



Exposing the True Costs of War
and Militarism Since 1985

VETERANS FOR PEACE

Organized locally. Recognized internationally.

SUMMER 2014

VFP Convention 2014

Come to Beautiful Asheville, NC!!

July 23-27

Peace or Perish

Abolish War on Planet and Poor

Come to beautiful Asheville, North Carolina, July 23 – 27, for Veterans For Peace 29th Annual Convention!! This year we are being hosted by VFP Chapter 099 on the campus of the University of North Carolina – Asheville.

You'll enjoy all the usual elements you have come to expect at a VFP convention– the President's reception, poetry open mic, workshops, fellowship, banquet, documentary films, business meeting and more. And there are a number of exciting special features this year:

Cynthia McKinney, keynote speaker at the Saturday awards banquet: McKinney probably needs no introduction. She served six terms as U.S. Representative from Georgia and in that time was an outspoken on the Iraq War, events of 9/11 and Katrina recovery. She was the first Member of Congress to file articles of impeachment against George Bush and she voted against every war funding bill put before her. McKinney ran for President as the Green Party candidate in 2008 and has not stopped working for justice



since. The top line of her website says, *"In the fight against bigotry, we stand together, and we must. In the fight against injustice, we stand together, and we must. In the fight against intimidation, we stand together, and we must. After all, a government that launches wars to steal another person's birthright will do anything to all of us."*

Three plenary panel discussions: Plenary panel sessions include post- 9/11 vets on their experience as peace vets; learn-

Virginia Druhe

Good times,
good conversation.



ing from Latin America; and Full Disclosure: Towards and Honest Commemoration of the American War in Vietnam.

John McCutcheon concert: McCutcheon is a well-known musician/activist who has produced 34 albums since the 1970s. He is regarded as a master of the hammered dulcimer, and is also proficient on many other instruments.

(Continued on page 15)

IN THIS ISSUE:

From the President.....2	Chapter Reports7
From the Ex. Director3	Convention Registration ...17
VFP Actions in Vietnam.....4	Poetry.....19

SERVE ON VFP'S BOARD

VFP is searching for dedicated veteran members to serve on the national Board. Your work there will help ensure VFP remains a strong organization working for the cause of peace.

If you are interested in serving, please send a short resume and a statement on why you are interested in serving to Board President Patrick McCann, unityact2@aol.com. If you have questions, speak with Interim Executive Director Michael McPhearson at 314-725-6005.

People of color, women and veterans who have served since September 11, 2001 are encouraged to apply.



This report focuses on VFP's 29th annual national convention July 23 – 27 in Asheville, NC. The convention theme is Peace or Perish: Abolish War on Planet and Poor. Cynthia McKinney is our keynote banquet speaker; our list of speakers includes Margaret Stephens, Camilo Mejia, Ann Wright, Roy Bourgeois, Maggie Martin, Jason Hurd, Brian Willson, Ben Griffin, Mike Prysner, Michael McPhearson, Medea Benjamin, and a host of others.

Car caravans will arrive in Asheville from multiple directions, beginning Tuesday, July 22nd. New VFP board member April Adams joins former VFP Vice-President Ellen Barfield and myself to kick-start the caravan leaving the Baltimore-Washington area on Saturday, July 19th. Stops are planned for Charlottesville, Richmond, Norfolk, Raleigh, Greensboro (where we'll visit the Civil Rights Museum), and Charlotte before arriving in Asheville. We are also organizing other routes to the convention, and would love to have you meet us on the way.

There's a campground to accommodate 35 – 50, so attendees can save on lodging. We're doing our best to make the convention affordable to members, and don't want to turn ANY veterans away for lack of funds. Those available to come, but unable to afford the weekend, should make their desires known.

We're doing pro-active outreach to Post 9-11 veterans. We have a growing list of new leaders in the veterans' wing of the peace and justice movement, and have scheduled a "Post-911 Veterans' Voices" plenary workshop in the workshop session just before lunch on Friday. Our last workshop session Friday afternoon features 3 mini-plenary workshops:

- Post 9-11 Veterans' Voices follow-up,
- Latin American plenary (Camilo Mejia, Ann Wright, and Roy Bourgeois), and
- Campaign of 'Full Disclosure' to the American people about the Vietnam War

Sunday we have a march and program in the park under the theme "Abolish War". We will feed the homeless prior to this program, featuring David Swanson. Cynthia McKinney will be acknowledged at this event, and encouraged to speak.

We're really excited about this convention, and we are trying so hard to make it a success. The main indicators of success will be:

- the quality of the program (nothing to worry about here!),
- the number of people attending, and
- paying attention to fund-raising for the convention.

We encourage donations to our 'scholarship fund' to help VFP members attend. Chapters, please place a full-page ad (\$200) in the convention handbook. Submission of ads should occur no later than June 6th; payment by July 6. Stay attuned to the VFP convention website for the latest details.



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michael McPhearson



THANK YOU, DOUG RAWLINGS!

Veterans For Peace extends gratitude to departing Board member Doug Rawlings who served with grace and good humor as member, vice-president, and Board representative to several convention planning committees. Doug continues to be active in VFP, including with the Vietnam Full Disclosure Campaign.

This July 28th marks the hundredth anniversary of the beginning of WWI, once called the War to End War. Unfortunately, we know today that the Great War was only a prelude to an even greater war with even larger numbers of suffering and death. Estimates of deaths between 1914 and the end of WWII in 1945 as a result of these two wars range from 55 million to over 100 million. Has humanity learned anything from these unleashed human plagues? The question is more pressing than ever as Russia, Western Europe and the United States face off against each other in Ukraine. WWI was sparked by an assassination of one man, Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary. This spark caused underlying tensions between major powers to burst into full flames of war. Could we see the same thing happen again?

One cannot say for sure, but we do know that Veterans For Peace is not waiting to find out. Our organization is very active in our quest to end the scourge of war. We continue to speak out on a host of issues relating to war. Our five areas of emphasis, Drone Warfare, G.I. Resistance and Truth in Recruiting,

Closing Guantanamo, Moving Money from the Pentagon to Human Needs, and work to Stop Current and Future wars places our efforts right at the head of critical current issues. Please visit our website to read our statement on the crisis in the Ukraine, on drone warfare and the federal government budget proposal. Also look for our statement and pamphlet on the environmental cost of war and handout on drone warfare. More materials are on the way.

We are working hard to get more working groups up and running, including a Legislative working group to engage Congress and pressure them with our voice as veterans working for peace and justice. Under the Take Action tab on our site, checkout Your Legislator in the dropdown menu. There you will find a number of bills we support or are working to defeat. More times than not Congress hears from veterans who support more war and military spending. We want to change that.

Perhaps most exciting is our effort to increase our visibility. We are working on a VFP speaker's bureau. We are reaching out to



WELCOME, APRIL ADAMS, NEW VFP BOARD MEMBER

In 1994, April served in Haiti during Operation Uphold Democracy. During this experience, she witnessed first-hand extreme and catastrophic disparities between rich and poor, and also realized that she was not sent there to improve peoples' lives. Rather, the U.S. manipulated who was in charge, for how long, and dictated terms in a way that kept Haiti in desperate conditions.

She is a member of the Inter-Tribal Warrior Society and Honor Guard, and serves as a journalist, photographer, artist, and environmental and social justice activist.

April is the secretary for Veterans For Peace Rachel Corrie Chapter 109 in Olympia, WA.



mainstream and alternative media outlets and we are developing more opinion pieces, position statements and comments to keep the Veterans For Peace name in the limelight.

Veterans For peace has kicked off a Vietnam Full Disclosure Campaign, to make sure the truth about

(Continued on page 16)

VFP ACTIONS IN VIETNAM

Edited by Chuck Rossi

Nearly four decades after the American war ended in April, 1975, peace still has not come for millions of people in Vietnam. Outstanding legacies of that war include Agent Orange/dioxin and unexploded ordnance. Members of VFP have made these two war legacies top action priorities.

