

A BRIEF HISTORY OF VETERANS FOR PEACE: Highlights of chapter and national events.

July 8, 1985

- VFP founded and incorporated in Maine by Jerry Genesio (USMC/56-62), Judy Genesio, Rev. Willard Bicket (USA/WWII), Doug Rawlings (USA/Vietnam) and Ken Perkins (USN/Korea) who were disturbed by the militancy of the United States and its violent intervention in the affairs of other nations.

1986

- VFP members in Boston stand a 30-day vigil at the Boston Common calling for an end to U.S. sponsored violence in Central America.
- VFP members appear on the Phil Donahue TV program to debate U.S. policies in Central America.
- 1st National Convention held in Portland, Maine. Jerry Genesio elected to serve as first National President.

1987

- A 17 member VFP Fact-Finding Delegation travels to Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua and publishes a 38-page report that is distributed to members of the U.S. Congress.
- VFP sponsors seven-city tour for Padre Andres Giron, founder of Pro-Tierra, a peaceful land reform movement in Guatemala.
- 2nd National Convention held in Cape Elizabeth, Maine.

1988

- VFP proposes the "Combined Statement of Veterans" calling for an end to war as a instrument of state policy and signed on 21 January by VFP, Veterans Against Nuclear Arms (VANA) of Canada, and the Soviet War Veterans Committee. In future years, numerous other national veterans organizations from around the globe also endorse the statement.
- VFP endorses Environmental Science Project of member Joe Ryan of Tallahassee, FL who volunteers to serve in Nicaragua as a water purification expert.
- VFP supports Machine Tool Project of member Randy Parent of Caribou, ME who volunteers to go to Guatemala to build and provide training for an aluminum tool-casting operation to serve Padre Giron's land reform group.
- "Soldiers of Peace", a 28-minute video focusing exclusively on VFP's response to current U.S. policies in Central America is released. Title song written by Graham Nash. Narration by VFP member Kris Kristofferson.
- May 1988, VFP convoy to Nicaragua. A group of VFP members led by Bob Livesy sends about ten trucks, filled with food, medical supplies and toys. After linking up with two other convoys in Texas, they were stopped by President Reagan at the border in El Paso.
- 3rd National Convention held in Maine

1989

- VFP receives invitation to send a delegation to serve as Official Observers during the February 1990 Nicaraguan elections.
- VFP leadership joins veterans from Great Britain, Canada, France, Poland, the Channel Islands, the Soviet Union, and members of the German resistance, to participate in 50th anniversary ceremonies held in London, England, acknowledging the beginning of WWII.
- Jerry and Judy Genesio are invited to remain in Europe for a speaking tour of W. Germany, E. Germany and Switzerland and they visit with Afghan, Vietnamese and Lebanese child war victims being treated at Peace Village in Oberhausen, West Germany.
- VFP representatives meet with French veterans at Marseilles, France.
- 4th National Convention held in Boston

1990

- Fifty members serve on VFP delegation monitoring elections in Nicaragua.
- VFP publishes 36-page treatise on the logic of abolishing war as an instrument of state policy, "Abolish War! The Last Campaign".
- Two WWII VFP members represent VFP at 45th Anniversary of WWII Victory Day ceremonies in USSR.
- Six VFP chapters sponsor a U.S. speaking tour for a member of the Israeli organization Yesh Gvul.
- Nat'l Office notified that VFP has received a permanent NGO seat at the United Nations.

- 5th National Convention held in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, attended by official delegates of veterans' organizations in Canada, Great Britain, France and the Soviet Union.

1991

- Chapters and members organize University Teach-Ins, Town Meetings, Panel Discussions and Congressional postcard/call-in campaigns nationally to debate the Gulf War. VFP and Toledo City Council member, Mike Ferner, introduces a hotly-debated and successful resolution opposing war on Iraq. These and other projects related to that conflict, virtually consume our entire year.
- 6th National Convention held in Manchester, New Hampshire

1992

- VFP Delegation goes to Cuba to meet with veterans of Cuba's war in Angola. While not showing support for Castro's government, they do denounce the U.S.-led embargo of Cuba.
- VFP initiates the Pittsburgh Pact: A Declaration calling for a moratorium on global arms sales. On August 28, 1992, the Pact is also signed by Veterans Against Nuclear Arms (VANA) of Canada, Ex-Services CND of Great Britain, and Fusen Heishino Kai of Japan. Several other national veterans organizations from various countries sign pact in the years to follow.
- VFP Founder Jerry Genesio addresses UN-NGO conference in New York on "The Consequences of Conflict."
- 7th National Convention held in Pittsburgh

