedicated to building a culture of peace by using our experiences to inform the public of the true causes and enormous costs of wars, seeking to heal the wounds of wars, and working to end all wars and hostilities between nations, and

WHEREAS, the so-called Pivot to Asia of 2011 was in fact a pivot toward war and confrontation that identified China as a competitor and adversary, carrying with it the threat of nuclear war, and

WHEREAS, this dangerous policy has created palpable feelings of fear, animosity and even hatred not only toward the People's Republic of China but toward Chinese people in general and Chinese-American citizens and other Asian peoples in the United States, and

WHEREAS, humanity now faces multiple crises which threaten the well-being and very survival of our species, crises which demand the cooperation of the two largest and most powerful countries, China and the United States,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT VETERANS FOR PEACE urges the government of the United States to reject escalation towards global conflict and instead pursue peace, non-intervention, and cooperation with China and the rest of the world

Submitted by: Eugene Ruyle, VFP Member

Co-Sponsored by: VFP Chapter 20 and VFP Chapter 69

Resolution 2020-3: Call for a DoD review of the Henoko Base Project, Okinawa

(Passed - Yes: 432, No: 5)

WHEREAS, the Subcommittee on Readiness of the US House Armed Services Committee included in FY21 NDAA words directing “the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the House Committee on Armed Services, not later than December 1, 2020, on the Futenma Replacement Facility”, and

WHEREAS, this means that the reports on that subject required by FY20 NDAA were considered inadequate by the Subcommittee, and

WHEREAS, the issues raised by the Subcommittee were first raised by the Okinawans, whose lives they affect, and

WHEREAS, while the Subcommittee’s call for a rethinking of the Futenma Replacement Facility Project was dropped, still the words of that call represent genuine concerns both of the Subcommittee and of the Okinawan people, concerns which cannot be resolved by arranging not to know about them,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT VETERANS FOR PEACE:

1. Supports the Subcommittee’s demand that the Secretary of Defense take these issues seriously, and give answers, and
2. Requests the Subcommittee to make the Secretary’s answers available to the Okinawans, and
3. If Congress has decided, in light of this report, to continue with the Henoko Project, VFP calls on it to explain on what reasoning the issues raised by the Okinawans were answered; those issues including:
 - Construction is already damaging the corals of Oura Bay, and further endangering the already endangered Dugong;
 - There really are two active earthquake faults beneath the site;
 - The unstable sea bottom means the airstrip will crack and sink (cf. Kansai International);
 - The site violates DoD height limits;
 - The facility (proposed 1996) won’t become usable until the 2030s (some say ‘40s, others, never);
 - The Okinawa Defense Bureau hasn’t been (including for DoD) an honest information source;
 - Okinawans understand this project as structural discrimination.

*Submitted by: Doug Lummis, VFP Member
Co-Sponsored by: Okinawa Chapter*

Resolution 2020-4: End Economic Sanctions by the United States

(Passed - Yes: 350, No: 60)

WHEREAS the United States is imposing economic sanctions on several countries and on numerous individuals, and

WHEREAS the primary purpose of most, if not all, of the sanctions is to compel other countries to conform to the will of the United States, and

WHEREAS the United States should not attempt to impose its will on other countries, and

WHEREAS sanctions cause severe hardship to the people living in targeted countries, and

WHEREAS the sanctions invite animosity from the people of other countries toward the United States and the people of the United States,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT VETERANS FOR PEACE:

1. Calls for an end to the use of economic sanctions, including, but not limited to, sanctions directed at Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Syria, and Venezuela, and
2. Urges all VFP members and local chapters to send a copy of this resolution to their respective Members of Congress.

Submitted by: William Stansbery, VFP member

Resolution 2020-6: Time to End the Korean War with a Peace Treaty

(Passed - Yes: 460, No: 5)

WHEREAS, we observe this year the 70 th anniversary of the Korean War's outbreak and the 75th anniversary of the U.S. military occupation of South Korea at the end of WWII,

WHEREAS, the U.S. war with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK, North Korea) is, legally speaking, the longest war in U.S. history,

WHEREAS, counting from 1945, we estimate that U.S. may have spent more than three trillion dollars to maintain the tragic division of Korea and win the endless war against North Korea,

WHEREAS, the U.S. still keeps some 30,000 troops in the Republic of Korea (ROK, South Korea) today and also maintains its wartime operational control over the 600,000 strong South Korean troops, and

WHEREAS, any future armed conflict on the Korean Peninsula may escalate into a horrific nuclear war between the U.S. and DPRK,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT VETERANS FOR PEACE:

1. Urges the U.S. government to stop all its interference in the internal affairs of the Korean people so that they can determine their own future;
2. Appeals for an early resumption of talks and a full implementation of the Joint Declarations for peace from the two inter-Korean Summits in 2018 and the Joint Statement of the first U.S.-DPRK Summit in June 2018, which called for "new U.S.-DPRK relations;"
3. Calls for an immediate commencement of negotiation for a peace treaty or agreement to replace the outdated 1953 Korean War Armistice Agreement, in order to establish a permanent peace regime and to promote mutual disarmament on the Korean Peninsula; and
4. Urges all VFP members and local chapters to send a copy of this resolution to their respective Members of Congress.