Agent Orange

Between 1961 and 1975 about 20 million gallons of herbicides, including 13 million gallons of Agent Orange, were sprayed over 5.5 million acres of southern Vietnam. The U.S. government is only now starting to acknowledge its responsibility for use of Agent Orange. The VA recognizes certain cancers and other disorders in military veterans of Vietnam as presumptively associated with their exposure to such herbicides. However, there are an estimated three million Vietnamese families affected by Agent Orange exposure for whom the United States has done little. Many "hot spots" of Agent Orange

contamination need remediation, but only at Danang Airport has such remediation begun.

Unexploded Ordnance

During the war, the U.S. deployed 15 million tons of munitions. An estimated ten percent of these munitions did not explode, leaving behind unexploded ordnance (UXO) that, since the war ended, has killed or wounded more than 100,000 persons, more than a third of whom were children.

The U.S. government has inadequately responded to this legacy. For more than a decade, only \$3-\$4 million a year has been budgeted for clean-up of UXO and to teach children and adults how to be safe from this danger.

Friendship Village is a center on the edge of Hanoi created through the vision and determination of U.S. veteran and VFP member George Mizo to help Vietnamese children and veterans suffering from complications related to Agent



Tour members observe a controlled explosion of UXO in Quang Tri.

Orange. Established as a cooperative effort with the Veterans Association of Viet Nam (VAVN), the Village was begun in 1993 and it opened its doors in 1998. Though George died in 2002 of complications related to Agent Orange, he lived to see his vision become a reality. Today, international representatives from Germany, France, Japan, and Canada, and the U.S. (including VFP members such as Becky Luening and Don Blackburn who are part of Friendship Village Project USA) raise funds and awareness about Agent Orange in their home countries. Under VAVN management, the Village provides medical care, physical therapy, education, and vocational training for approximately 120 children and young adults; groups of 60 veterans are cycled through for six weeks of nutritional therapy, medical care, and R&R. The Friendship Village is the first point of contact for many people to learn about the severe effects of dioxin in Vietnam. For more information, visit vietnam-friendship.org.



2014 VFP tour of Tu Du Hospital, with young Agent Orange victim.

The Vietnam Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility Campaign (VAORRC; vn-agentorange.org) was formed as a VFP project in 2005 to support a class action suit brought by Vietnamese citizens to assist the victims of Agent Orange/dioxin and to hold responsible those chemical companies that produced the herbicides.

VAORRC partners with the Vietnamese Association for Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin (VAVA), a non-governmental organization in Vietnam that represents victims, with local organizations enabling outreach into affected communities. VAVA facilitates Vietnamese government support for victim families, and helps them obtain necessary services. VAVA helps VFP identifying families and facilities to visit during the annual Spring Tour.

The lawsuit against the chemical companies failed, and since that time VAORRC has focused on legislation. Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA) introduced HR 2519-the Victims of Agent Orange Relief Act-in 2013. The bill would provide health care and social services for the affected children of American Vietnam veterans, provide health care and social services for affected Vietnamese and Vietnamese Americans, and remediate contaminated land. VFP members should contact their congressional representative and ask her/him to become a co-sponsor of HR 2519.

VFP Chapter 160, the *Hoa Binh* or *Peace* chapter, is the only American veterans' organization in Vietnam with an active membership living and working in the country.

Chapter 160 members advise and guide visiting VFP members and other veterans. A two-week tour of Vietnam is a highlight, a unique travel adventure and intro-

duction – or re-introduction – to Vietnam and its people today, and the war legacies that remain (see the Chapter 160 report in this issue). Members of Chapter 160 work with Vietnamese governmental and institutional leaders on issues of mutual concern. VFP is an independent American veterans' voice in Vietnam, a voice that is listened to and respected.

VFP Chapter 69 in San Francisco has supported Chapter 160. Chapter 69 member Nadya Williams has been invaluable in organizing the annual Spring Tour.

The support of VFP members' from other chapters is much appreciated. Advice and counsel of all are welcomed, as we seek to represent *all VFP members* through our work in Vietnam. Check out the Chapter 160 website. (<http://vfp-vn.ning.com>)

Collaboration and Cooperation

VFP's mission in Vietnam is reflected in the Friendship Village, VAORRC, and Chapter 160, which are complementary and mutually supportive projects.

Vietnam is an "anchor" for the peace mission that we embrace and pursue. In Vietnam we can learn from the past but also engage the demands of post-war realities. The Vietnamese people welcome us and are willing to work with us.

Through these projects, we may finally *get it right* and show that we will face the legacies of war and not leave behind those tragically affected.



Thanks to Paul Cox, Becky Luening, Susan Schnall, Dan Shea and the members of Chapter 160.



Participants in tour prepare to leave Vietnam

VFP CHAPTER 160 TOUR REPORT

Suel Jones/Chuck Searcy

The Hoa Binh Chapter hosted its third annual VFP Spring Tour of Vietnam. Brief highlights of the tour follow; a detailed account appears on the VFP Website and on Chapter 160's Website (<http://vfp-vn.ning.com/>).

On March 29, a delegation of 17 arrived in Ha Noi. The group met with the US-VN Friendship Association, the former Ambassador to the U.S. Nguyen Tam Chien, the national Veterans Association of Vietnam, and the Vietnam Association of Victims of Agent Orange (VAVA). Outside Ha Noi, the group visited the Friendship Village, which assists children and veterans affected by Agent Orange.

Next stop was the former DMZ in Quang Tri Province, the wartime dividing line between north and south. Today is the site of Project RENEW, which works to "make Vietnam safe" from the dangers of unexploded ordnance.

We then went to Viet Nam's *Truong Son Cemetery*, a national memorial where 10,000 Vietnamese soldiers are buried. We stopped at

(Continued on page 16)

SMEDLEY RETURNS TO SCHOOL

Bill Ehrhart



The Smedley Butler Bench at The Haverford School.

The Haverford School is a selective, private, nonsectarian all-boys preparatory school founded in 1884 and located just outside of Philadelphia on the historic Main Line. The School, which from its inception attracted the sons of upper-class Philadelphia families, has historically been the epitome of establishment republicanism, producing representatives of and defenders of American exceptionalism, unregulated markets, and hierarchies of talent and effort. The school's notable alumni include politicians, scholars, industry leaders, writers, artists, and professional athletes, men who shaped their world and left their mark, and all of whom are honored in the halls of this ancient school. All but one. Until recently.

One notable Haverford grad, perhaps the most notable, was for many years forgotten and even written out of the school's history. The class of 1898 included one Smedley Darlington Butler, son of a prominent Quaker family from West Chester, Pennsylvania. As General Smedley Butler, he was probably the most famous military man in the country; in retirement from the military, he became probably the most

infamous critic of American military adventurism and capitalist war profiteers. To his fellow alumni, he was likely seen as a traitor to his class, excluded from the ranks of the official notables, not spoken of and therefore not to be reckoned with.

Institutions, especially crusty old established ones, change reluctantly and very slowly, but sometimes a few dedicated people can speed up the rate of change and even its direction. Fred Housel, Haverford School Class of 1969, stumbled onto Butler by chance a few years ago, and asked then-headmaster Joseph Cox how he could have spent 13 years at the Haverford School without ever hearing of Butler. Cox replied, "You ought to talk to Bill Ehrhart." Ehrhart, poet, essayist, scholar, activist and general pain in the ass to the crusty and the established, became rather late in his career also a teacher—at The Haverford School. Bill, like Smedley Butler a former Marine and also like Butler delighting in stirring things up, became the face of the Haverford Butler Revival, along with the backing of Cox,

a West Pointer, author of a book on war prose, who helped rehabilitate Butler in a 2001 history of the school that mentioned Butler as a representative Haverford man who served in his country's wars.