1993

- Chapters collect vitamins and wheelchairs for shipment to wounded children in Sarajevo
- Chapters promote/distribute video "Beyond Vietnam: Lessons Unlearned" in local educational institutions.
- VFP launches Children of War Rescue Project. Pro bono hospital space/services/medical treatment is committed sufficient to meet the needs of more than 100 wounded children by June 1.
- First four wounded Bosnian children arrive for medical treatment. Three treated in Maine and one in Maryland. One month later, three wounded Serbian children arrive for treatment, two from Pristina, Kosovo and one from Belgrade. They are accepted by hospitals in ME, NY and IL.
- VFP members participate in the Operation Angel Ambulance Rescue Convoy to East Mostar, Bosnia.
- 8th National Convention held in Tucson

1994

- ABC-TV's Good Morning America airs interview with Jerry Genesio taped in Mostar, Bosnia during rescue mission. Mostar rescue mission captures widespread media attention including Boston Globe, Boston Herald, Baltimore Sun, Manchester Union Leader, and many others (see 1993).
- VFP UN Representatives Ben Weintraub and George Kelly serve as official UN election monitors in El Salvador.
- Ian Walker honored by Manchester Union Leader in page 1 feature for his role in Bosnian rescue mission (see 1993).
- J. Genesio, VFP Executive Director, and Veterans For Peace honored by Portland Press Herald, ABC and NBC TV affiliates and awarded National Lawyers' Guild-ME Community Activist Award, Holocaust Human Rights Center of ME Take-A-Stand Award, and Amnesty International-ME Human Rights Award (see 1993).
- 9th National Convention held in Lancaster, Pennsylvania

1995

- President Ed Hart and Board Member Dave Silk invited by Zapatistas to represent VFP at peace talks with Mexican Government officials in Chiapas.
- VFP accepts invitation to become the first military veterans' organization to become a member of the International Peace Bureau based in Geneva, Switzerland.
- President Kelson and Board Member Charlie Atkins of Columbia, MO, represent VFP at ceremonies in Hiroshima, Japan, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the A-bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- At a vigil in memory of those who died in Hiroshima, New York News 1, an all-news New York City cable station, broadcasts member Michael John Carley's speech in its entirety.
- 10th National Convention held in San Francisco

1996

- A dozen VFP delegates visit El Salvador as part of ongoing co-operation with the Salvadoran Association of War Wounded and Disabled.
- Rear Admiral Ralph Weymouth (Ret), VFP Board Member, is part of a mission to Cuba that includes the Deputy Director of the Center for Defense Information and a former US Ambassador.
- A VFP member's design and theme was selected for a veterans monument in Pittsburgh. It consists of children at play with the theme being that legitimate war is a last resort.
- UN Representative Ben Weintraub and New York City Board member Michael John Carley go to Bosnia at the request of Bosnia's UN Mission. Their task is to both create attention to the ongoing suffering, and to write and present an internal report to the Bosnian government on how to better care for their recently demobilized veterans.
- 11th National Convention held in Columbia, Missouri.

1997

- VFP National Headquarters moves from Portland, ME, to Washington, DC to cooperate more with other NGOs and to coordinate programs more effectively.
- Trained VFP members travel to El Salvador as election monitors.
- Board Member, Myer Pettyjohn, introduces prison programs in alternatives to violence.
- Mid-Missouri VFP enables several thousand people to see "Toward a Peaceful World Free of Nuclear Weapons" and loans the exhibition to many cities
- 12th National Convention held in Washington, DC.

1998

- VFP members, along with members of other groups, while denouncing Saddam Hussein, bring \$4 million in medical aid to Iraq where more than 500,000 children have died solely as a result of the economic sanctions.
- A VFP delegation to the Chiapas region of Mexico uncovers accounts of widespread crimes (including murder, rape, and torture) by the Mexican government against the indigenous peoples of the area.
- 13th National Convention held in Minneapolis. Speakers include Senator Paul Wellstone, Hugh Thompson (the man who stopped the My Lai massacre-featured on "60 Minutes"), and Daniel Ellsberg.

