



2014 Convention Resolutions

Resolution 2014-01: Thomas Paine Recognition

Passed (Yes: 620, No: 30)

Resolution 2014-02: Deceased VFP Member Memorial

Passed (Yes: 605, No: 59)

Resolution 2014-03: Medical Marijuana Treatment For Veterans

Passed (Yes: 645, No: 15)

Resolution 2014-04: 2014 Resolution On US Policy Towards Palestine & Israel

Passed (Yes: 649, No: 19)

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

Failed (Yes: 115, No: 537)

Resolution 2014-06: Marshall Islands Lawsuit Against Nuclear Nations

Passed (Yes: 650, No: 16)

Resolution 2014-07: Free Chelsea Manning!

Passed (Yes: 658, No: 13)

Resolution 2014-08: Resolution to End Disastrous U.S. Policy of Military Intervention

Passed (Yes: 663, No: 5)

Resolution 2014-01: Thomas Paine Recognition

Passed (Yes: 620 No: 30)

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, 845-679-6970

Board Vote: Unanimous

Convention Vote: Unanimous

Resolution 2014-02: Deceased VFP Member Memorial

Passed (Yes: 605, No: 59)

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 978-546-7395

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

Convention Vote: 56 Aye 4 Nay

Resolution 2014-03: Medical Marijuana Treatment For Veterans

Passed (Yes: 645, No: 15)

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, 828-335-3627

Board Vote: Unanimous

Convention Vote: Unanimous

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

Passed (Yes: 649, No: 19)

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

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| Board Vote: | 11 Aye | 0 Nay | 1 Abstain |
| Convention Vote: | 62 Aye | 1 Nay | 9 Abstain |

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

Failed (Yes: 115, No: 537)

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

Resolution 2014-6: Marshall Islands Lawsuit Against Nuclear Nations

Passed (Yes: 650, No: 16)

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.

Submitted by Barry Ladendorf, Chapter 091 - San Diego, bdlvfp@gmail.com

Board Vote: Unanimous Aye

Convention Vote: Unanimous Aye

Resolution 2014-07: FREE CHELSEA MANNING!

Passed (Yes: 658, No: 13)

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

Board Vote: Unanimous Aye

Convention Vote: Unanimous Aye

Resolution 2014-08: Resolution to End Disastrous U.S. Policy of Military Intervention

Passed (Yes: 663, No: 5)

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