Submitted by: Ann Wright, John Kim, VFP-Korea Peace Campaign (project)

Co-sponsored by: Chapter 113 (Hawaii) and Chapter 1003 (Ryukyu-Okinawa)

2020-7: Cancel Enormous Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Naval War Rehearsals

(Passed - Yes: 423, No: 17)

WHEREAS, the US military illegally overthrew the sovereign Kingdom of Hawai`i to expand its empire of bases and training areas at sacrifice of the local ecology and peoples;

WHEREAS, the US military occupation suppresses Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination that continues to displace the people;

WHEREAS, the US military uses Hawai`i as the US Indo-Pacific Command center, where it promotes the largest international maritime exercise in the world, RIMPAC ("Rim of the Pacific"), as another means to project power throughout the Pacific Rim peoples;

WHEREAS, grassroots Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) and local allies have adamantly protested RIMPAC since its inception in 1971;

WHEREAS, in spite of the global Covid-19 pandemic, the US military insisted with utter indifference to public health, safety or opinion, to host RIMPAC 2020 bringing in 26 nations, 47 surface ships, 5 submarines, over 200 aircraft and 25,000+ foreign military personnel concentrated into the waters of Hawai`i;

WHEREAS, RIMPAC's violent exercises violate many domestic and international laws, endangering human and non-human life;

WHEREAS, sex trafficking and sexual exploitation increases during RIMPAC activities;

WHEREAS, the US military has a long horrific record of devastating the Hawaiian Islands through routine exercises, from the bombings of Kaho`olawe Island stopped by the Kanaka Maoli, to the continued razing of Pohakuloa, from the military waging war against Hawaii's ecosystem as routine operations, to the wholesale slaughter of marine mammals;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT VETERANS FOR PEACE:

1. Calls for the cancellation of RIMPAC war exercises;
2. Urges the demilitarization of Hawai`i and throughout the Pacific Rim.

Submitted by: Chapter 113 Hawai`i

Chapter co-coordinator: Pete Doktor

Chapter co-coordinator: Ann Wright

Resolution 2020-8: Shut Down Red Hill Naval Fuel Tanks

(Passed - Yes: 424, No: 6)

WHEREAS, the US military illegally occupied the Kingdom of Hawai`i in building its empire of bases, leaving a legacy of ecocide it perpetuates into the future of its peoples;

WHEREAS, the US military appropriated Kapūkahiki located on a mountain range on O`ahu Island during WWII to construct the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, consisting of 20 fuel tanks storing 225 million gallons of fuel — just about 100 feet above the Southern O`ahu Basal Aquifer, the principal source of water for much of Honolulu and the island;

WHEREAS, records show the facility has leaked at least 200,000 gallons of fuel, 27,000 gallons from a single tank (Tank 5) in 2014;

WHEREAS, studies have detected traces of petroleum chemicals in the groundwater near the tanks where no effort has been to clean up the leaked fuel;

WHEREAS, the Navy's own studies cite that there is a 27.6% chance that the facility could leak another 33,000 gallons ever year and could have chronic leaks, releasing upwards of 5,800 gallons of fuel annually;

WHEREAS, after the Navy studied various tank upgrade options, it preferred the least protective and least expensive option, that includes keeping original steel tank liners, and using undefined, undetermined future technology maybe around 2045;

WHEREAS, in spite of the risks, history of leaks, overwhelming public opposition and no progress on tank upgrades —the Navy brought tank 5 back into operation in March 2020; WHEREAS, in violation of Hawai`i's Department of Health, the Navy's Red Hill tanks are operating without a permit;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT VETERANS FOR PEACE:

1. Calls for the shut down of the Red Hill Fuel Tanks, and
2. Relocate such facilities away from any public drinking waters sources.

Submitted by: Chapter 113, Hawai`i

Chapter co-coordinator: Pete Doktor (808) 782-0023

Resolution 2020-9: Resolution Creating My Lai Memorial Moment

(Passed - Yes: 430, No: 8)

WHEREAS, on March 16, 1968 U.S. military units with orders “kill anything that moves” killed 504 men, women, children, elderly persons in the hamlets of My Lai and My Khe in Vietnam;
And

WHEREAS, the My Lai Massacre represents only one of similar incidents of war crimes during the American War in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, the My Lai Memorial Exhibition, a project of Chicago VFP, has toured the U.S., illustrating the events at My Lai in detail, and Vietnam Full Disclosure continues to record and document the history and testimony by veterans of the war on its website www.vietnamfulldisclosure.org; and

WHEREAS, of 26 men initially charged, Lieutenant Calley was the only one convicted of murder in the carrying out of the massacre, later having his sentence commuted by President Richard Nixon; and

WHEREAS, The US Army covered up the massacre for 18 months, with evidence that persons in higher authority authorized the destruction of My Lai but were never brought to justice; and

WHEREAS, Warrant Officer Hugh Thompson and his helicopter crew stopped advancing U.S. troops to prevent even further atrocities; and

WHEREAS, Vietnam is quietly removing the memorials dedicated to the tragedy of the My Lai Massacre, and

WHEREAS, wartime use of Agent Orange (dioxin), and unexploded ordinance continue to cause casualties requiring ongoing medical treatments; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Every March 16th be declared My Lai Remembrance Day,
2. Beginning March 16, 2021, at 11am, whereby 504 seconds of still silence, one for each victim of that massacre, be set aside by VFP in recognition of this tragedy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT

1. Chapters and members are encouraged to create and display wreaths of remembrance every March 16th (having 504 ribbons), especially at My Lai in Vietnam and in Washington, D.C at the Vietnam War Memorial.

*Submitted by: Hollis Higgins, Chapter #035 Secretary
Co-Sponsored by: VFP Chapter #035, Spokane, WA*