Bill teaches English and History at Haverford and in his classroom, now known forever as the *Smedley Darlington Butler Classroom* thanks to Housel's endowment, hangs a poster of the old general; there is now a student-painted portrait of Butler hanging outside the Admissions Office with a plaque describing his career written by Bill. Bill recently inaugurated a history course on Butler's career and time. Finally, one year ago in May 2013, the school installed a bench, again courtesy of Housel, a place of thought encircling a mighty tree in the center of campus and christened *The Smedley Butler Bench*. The bench contains six metal panels describing the life of Butler the Haverford man, again written by Bill. The panels read as follows:

Panel 1

Smedley Darlington Butler, 1881 – 1940
The Haverford School Class of 1898
Husband of Ethel Conway Peters Butler
Father of Ethel, Smedley, Jr., & Thomas
Incorruptible Outspoken Patriot
His was a life of Courage, Respect
& Honesty

Panel 2

A native of West Chester, Pennsylvania, the son of a Congressman, Butler was captain of the Haverford School's baseball team and quarterback of the football team. Not yet 17, he enlisted in the Marines in 1898 without waiting for graduation, but was nevertheless awarded his diploma.

(Continued on page 16)

VFP CHAPTER REPORTS

CHAPTER 1 - PORTLAND, ME

Richard Clement

In February, Tarak Kauf and Ellen Davidson shared with Maine VFP and the community their stories of traveling to Palestine. Also joining via Skype was Yonatan Shipira, co-founder of the Israeli Combatants for Peace.

Again in February, David Swanson came to Brunswick to talk about his new book *War No More: The Case for Abolition*. Also discussed was the war in Syria and how it came about that the U.S. refrained from air strikes.

Associate chapter member and painter/artist Robert Shetterly was honored when his image of Shirley Chisholm was chosen for the U.S. postage stamp for Black History Month.

In March, members traveled to Boston to support the Smedleys in the "Alternative St. Patrick's Day Parade." We are gaining community support and strength each year!

In April, close to 100 peaceful people came out to demonstrate against the "christening" of the new Zumwalt stealth destroyer built at Bath Iron Works. Later the same evening an International Panel on U.S. 'Pivot' to Asia-Pacific was held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick.

CHAPTER 10 - ALBANY, NY

John Amidon

The Chapter continues its strong support of the 16th annual Kateri Peace Conference on August 15 and 16, 2014. Titled *Rocking the Boat for Peace*, attendees will enjoy a river boat cruise on the Mohawk River, Friday Night.

Some of our featured speakers are Jill Stein, David Swanson, and Steve Breyman. Bishop Thomas Gumbleton will lead our Friday morning interfaith retreat. For more info go to www.kateripeaceconference.org

John Amidon was on trial April 28, 2014, the first of the Hancock 31 to go to trial for protesting drones exactly one year before on April 28, 2013. He was charged with attempted criminal trespass and loitering for wearing a mask. He won on all counts and defended his First Amendment Rights in DeWitt Town Court.



John Amidon as the Grim Reaper a few days before his arrest.

CHAPTER 21 - NORTHERN NJ

Walt and Nancy Nygard

The Chapter looks to be a part of metropolitan/national efforts to bring truth in this centennial and semi-centennial year to American participation in World War I and the Vietnam War. The Metropolitan Veterans Peace Council - partnering with New York chapters and other peace groups - has begun work on events highlighting the Christmas Truce of 1914.

Both wars have figured prominently in artwork produced and displayed by chapter members through our ongoing work with Combat Paper NJ and Warrior Writers. Since the New Year, paintings and prints by Jan Barry, Jim Fallon, Frank Wagner, and Walt Nygard have hung at the Monmouth Museum, Gloucester County College and will be featured at the soon-to-open Trigger Experience Combat Paper show in Somerville, NJ.

The long-running vigil at the Teaneck Armory will be honored by NJ Peace Action at their annual dinner. Many a Chapter 21 member has passed through the ranks of this vigil. Especially this winter, their efforts were the true expression of love of one's country.

CHAPTER 26 - CHICAGO, IL

Arny Stieber

Our primary objective is to demilitarize Chicago Public Schools – the most militarized public school system in the nation with more than 10,000 kids being taught that the military model for conflict resolution is the "American way". See Facebook.com/DeMilitarizeCPS.

By connecting violence with the military we are able to bring in all aspects of the VFP Statement of Purpose and move outside of the traditional "peace" groups. Our bumper sticker reads, "MILITARY TEACHES VIOLENCE". With our recent music concert, "IMAGINE CHICAGO WITHOUT VIOLENCE" we were able to get our message (via 1,000 2 sided cards) into the hands of the movers and shakers of Chicago. Part of our message was Martin Luther King's quote, "I knew that I could never again raise my voice against violence without hav-

ing first spoken clearly to the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today – my own government”.

In May we will show the film, *Unmanned: America's Drone Wars* at a Unitarian Universalist Church. We, and a coalition of other groups, will stand along the Chicago Memorial Day parade route (the largest in the nation with 95% of the marchers JROTC kids – literally thousands of them) with VFP flags and signs to give the kids and the community an alternative message.

CHAPTER 34 - NEW YORK, NY

Bob Keilbach

The Kaufmann/Pahlos Chapter participates in anti-war and human rights actions, education, and counter-recruitment activities. Meetings are held on 3rd Wednesday of each month; recent speakers were Cathy Breen of Voices for Creative Nonviolence describing her recent trip to Jordan and Iraq, to assist Iraqi and Syrian refugee families; and Dr. Thomas Fasy, who reported on his trip to Iraq, and ongoing health crises there.

We have identified areas that we want to concentrate on in effecting change in 2014, including: Christmas Truce of 1914 and Celebrating People who opposed WWI; Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility Campaign; Drone Warfare; Whistleblower Support; Uranium Weapons; Korea Peace Campaign; and Membership outreach.

We participated in a forum regarding involvement of Veterans in progressive change movements; and Bill Gilson, Frank Stearns and Susan Schnall participated in a post-performance discussion at a performance of *Hobo Grunt Cycle*.

Our VFP contingent marched in the all-inclusive Queens St Pat's for All Parade, distributing 400 War Economy flyers and placing flowers at the Veterans Memorial.

Upcoming events include a conference regarding An Honest Commemoration of the American War in Vietnam; Organizing Conference regarding commemoration of the 1914 Christmas Truce; Memorial Day Observance, Heritage of Pride Parade.

CHAPTER 39 - NORTHEAST OH

Bob Berner

In April, the Chapter made up an important part of a Drone Teach-In organized by West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church. Keynote speaker was Medea Benjamin with reinforcing comments by Mike Ferner. Chapter contributions included a workshop titled “Drones: the Good, the Bad and the In-between” which presented balanced, factual (rather than opinioned) information about the definition, history and current development of drones and drone warfare, together with showings of the Jeremy Scahill video *How Do You Surrender to a Drone?* We also assembled a very useful Q&A sheet about these subjects, and “Take Action” handouts (courtesy of Leah Bolger). The Drone Quilt Project was on display.

Over the past several years on November 11 we have performed readings of letters sent by soldiers in war to their families. We now have a professionally engineered CD of this program *In Their Own Words* and you can get a copy of this, as well as the print materials mentioned above, by contacting ardorland@hotmail.com

Like other chapters, we do our share of tabling, including Earth-Fest and an ever popular '60s throwback, the Hessler Street Fair. Lots of interest in Veterans For Peace, but no new memberships. We're getting old, like most of you reading this stuff. How do we get the new guys?