1999

- Chapter 22 sends the "Spirit of Garberville" Peace Bus with 27 protesters to the Anti-WTO demonstrations in Seattle, WA (Two arrests, no injuries). The Garberville chapter also sends a delegation to Cuba that year.
- Four VFP members participate as election monitors in El Salvador.
- VFP is a member of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Coalition to Ban the Sale and Use of Landmines.
- Sandy Kelson organized a project which collected 5000 dolls to represent the Iraqi children dying each month. In one action, the dolls were literally laid at the doorstep of Madeline Albright's home.
- Brian Willson took his arm-powered, hand-crank bicycle to the New York Marathon in November to raise money for the Vietnam Friendship Village, wearing his VFP shirt -- and finished!!
- 14th National Convention held in Philadelphia

2000

- VFP begins it's highly successful venture, The Iraq Water Project. In this endeavor, veterans raise the money to repair water-treatment facilities inside Iraq rendered inoperable due to sanctions. They conduct public awareness campaigns in the US and raise the funds needed to repair four plants in the highest-need area in Iraq. The project so far has brought clean water to over 81,000 people.
- The Puerto Rican island of Vieques became an action site for VFP members who joined with Puerto Rican veterans and island residents to mount an effective protest against the use of Vieques by the U.S. Navy as a bombing/artillery range for 60 years.
- Chapter 22 sends the "Spirit of Garberville" Peace Bus with 10 demonstrators to Columbus GA to support the "Anti-SOA" campaign.
- In an unprecedented endeavor, Chapter 22 also organized and sent 18 people to Cuba with the entire "Lost Coast Pirates" little league baseball team. The team plays three games in Havana against Cuban little leaguers.
- UN NGO Representative Michael John Carley participates in the planning sessions for the NGO presentation at the Non-Proliferation Treaty's (NPT) five year review at the UN.
- VFP Korean war veteran Woody Powell visits Kokan-ri massacre site in Korea, and makes an apology to the massacre's sole survivor. That year, VFP also participates in delegations to El Salvador, Cuba, and to Colombia, examining early implications of Plan Colombia.

- 15th National Convention held in Washington, D.C.

2001

- Chapter 22 initiates and completes the My Lai Project, raising \$20,000 to build a new hospital wing for the health clinic in My Lai, Viet Nam. VFP also sends a delegation of 13 to participate in the building process.
- VFP members, especially Korean War veteran Woody Powell, take part in many anniversary delegations to both Koreas. VFP eventually is a co-sponsor with the International Action Center for the Korean War Tribunal, held in New York. Mr. Powell was also a juror for this event wherein witnesses of US atrocities from 50 years ago are flown in from Korea to testify.
- UN NGO Representative Michael John Carley begins hosting a monthly radio show, "VFP at the United Nations."
- A VFP delegation to the Chiapas region of Mexico uncovers accounts of widespread crimes (including murder, rape, and torture) by the Mexican government against the indigenous peoples of the area.
- The National Office is moved to St. Louis, Missouri, to be managed by Wilson (Woody) Powell as National Administrator, arriving two days before 9/11.
- VFP responds to events of 9/11 with a statement expressing outrage and concern for the victims, while counseling thoughtful concern for long-term national security in preparing our national response.
- A full-page ad appeared in the New York Times featuring VFP member Greg Nees' letter to President Bush asking for calm deliberation in the formation of our post-9/11 policies. The ad was funded largely by donations from the Global Peace Campaign, a Japanese-based Peace & Justice organization.
- 16th National Convention held in Albuquerque

2002

- Publicity generated by the New York Times ad, and another appearing in the Los Angeles Times after the bombing of Afghanistan stimulated membership growth. By year's end, we had grown from approximately 500 paid members to nearly 2000.
- The third Iraq Water Project delegation entered Iraq in May, accompanied by Jon Sawyer, reporter for the St. Louis Post Dispatch. Jon did a fine series of front page articles on Iraq with one day's articles dealing with the VFP project itself.
- We added three new chapters and re-vitalized several more.
- VFP provided the lead speakers at a huge (over 150,000) October 26 rally in Washington, D.C., against war in Iraq.
- VFP members led and participated in acts of civil disobedience in Sacramento and Toledo, Ohio protesting the upcoming "use of force" resolution in the U.S. Senate. Efforts succeed in Santa Barbara and Baltimore to pass resolutions critical of the drive to war in Iraq.
- 17th National Convention held in Duluth, Minnesota

2003

- The U.S. Navy relinquishes its claim on Vieques due, in part, to VFP efforts over the last three years. A delegation was sent to celebrate and to pressure the government to clean up the site and turn it back to the inhabitants of the island.
- In April, Operation Dire Distress brought VFP members from all over the country to a highly-effective teach-in at the American University in DC, and a moving procession to the war memorials and rally near the White House, where a petition against going to war with Iraq, signed by 3000 veterans was offered to President Bush and refused.
- VFP delegations were sent to Korea, El Salvador, Iraq.
- VFP members Charlie Liteky and Mike Ferner joined a Voices in the Wilderness delegation in Iraq on the border with Kuwait less than a month before the invasion. At the line of the U.N.'s "no man's land" between the two nations, they gave a letter to the garrison commander, addressed to the U.S. troops massed in Kuwait, urging them to seriously consider what they would soon be ordered to do.
- 18th National Convention was held in San Francisco at the historically significant site of the signing of the UN charter in 1945.