CHAPTER 41 - CAPE COD, MA

Duke Ellis

Members of the Cpl. Jeffrey M. Lucey Chapter joined Boston's Smedley Butler Brigade and other VFP chapters at the St. Patrick's Day Peace and Justice Parade in South Boston. We again wore our "22" armbands to remember the number of veteran suicides each day, another hidden cost of war.

Our "Voices for Peace" poetry contest Awards Ceremony and Reading was held on May 3rd, once the judging of the more than 800 entries was completed in April. Once again the event was filled with great enthusiasm and poetry thanks to the efforts of the participants of all ages as well as the teachers and parents who support and encourage them. Another job well done by our contest director Nina Tepper and the chapter members who once again made this a success.

Once again we were part of the largest Memorial Day event on Cape Cod wearing our "22" armbands and remembering Jeff Lucey and all victims of war military and civilian. As before, we brought one of our poetry contest winners with us to read their poem in what has now become an important and anticipated part of that commemoration. And for a few moments the crowd was touched by a voice for peace.



Chapter 41 members at the Boston St. Patrick's Day Parade

CHAPTER 54 - SANTA BARBARA, CA

Elizabeth Colon

Coordinated by VFP Associate Kate Connell and VFP Vietnam vet Michael Cervantes, the Chapter co-sponsored a truth-in-recruitment forum, *Military Recruiters On Our Local High School Campuses -- Why?* Panelists eloquently addressing an audience of over sixty were:

- Rick Jahnkow, co-founder of Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities (YANO) projectyano.org
- Alejandra Rishton of IVAW (ivaw.org/alejandra-rishton), a former Army multi-media specialist, 2004-08. Now a mother and wife, Rishton educates the public toward ending all of our illegal and immoral aggressions.
- Michelle Cohen of Coalition for Alternatives to Militarism on our Schools whose outstanding Project Great Futures booklet (projectgreatfutures.nnomy.org/) provides alternatives to military enlistment post-high school.
- Pat Alviso, whose son enlisted in the Marine Corps at age 18 and has served 5 tours in Iraq and Afghanistan to date. Since her son's first deployment in 2005, she joined Military Families Speak Out (MFSO). Alviso leads MFSO, a national organization of more than 5000 families that works to support the troops and bring them home now.

The panel's excellent credentials help the Chapter work with the community and school officials to adopt a district-wide policy concerning military recruitment in the Santa Barbara School District.

CHAPTER 55 - SANTA FE, NM

Bob Stearns

The Chapter again presented public forums – one entitled *The Soldier and The Refusenik* and fea-

turing two Israelis seeking a mutually equitable solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict, and another event featuring Kathy Kelly of Voices for Creative Non-Violence. Kathy, along with Chapter president Ken Mayers, were on the ship Audacity Of Hope when it was blocked from sailing to Gaza. Chuck Zobac, formerly U.S. Army in the Vietnam War, spoke to Chapter members about his project to set up a veterans wellness center in Albuquerque. He also distributed copies of the special section of *The New Mexican* newspaper, which he had helped bring about -- entitled Six Days to Honor and Heal, it published photos of all the U.S. military from New Mexico who lost their lives in Vietnam.

CHAPTER 56 - HUMBOLDT BAY, CA

James Salter

The Chapter has a history of involvement in our local, regional, and international communities. Building a bridge between ourselves and our local labor unions, we have created our Veterans' Service Committee which provides clothing, camping gear and non-perishable food items to homeless veterans. Working with labor unions that make up the Central Labor Council of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties, we have formed close relationships working together on mutual outreach social activities. Our members regularly speak before our Board of Supervisors to protest ordinances that violate human rights. We are invited into schools to discuss civil rights and related peace issues.

We are proud of our work in restoring the historic Golden Rule, a sailing vessel that took part in the first anti-nuclear demonstration in the 1950s. We hope that the Golden Rule will set sail in 2014, as a symbol of Veterans For Peace, educating our youth on the necessity of stopping the spread of violence.

Our anti-recruitment resource guide, available online, continues to influence youth considering joining military service. In conjunction with our efforts for youth, we will be sponsoring our fifth Peace Poetry/Art contest this spring inviting local high school students to submit poetry and art with anti-war themes. The winners are invited to celebrate their creations with our community during a celebration in May. The Chapter webpage is at <http://www.vfp56.org>

CHAPTER 58 - CATSKILL MT., NY

Jay Wenk

The Maury Colow Chapter has been occupied in our attempts to demand the First Amendment be recognized, by holding memorials at the Vietnam Memorial Park in downtown Manhattan, NY. This tiny, open plaza has been given a "closing time" of 10:00 pm. We've consciously gone past that time, reading the names of the dead and placing flowers at the base of the wall. This has been done in 2012 and 2013, both on October 7. Arrests were made and guilty decisions were handed down by City Judges. We won't take 'NO' for an answer, and the National Lawyers Guild has provided wonderful legal defense. We will continue work for our rights, exposing the system's elimination of the Bill of Rights.

CHAPTER 63 - ALBUQUERQUE, NM

Sally-Alice Thompson

We have had a very busy time. Charles Powell spoke to the Albuquerque Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on his VFP trip to Cuba. We sponsored and/or attended a Women's Day rally, the Cesar Chavez parade, a Hands Off Venezuela Rally, the soldier and the Refusenik forum, Regis Trembley's presentation on Jeju Island, the dedication of the Tuskegee Airmen

Memorial at Veterans Memorial Park, a Volunteer Breakfast at Veterans Memorial Park, a lecture by David Barsamian, and tabling at the state capitol on Veterans Recognition Day.

We are now working on final plans for a forum on the Middle East, featuring Ken Mayers and his VFP trip and joined by three other people who have also spent varying amounts of time in the Middle East. The event has been planned by a committee headed by Herb Hoffman, who will moderate. We hope to make this a balanced, non-divisive event.

We are also engaged in the effort to reduce police overuse of force in Albuquerque and in the national campaigns to reduce the corrupting effects of money in political campaigns.

CHAPTER 66 - AUSTIN, TX

Alan Pogue

Tomas Heikkala has recently won an \$800 grant for the soy factory that helps undernourished children of the Guatemala City dump workers (www.plenty.org). This program is called Karen's Soy Nutrition Program. By next year the women will be running their own food production business and continuing to feed the children and also provide nutrition rich food packets to homeless people in Austin. Hart Vigas continues to work with Sustainable Options for Youth, S.O.Y., and visits high schools to talk about alternatives to the military for education. Read all about it: <http://www.peaceoptions.blogspot.com>

Alan Pogue traveled to Bangkok, Thailand for an international conference on prison reform for C.U.R.E., www.cureinternational.org. He then went to Vietnam and to the My Lai/ Son My memorial for the 46th anniversary of the massacre.

Rodney Florence continues to campaign for Chelsea Manning. He

and Tomas Heikkala attended the dedication of a memorial statue at the Texas Capitol in order to be an anti-war and peace presence. Both have had letters to the editor printed in the Austin daily opposing the justification and glorification of war.

CHAPTER 69 - SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Paul Cox



Chapter 69 Flag Contingent in the 2014 St. Patrick's Day Parade

Our chapter continues to support the wonderful Chapter 160 Annual Spring Tour to Viet Nam. Our member Nadya Williams does the critical work of preparing the tour and raising the funds for it. This year the tour had 17 veterans and peace activists, including (ret. Colonel) Ann Wright, and our chapter President, Bill Creighton (see the report by Chapter 160 below).

Locally, we continue to support Code Pink's efforts to draw attention to the alienated reality of drone warfare at Beale Airbase. Several of our members will be traveling to Beale to protest their drone control unit there that has young airmen remotely killing people in Afghanistan and Pakistan—then go home to their families every night. We also continue to work with the American Legion to preserve veterans' space in the Veterans' Building in San Francisco's Civic Center, so much needed services can be provided for veterans in it. A lawsuit against the City over those issues is imminent.