2004

- Several new VFP chapters emerged, the total number of chapters reaches 111 and the organization has now members in every US state. The total number of paid members exceeded 4400.
- VFP media presence increased, with members featured in electronic and print news media stories across the country.
- Mike Ferner returned to Iraq for two months as an independent journalist, gathering stories later published in the book, "Inside the Red Zone: A Veteran For Peace Reports from Iraq."

- VFP Chapter 54 created the “Arlington West” project, a weekly display of crosses on the beach at Santa Barbara, representing our children killed in Iraq. It has drawn media attention from all over the country. Displays like it are springing up everywhere, as a result of their efforts.
- Allen Pogue and Cole Miller arrived back in the U.S., Sept. 19, with Asraa [Mizyad](#) – a young Iraqi girl who lost an arm to an American cruise missile four years ago. She will receive a new, prosthetic arm and treatment for other wounds sustained in the attack.
- We weathered a disappointing national election, which actually increased interest in VFP, and started a newly-inspired round of public forums and demonstrations.
- 19th National Convention was held in Boston, at Emerson College on the Common. Major events included kick-off speeches by Howard Zinn, Daniel Ellsberg, Dorothy Mackey, and the VFP-sponsored Iraq Veterans Against the War, led by Michael Hoffman at Faneuil Hall – the original forum for democratic governance. The convention concluded at the Boston Public Library with speeches by Amy Goodman and a rousing send-off by Bobby Muller, Co-founder of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation.

2005

- The Dallas convention was most notable for the launching of Cindy Sheehan and Camp Casey in Crawford, Texas. After addressing the membership she asked for volunteers to accompany her to Crawford where she intended to ask President Bush about the “Noble Cause” her son died for in Iraq. A contingent of veterans went with her in the White Rose Impeachment bus and launched a legend.
- The publicity from Camp Casey penetrated mainstream media nationwide. Riding that wave, three small RVs of VFP and MFSO members kicked off a 50-city tour, starting from northern, central and southern points along the Mississippi River headed for DC with demonstrations with stops along the way to extend the message: BRING THE TROOPS HOME NOW. Shortly after embarking, however, Hurricane Katrina hit and a new chapter of VFP enterprise began.
- The White Rose bus, driven by Pat Tate of chapter 116, carrying Cindy Sheehan, detoured south to the Louisiana town of Covington, where they set up a satellite communications station and immediately began organizing relief supplies sent from all across the country.
- Later, in New York, Cindy Sheehan and others, with VFP support, made the public case for Bush's failure to respond adequately to Katrina related to his failing occupation of Iraq.
- The Iraq Veterans Against the Iraq War (IVAW) became an official organization with the help of VFP. Frank Corcoran devoted most of his time to nurturing the fledgling group.
- The National Office, under the direction of its new Executive Director, Michael McPhearson, expanded its activities, contracted to rebuild its database to keep up with a growing membership, added staff and raised the money to pay for it.
- 20th National Convention held in Dallas

2006

- VFP sponsorship of the newly-organized IVAW has, by this time, resulted in a highly-effective group of very active Iraq War veterans turned loose on the US public.
- VFP members, led by President Dave Cline, Executive Director, Michael McPhearson, Elliott Adams and Stan Goff, walk from Mobile, Alabama to New Orleans, to show interconnections between the war in Iraq and Bush administration's response to Hurricane Katrina.
- A five-member VFP delegation, consisting of Charles Atkins, Thomas Kennedy, Woody Powell, Larry Kerschner and John Kim traveled to Korea to support farmers' resistance to expanding the US military base at Pyongtaek. We were the first-ever veterans organization to stand with Koreans in their effort to rid themselves of the US military presence and win reunification with North Korea. Read their report [here](#).
- The year was marked by an increasing number of demonstrations across the nation in which VFP members were involved. A few examples:
 - Richard Clement of Pittston and his Iraq vet son Brian Clement, marched in Bangor Maine with hundreds of demonstrators against the War.
 - In conjunction with Voices for Creative Nonviolence, Mike Ferner fasted for five weeks in Washington, D.C., got arrested for wearing a VFP t-shirt in the Jesse Brown V.A. Medical Center in Chicago and was sentenced on two felony convictions for spray-painting “Troops Out Now” on a Toledo highway overpass.
 - VFP members stood with several Iraq War veterans who refused redeployment to Iraq because they no longer believed in the war: Rick Clousing, Agustin Aguao, Susan Swift, Darrell Anderson.
- 21st National Convention held in Seattle, where 49 IVAW members stood behind Lt. Ehren Watada as he gave a very moving speech explaining why he could not participate in an illegal war and chose to face a military courts