CHAPTER 71 - SONOMA VALLEY, CA

Bill Simon

The Chapter is, for the first time, hosting the Northern California VFP Regional Conference, which will take place May 2, 3, and 4 at Mountain Home Ranch located just outside of Calistoga, CA. We have assembled inspiring speakers: Col Ann Wright will deliver the keynote speech and discussion. We also have Phillip Butler, POW and pilot of the American war in Vietnam and author; and Professor Peter Phillips, Media Freedom Foundation president & author.

The VFP Northern California 2014 Conference theme is Developing a United VFP Northern California Voice. Sunday morning we will be focused on establishing a process and project(s) for Northern California VFP Chapters to address as a unified collaborative VFP effort.

We have rented all of the conference cabins at Mountain Home Ranch. We currently have over 40 individuals signed up to attend, and we are thrilled that 25% of those pre-registered are women. We are anticipating an exciting conference that is educational, directional for Nor Cal VFP, and a lot of fun as we all get to know each other in a beautiful, rustic, bucolic setting.

In addition, we are very grateful to have a tech-savvy member, Jason Murphy, who continues to upgrade the Chapter website: www.veteransforpeacesonoma.net

CHAPTER 75 - PHOENIX, AZ

Richard Smith

The Winter Soldier Chapter (WSC) picketed the Phoenix VA Hospital on March 18. We highlighted the VA's role in bringing Honoring Arizona's Veterans (HAV), and its right-wing ideologues, into the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade (Parade) as a co-sponsor. As dis-

cussed in the spring newsletter, HAV banned us from the 2013 Parade.

Ironically or coincidentally, the VA now stands accused of negligence in the deaths of at least 40 of its veteran patients in Phoenix. WSC will now shift its focus to Phoenix Mayor, Greg Stanton, who has disingenuously proclaimed "I love our veterans."

On March 19, the 11th anniversary of "Shock and Awe", WSC members, including Dennis Stout, Richard A. Smith, Billy Clark, Ahmad Daniels, John Johnson, and Charles Osburn, at the invitation of Arizona State University Professor, Mark Von Hagen, spoke to students enrolled in his course, "Wartime Occupations and Colonial Wars." Professor Von Hagen, whom we had met previously, requested that we share our Vietnam experiences with his students, two of whom were Iraq veterans.

Our presentation was met with great enthusiasm from the students as evidenced by the numerous questions we fielded from them. As a result, we expect Professor Von Hagen to invite us back next semester as a result of the positive feedback provided by his students.

CHAPTER 80 - DULUTH, MN

Phil Anderson

Chapter 80 organized the April 15 Global Day of Action Against Military Spending in Twin Ports area (Duluth, MN and Superior, WI). A rally was held in both cities in coordination with a number of other social justice and labor groups. The weather was cold but it wasn't SNOWING, at least on THAT DAY!

The theme was "Put People First" by setting better budget priorities. We stressed putting human needs, such as education, healthcare, housing, and good living wage jobs, ahead of war. The call to action was to support the Progressive Caucus' "Better Off Budget."

Greg Boertje-Obed, one of our members and currently in jail for protesting nuclear weapons, was publicly praised as a true hero of freedom. Greg participated in the Transform Now Plowshares protest at Oak Ridge, TN. He has been sentenced to 5 years for a peaceful protest.

We ask everyone to write to Greg.

Greg Boertje-Obed
Reg. # 08052-016
USP Leavenworth
U.S. PENITENTIARY
P.O. BOX 1000
LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048

The Chapter continues to increase our visibility in the community through public actions and by partnering with other groups.

CHAPTER 87 - SACRAMENTO, CA

John Reiger

The Chapter does not have a lot of active members but we do keep active. Aside from our regularly scheduled Anti-War Vigils every Wednesday and every Second Saturday, we stand with dozens of demonstrators at anti-drone protests at Beale Air Force Base near Sacramento. VFP members have been arrested for attempting to enter the base to deliver protest letters to the commander.

We actively support other progressive local groups like Occupy, homeless advocates, the international BDS movement, etc. by endorsing and joining their activities.



Chapter 69 protests at Beale AFB

CHAPTER 93 - WASHTENAW, MI

Bob Krzewinski

The Chapter continues to hold spring outreach at Earth Day events with the theme of "war and the environment." One public event a few years ago refused our request for an information table (we were viewed as "not appropriate") until some local strategic ("Veterans Group Not Welcome At Earth Day Event") press releases broke the ice. Now this same event welcomes us back each year. One popular item we use (with lots of crayons) is a coloring postcard of the "War Is Not Healthy For Children And Other Living Things" drawing with children coloring while we talk to parents. The Earth Day events are also a great opportunity to reach out to educate the public, and reach out to veterans, about such items as Agent Orange (especially in Michigan – home to Dow Chemical) and Gulf War Syndrome.

CHAPTER 104 - EVANSVILLE, IN

Lynn Kinkade

The Chapter served as the lead sponsor for a public screening of Heather Courtney's Emmy-winning documentary, *Where Soldiers Come From*. The chapter brought two veterans who were featured in the film to Evansville to participate in the post-screening discussion, that included local veterans Chloe Sharp, Afghanistan Navy veteran, Dan Ingler, Iraq and Afghanistan Army veteran, and Chapter 104 president Gary Mary, Vietnam Marine veteran.

The documentary followed several young men from the upper peninsula of Michigan after they joined the local national guard unit together, deployed to eastern Afghanistan in an engineer company tasked with roadside bomb sweeps, and after they returned

home. The documentary starkly showed the effects of the veterans' wartime experience, and helped expose some of the true costs of war, a theme featured in the post-screening discussion.

Student veterans' organizations from two Evansville universities were also involved as sponsors or supporters of the event, as the Chapter continues to seek the involvement of younger veterans in support of VFP's mission to find ways to foster world peace.

The event garnered excellent media coverage and community interest in an encouraging sign that the Chapter's effort toward community outreach and education is reaching a wider audience.

CHAPTER 105 - BALTIMORE, MD

Ellen Barfield

The Phil Berrigan Memorial Chapter has marched in the Baltimore Martin Luther King Parade every January since the chapter was founded. In 2014 a good-sized crowd of peace movement colleagues joined the effort with MLK statements displayed on chapter member Jim Baldrige's pickup, and the chapter banner, VFP, VVAW, and Maryland flags mounted on the four corners of the truck bed, and flyers distributed to the crowd with more MLK quotes challenging militarism. Chapter coordinator Ellen Barfield gave a well-received report and slide show on the Veterans Peace Team November solidarity delegation to Palestine she had traveled with, for the Baltimore Communist Party on 23 April, and will give another for Washington, DC Quakers in May.

The chapter will commemorate it's namesake Phil Berrigan and the other eight who burned Viet Nam draft files in Catonsville outside Baltimore with a film showing on 18 May of the fascinating documentary *Hit and Stay*, which relates the his-

tory of Viet Nam era anti-war actions invading draft boards and destroying files so as to make a good number of potential draftees unfindable. Among peace activists and veterans many attribute their own or friends' not being called up to these bold actions to disrupt the military draft process. Film producer Joe Tropea will facilitate questions and discussion after the film showing. On the 17th, the actual anniversary of the action, VFP will vigil and hand out leaflets at the Catonsville Post Office and briefly rally on the Knights of Columbus parking lot where the files were burned.

CHAPTER 106 - DALLAS, TX

Leslie Harris

Chapter 106 has partnered with the North Texas Light Brigade to do frequent actions, including a demonstration in front of a huge eyeball sculpture in downtown Dallas, spelling out, "Stop NSA Spying" in lights and projecting, "Bad for America" onto an adjacent wall.

We hosted An Evening with Carlos Arredondo, which was well-attended by the community. On the March 19 anniversary of the Iraq invasion, we demonstrated in front Bush's place to say that we will not forget, we will not be silent, and we will continue to call for accountability!

On opening day of Bush's art exhibit, we staged an alternative art exhibit in front of the LIE-bury, with the Bush bobblehead in prison stripes, painting an iconic torture scene.

We co-sponsored a lecture by BORDC's Shahid Buttar on NSA/CIA spying/corruption, and organized a press conference in front of the Dallas Police Department Headquarters, which houses a fusion center. We also projected a "spying eyeball" onto the side of the County Sheriff's Office in McKinney, TX., which houses another fusion center inside DHS,

and spelled out "Don't Spy On Us" in lights at the compound entrance. Planning is underway for ALEC's national conference in Dallas, July 30 - August 1.



Chapter 106's alternative art exhibition outside the George W. Bush Library

CHAPTER 115 - RED WING, MN

Emma Onawa

The Chapter, along with Chapter 27 (Minneapolis/St. Paul), is busy preparing for the 12th annual Peacestock to be held Saturday, July 12. The 2014 them will be The Surveillance State. We are excited to announce that Ben Wizner, director of the ACLU Speech, Privacy and Technology Project, will be keynote at this year's Peacestock. He has litigated numerous cases involving post-9/11 civil liberties abuses, including challenges to airport security policies, government watch lists, extraordinary rendition, and torture. He has appeared regularly in the media, testified before Congress, and traveled several times to Guantánamo Bay to monitor military commission proceedings. Ben also serves as a legal advisor to Edward Snowden.

Additional speakers are Jeff Nygard; Chante Wolf, VFP27; Melissa Hill, Minneapolis peace activist; and poet Thomas R Smith. Music will be performed by the Wild Colonial Bhoys.

Peacestock is a blend of speakers, food, music, and community for

peace, located near the Mississippi River in Red Wing, Minnesota, just an hour's drive from Minneapolis/St. Paul. Peacestock will be held in a new location this year, at Red Wing's Colvill Park, on the Mississippi River. We will be meeting indoors, with air conditioning if needed.

For more information go to <http://www.peacestockvfp.org/> or contact Bill Habedank at 651-388-7733 home; 651-764-1866 cell or bill@peacestockvfp.org.

CHAPTER 118 - SALT LAKE CITY, UT

Aaron Davis

In April, the Nikko Schoch Chapter welcomed VFP Activist Col. Ann Wright to Salt Lake City. She spoke at many venues including Weber State, Salt Lake Community College, University of Utah and the downtown library. The events were planned by the Peace Advocacy Coalition, Wasatch Coalition for Peace and Justice with Chapter contact Gary Mesker providing transportation to and from the airport and speaking venues.

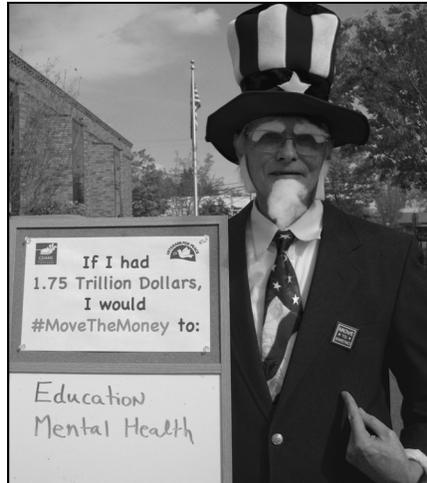
The Chapter had its annual dinner celebrating 10 years in conjunction with Ann's activities. Also attending the dinner was West Point Grad, and former Army Officer Donna McCleer, who is running for Congress.



Aaron Davis, with Col. Ann Wright, hands over chapter charter to new president Gary Mesker

CHAPTER 132 - CORVALLIS, OR

Bart Bolger



Bob Ozretich (as Uncle Sam) helps draw attention to the Chapter 132 GDAMS table

Last quarter was another busy period of activism on Truth in Recruiting and anti-war programs. The Linus Pauling Chapter tabled at the annual high school career convention, attended by nearly all local high school students. We presented a strong counterpoint to the military recruiters' glitzy displays just a few steps away. We also tabled outside the public library for the April 15 Global Day of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS). We asked passersby to pose for a photo, holding a sign telling us where they would rather see their income tax dollars go than to the Pentagon. The chapter continues to sponsor a monthly series of benefit concerts which raise money for peace and justice projects. In March, the beneficiary was the VFP-endorsed Drones Quilt Project (<http://goo.gl/l99ZT2>).

Big News: The Linus Pauling Chapter has joined other local groups including the WILPF and FOR chapters as fiscal sponsors to bring the World Peace Game (WorldPeaceGame.org) to an elementary class in Corvallis. A local mother-daughter team was so inspired by the recent visit and talk by John Hunter about the Peace

Game he created that they have taken on the project. They hope to attend Hunter's training course and begin teaching the Game to a 5th grade class here during the 2014-2015 school year.

CHAPTER 133 - WESTERN MONTANA

Patrick Vaughan

The Chapter is still in a planning stage. However, three of us were able to attend the Missoula: Montanans for Climate Change rally on April 26th.

"Montanans from all walks of life will urge our decision-makers to embrace renewable energy, and energy efficiency and conservation policies that move us towards a clean energy economy. It is time to move away from dirty fossil fuel development projects like the Otter Creek Mine and Keystone XL Pipeline. Speakers at the rally will include Nobel Laureate Dr. Steve Running, Indian People's Action organizer and UM Professor of Native American Studies Dr. George Price, and others."

Quoted from the Climate Change announcement.



Chapter 133 members Patrick Vaughan, Bob Foster, Danny Showalter (left to right)

CHAPTER 134 - TACOMA, WA

Ray Nacanaynay

An article by Larry Kerschner titled: 'Why so Little G.I. Resistance Today' was discussed at our last meeting. It was largely agreed that the religious element was left out in the article. Personally, I believe there is a great diversity in Catholic Churches and I assume that to be true in the other Faiths. As part of the solution, I believe that courage and patience to develop long-term relationships in the religious sectors is needed. I know I need more courage. I know I also need to maintain the peace in myself.

Our application to display Arlington Northwest at the Washington State History Museum has been turned-down. We will try again next year. Arlington Northwest is being re-designed to make it smaller and just display the Northwest casualties. Applications for tabling at half-a-dozen Spring and Summer street fairs are also in the works.

CHAPTER 136 - CENTRAL FL

Phil Restino

In February 2014, the Col. Bob Bowman Memorial Chapter of VFP once again teamed up with the Orlando Chapter of WeAreChange and the East Central Florida Chapter of CODE PINK for our 9th Annual Anti War and 9/11 Truth public awareness display at the Daytona 500. Hundreds of DVD's and flyers were handed out to race fans.

In March, the Chapter sponsored the Shock and Awe 3/11

community outreach in Daytona Beach to mark the 3rd anniversary of President Obama's illegal attack on Libya and the 11th anniversary of President Bush's illegal attack on Iraq. Both acts of U.S. aggression led to VFP national resolutions, in 2004 and 2001 respectively, calling on Congress to impeach each president for war crimes. Hundreds of DVD copies of the film *Beyond Treason* and petitions to impeach President Obama for war crimes were distributed to community residents, many of whom were African Americans. The outreach also included a free public screening of *Beyond Treason* to educate our community regarding the U.S. Government's illegal use of Depleted Uranium and its deadly effects on our troops and on the civilian populations, a war crime in itself.

The Chapter plans on being out at the Speedway on July 5th for our 9th annual Coke-Zero 400 "Troops Home Now - AfPak Wars Memorial". We have to ask, after 12+ years of our government's unabated, open-ended and even expanding 9/11 Wars abroad can VFP truthfully state that we are doing "everything in our power to stop this war of aggression, to stop these crimes against humanity" as per VFP's Mike Ferner on 16 June 2005. See youtube.com/watch?v=VYZWRyEkwFE

CHAPTER 156 - ROGUE VALLEY, OR

James Woods

In May we co-sponsored an event with speaker Deb Vanpoolen, one of the courtroom artists throughout the court

martial trial of Private Bradley Manning (now Chelsea Manning). Deb also participated in large Close Guantanamo Now actions in Washington, D.C. GI Coffee House West Coast Tour comes to the Rogue Valley. Organized by Gerry Condon, and supported by numerous peace groups we heard from Malachi Muncy, of Under the Hood (near Fort Hood), and Meika Capps-Schubert, of The Clearing Barrel Bar & Coffee House in Kaiserslautern, Germany. The Chapter marched in the Boatnik Parade in Grants Pass for our sixth year.



JD Dixon and his wife, Linda, marching in a recent parade

JD Dixon, a veteran of the American War in Vietnam, died on March 2, 2014, after suffering from PTSD and other ailments. He was clearly the most dedicated protester in our chapter. He and his wife, Linda, were constant figures standing in front of the Grants Pass courthouse while challenging passersby to think about our endless wars and related topics. He will be greatly missed.

Our chapter recently joined forces with Veterans in Recovery, a peer-supported non-profit and

made a donation to this organization in memory of our fallen member, JD Dixon.

CHAPTER 161 - IOWA CITY, IA

John Jadryev

In March, at our urging, Film-Scene, an independent film theatre in Iowa City, showed the documentary *Dirty Wars* and invited VFP 161 to conduct a Q&A after the showing. The 67-seat theatre was a sellout and viewers participated in discussion for 30 minutes afterwards.

Also that month we participated in an action at the 132nd Air National Guard Wing in Des Moines, Iowa, in protest to their conversion to a drone piloting mission. Prior to the action we hosted Kathy Kelly of Voices for Creative Non-Violence, Elliott Adams, past president of VFP, and Daniel Hale, former Air Force drone pilot who provided us with an insider view of weaponized drone warfare. We also hosted VFP members from Missouri, Illinois, New York, California, and Minnesota en route to the action.



Iowa VFP Chapters receive Bishop Dingman Award

In April, along with VFP chapters 163 and 169, we were presented the "Bishop Dingman Peace Award" by the Catholic Peace Ministry for our contributions in making the world a more

peaceful place. Jeremy Scahill, producer and director of *Dirty Wars*, was the featured speaker.

Other activities included a presentation on drones for junior high students, plus multiple showings of the movie *Unmanned: America's Drone War*.

CHAPTER 168 - LOUISVILLE, KY

Harold & Carol Trainer

The Chapter continues to hold its monthly vigil in remembrance of the wars, troops and demonstration against the policies of the Obama Administration in Afghanistan, Yemen and throughout the Middle East.

On March 22 we worked at the Louisville Public Media Fundraising. Veterans For Peace was recognized each hour on each of the three radio stations during our portion of the fundraiser.

Several letters to the editor were written and published by *The Louisville Courier Journal* focusing on the country's war efforts and attempts to cut military and veterans pay and benefits. The wars were unfunded and in fact most Americans received a tax cut and now they are asking the troops to sacrifice more.

On May 24 we will host a VFP information table at the Louisville BATS Triple A baseball game at Slugger Field on May 24.



Chapter 168 at the 2013 Veterans Day/Armistice Day Parade

(Continued from page 1)

One of his most successful songs, "Christmas in the Trenches" (from his 1984 album *Winter Solstice*), tells the story of the Christmas truce of 1914. In his performances, McCutcheon often introduces his music with a story, and has become known as a storyteller.

Saturday business meeting and strategic plan: Bring your voice to discussion of VFP's Strategic Plan, proposed resolutions and bylaw changes.

Sunday outreach: Help feed the poor and homeless in downtown Asheville, a peacewalk through downtown Asheville, and a closing ceremony at City-County Plaza Park.

All the information you need will continue to be updated at vfpnationalconvention.org

Registration is available for the full convention or for one or two days only. Registration is free for post-9/11 veteran members. You can register and reserve housing at the convention site or use the forms on pages 17-18 of this newsletter.

Private and double occupancy rooms are available in the dorms at very reasonable rates. There are hotels nearby and the local chapter is coordinating home hospitality. For further information on home stays contact Gerry Werhan by calling the VFP Chapter 99 office, 828-258-1800.

Make your plans now to join your brothers and sisters as we move forward together to win peace for the people and the planet.



(Continued from page 3)

the U.S. war in Vietnam is told. Without our voice to tell the full story, the Pentagon will have a free hand to sanitize and mythologize the Vietnam War and to thereby legitimize further unnecessary and destructive wars. We will be the voice of those silenced by bullets and bombs. We will tell the story of the horror of the war and the ongoing challenges faced in its aftermath. VFP is the right group to tell this story. We have the Vietnam veterans who lived it, and our members continue to be engaged with the people of Vietnam. Chapter 160 is located in Vietnam. The Agent Orange Responsibility and Relief Campaign is in full swing, working to hold the U.S. accountable for the devastation caused by U.S. chemical warfare. Our members visit Vietnam every year to build peace and reconciliation.

With the 100 year anniversary of the beginning of WWI we also have the anniversary of the Christmas Truce. Please visit our site to learn more about this incredible story, when the sounds of rifles firing and shells exploding faded in a number of places along the Western Front in favor of holiday celebrations in the trenches and gestures of goodwill between enemies. Veterans For Peace is kicking off a campaign to tell this beautiful story.

There is much more to tell about the work of Veterans For Peace, but not enough space to share it. Please visit our web site for more information about all that we do. No other veteran organization addresses such a wide range of war and peace issues. We will keep up the struggle to forward our mission to abolish war and in time, together; we will achieve it.



(Continued from page 5)

the former Khe Sanh Marine base, a site of heavy fighting in 1968.

The next stop was Hue where heavy fighting took place during Tet '68. In Da Nang, the delegation visited the International Airport, the site of the first major dioxin cleanup project funded by the U.S. government at a cost of \$80 million.

In Hoi An, the group visited a small bamboo island where a private resort was recently opened by a friend of Le Ly Hayslip, author of *When Heaven and Earth Changes Places*.

On to Saigon, today District One of Ho Chi Minh city, which extends 50 km in every direction and includes the tunnels of Cu Chi.

Of the \$21,000 donated by the delegation, it allocated \$2500 each, to the following: Friendship Village, Project RENEW, A Luoi Agent Orange Victims (assisted by Hearts For Hue), DAVA, Tu Du Hospital, and \$500 to VAVA in Nha Trang. VFP Chapter 69 in San Francisco made a direct donation of \$4000 to VAVA, and the group provided \$4000 to Chapter 160 to be used for donations, unplanned contingencies, and emergencies.

Next year's trip is already being planned and because it is a "commemoration" year it should be the best VFP Viet Nam tour ever!



(Continued from page 6)

Panel 3

During a career spanning over 33 years, Butler rose from 2nd lieutenant to major general.

He served in the U.S., the Philippines, China, Panama, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, Haiti, Cuba, the Dominican Republic and France, earning not one but two Medals of Honor, the Marine Corps Brevet Medal, and both the Army and Navy Distinguished Service Medals.

Panel 4

From January 1924 through December 1925, Butler took a leave of absence from the Corps to serve as Philadelphia's Director of Public Safety.

Charged with enforcing prohibition and rooting out municipal corruption, he later said: "Cleaning up Philadelphia was worse than any battle I was ever in."

Panel 5

After retiring from the Corps in 1931, Butler became an advocate for veterans and a critic of American military adventurism. In 1932, he supported the Great War "Bonus Marchers."

In a 1935 essay he titled *War Is a Racket*, he described himself as having been "a musclemen for Big Business," "a racketeer," and "a gangster for capitalism."

Panel 6

Nicknamed variously the Maverick Marine, the Fighting Quaker, the Fighting Devil of the Devil Dogs, the Fighting Hell-Devil Marine, the Stormy Petrel of the Marine Corps, General Duckboard & Old Gimlet Eye, Butler himself concluded, "To Hell with War!"

The boys at The Haverford School can read these words and think on them and know that this is what it is to be a man. Welcome back Smedley.



REGISTRATION

VFP National Convention July 23-27, 2014



PEACE OR PERISH ABOLISH WAR ON PLANET AND POOR

Please type or print the information requested below.
When filling out the registration form, please enter all

First Name	Last Name	
VFP Chapter Name & Number(If Applicable)		
Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Phone Number		
Email		



The VFP National Convention is ADA accessible. If you require special accommodations, please check below and complete the information needed. We will call you to discuss any specific needs.

Yes, special accommodations are necessary.

Please specify _____

REGISTER TODAY!

HOW TO REGISTER

By Mail:
Please include this form with your payment to:

VFP National
216 S. Meramec Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63105

By Phone (with Credit Card):
Call VFP National Office at
314-725-6005.

Online (with credit card):
www.vfpnationalconvention.org/register.htm

PAYMENT

Check (Payable to VFP)

Credit Card

Visa Mastercard American Express Discover.

Credit Card # _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

Expiration Date _____ CVV _____

Date _____ 3 digit number on far right back of card (front right on AmEx)

Signature _____

This year we will include a list of convention attendees (Name, phone, email, location) in each registration packet. If you would like, you can opt out of being on this list.

Please DO NOT share my contact information.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION OPTIONS

Convention Registration :	\$200 _____
Reduced Rate—VFP Members & Workshop Presenters :	\$100 _____
One Day / Two Day Convention Registration:	\$55 / \$75 _____
Saturday Banquet Only:	\$55 _____
Make a gift to bring a Post 9-11 veteran to the convention:	\$ _____
Make a gift to help a VFP member attend the convention	\$ _____

Saturday Banquet Entree:

- Beef
- Chicken
- Vegan
- Vegetarian

TOTAL: _____

UNIVERSITY HOUSING

2014 VFP National Convention Jul 23-27, 2014

Peace or Perish Abolish War on Planet and Poor

Please type or print the information requested below. When filling out the dorm registration form, please enter all information as you would like it printed on your nametag.



Office use only:

Date Rec'd _____

Processed by _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

VFP Chapter Name & Number(If Applicable) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

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Email _____



The VFP National Convention is ADA accessible. If you require special accommodations, please check below and complete the information needed. We will call you to discuss any specific needs.

Yes, special accommodations are necessary.

Please specify _____

HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE DORMS:

By Mail:
Please include this form with your payment to:

VFP National Office
216 S. Meramec Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63105

By Phone (with Credit Card):
Call VFP National Office:
314-725-6005.

Online (with credit card):
www.vfpnationalconvention.org/

PAYMENT

Check (Payable to VFP) Credit Card

Visa Mastercard American Express Discover.

Credit Card # _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

Expiration Date _____ CVV _____

Date _____ *3 digit number on far right back of card*

Signature _____

This year we will include a list of convention attendees (Name, phone, email, location) in each registration packet. If you would like, you can opt out of being on this list.

Please DO NOT share my contact information.

HOUSING OPTIONS

PLEASE NOTE: Alternative Housing is available. Check the website for hotels/bed & breakfasts/hostels near the college. Indicate in the section below the dorm registration if you need housing assistance.

UNAC Housing Dorms :
Single Occupancy(\$76 per night)

of nights _____ x \$76

Single rooms include a single XL twin bed, microwave, small refrigerator, internet connection and local TV.

\$ _____

Double Occupancy(\$42 per night)

of nights _____ x \$42 per person

Double rooms include two (2) XL twin beds, microwave, small refrigerator, internet connection and local TV.

\$ _____

\$ _____

UNAC- Asheville Linen Fee (\$18 per person)

TOTAL:

UNAC Housing Dorm:

(Please indicate nights you will be staying)

Wed Thu Fri

Sat

I will share my room with

To further assist you, alternative housing is available, please check one of the options below(if applicable):

- I am looking for a roommate to share accommodation costs in the dorms.
- I am a post 9-11 veteran and need housing.
- I am financially unable to pay for room/board.

On Unrelated Business, Meeting Up with an Old Military Buddy at Bethesda, You Discover

The respite halls on the grounds of Walter Reed aren't really a place for rest:
They're a place for mutilated men
to fester in their rage.

See that pissed off Marine in the corner, clenching his teeth,
lost in some distant memory?
That could've been you, motherfucker.
Maybe if you hadn't been going west

on the main supply route.
Maybe if you had gone east that day.
Maybe that's him. The only survivor
you had heard about later.

See that Marine, one leg, no arms,
bullying his way through the crowd on his Segway?
That could've been you, too,
if that mortar hadn't fallen asleep in the soft earth.

A first sergeant speaks to a group of these forever wounded warriors
all huddled around him, looking like horror film rejects.
So who wants go to the Nats game? he asks,
as if baseball could bring solace, give them a sanctuary from their anger.

As if they could actually forget that they can't
catch foul balls with their stumps.
No, there's no point for them, really, to leave the hall.
To pretend.

But you, lucky veteran,
you'll still be going to the stadiums
for the rest of your life with your balding friends,
fat, filthy, too loud, filled with too much beer.

But don't you ever forget:
that could've been you, motherfucker.

The Letter under Private First Class Wilson's Pillow

If I die with a thud,
by concussive blast,
or from lack of blood:

do not make a monument
of the circumstances of my death;

do not dig a hole
and toss me inside.

Instead, place a large mirror on level ground.

With a bag of my ashes in your hand,
step on the glass,
wait for the wind.

When it comes,
lower your head with open eyes.
Turn over my dust
and watch me fly away.



Two poems by Iraq War Marine veteran Dario DiBattista



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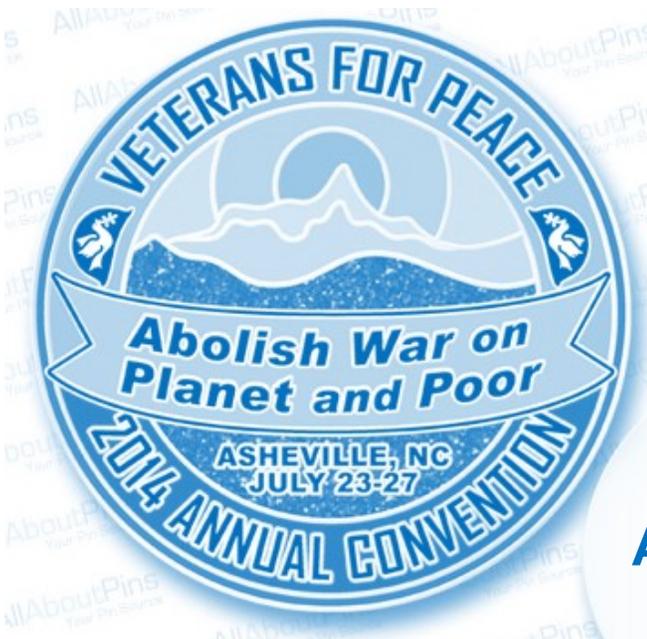
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VFP 29th Annual Convention

July 23-27, 2014
Asheville, North Carolina

Peace or Perish
Abolish War on Planet and Poor



updates at vfpnationalconvention.org