marshal instead. Also speaking: Dahr Jamail, Camilo Mejia, Ann Wright, Diane Benson, Doris Kent, Anthony Arnove, Korean Veterans For Peace and U.S. Rep. Jim McDermott.

2007

- January 28: VFP participates in large anti-war march in Washington D.C.
- Spring: Two dozen Chapters participate in the "Occupation Project" with Voices for Creative Nonviolence, sitting in at Congressional offices demanding an end to the war funding. Many members were arrested throughout several months, including our Executive Director, Michael McPhearson.
- March: Olympia chapter of VFP participates in Port Blockade to stop shipments of equipment for the Stryker Brigade at Port Olympia
- March 12: VFP and Iraq Veterans Against the War participate in the March on the Pentagon
- March 20: VFP launches Gulf Convoy troop outreach, stopping at five different military bases to give information to troops about the war, cost of war, and copies of the movie, "The Ground Truth." The tour ended with a week of rebuilding a home in the lower ninth ward that was heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina.
- April: VFP launches its "Impeachment Campaign," joining with other groups across the U.S. to impeach President George Bush and VP Dick Cheney.
- June 28: VFP's Agent Orange Responsibility and Relief Campaign works with Agent Orange victims from Vietnam and the United States as they toured several cities to raise awareness of the damages of AO and to follow up on an earlier lawsuit filed in January 2004, against 37 U.S. chemical companies.
- September 14: Dave Cline, former VFP president, Viet Nam combat vet, G.I. resister and mentor to many in the movement, died.
- September: Washington, D.C. demonstration, 100+ arrested including many VFP and IVAW members.
- December: The Iraq Water Project sends small, eight gallon per minute water sterilization units to Iraqi hospitals. Based on Faiza's recommendation, we purchase "Sterilight" units, manufactured in Ontario and available in Amman.
- December 21: Members of Veterans For Peace, along with Credo Action, distribute over 30,000 phone cards to veterans on Friday, December 21.
- 22nd Annual Convention held in St. Louis. Speakers included Jamala Rogers, Alderman Terry Kennedy, Kelly Dougherty, David Cortright, Korean Veterans For Peace, Phyllis Benson, Elaine Johnson, Dennis Kucinich, Dahlia Wasfi, Garrett Reppenhagen, Sarah Rich, Senator Mike Gravel and "Combatants for Peace" members Riyad al-Halis and Yonatan Gur.

2008

- February 21: Veterans For Peace establishes a presence in the Fort Stewart, Georgia, area, standing in front of the main gate, passing out free copies of "*Sir! No Sir!*," GI Rights cards, Appeal For Redress forms, and VFP and IVAW brochures to anyone with a base sticker who would accept the material.
- March 7: VFP Executive Director speaks to St. Louis Board of Alderman which then votes in favor of Resolution 339 urging "cessation of combat operations in Iraq and the return of U.S. troops."
- March: In 2003, the Asheville, NC VFP Chapter 99 voted to help two orphanages in Laghman and Jalalabad, Afghanistan. They raised over \$20,000 to help provide kitchen equipment, washing machines, and much needed daily supplies to the orphans. Many of these students are able to continue their education thanks to the hard work of the Asheville Chapter. The project recently received an additional \$17,000 through other members of Veterans For Peace that will be used to provide a badly needed new roof.
- March 15-18: Veterans For Peace supports it's "offspring" Iraq Veterans Against the War in their first "Winter Soldier" testimonies about what they witnessed in Iraq and Afghanistan
- March 20: Chapters across the nation take to the streets to commemorate the 5th year of the occupation of Iraq.
- June 30: Milwaukee Chapter of VFP organizes a demonstration and calling against the Summerfest recruiting tool, "The Army Experience Center". After calls and protests, Summerfest office was so flooded with calls objecting to the recruiter tactics, recruiters raised the minimum age to 18 and stopped giving out the game DVD's.
- July 28: VFP Board President, Elliott Adams, testified at the Judiciary Committee Hearing on Presidential Misconduct which heard testimony from Rep. Dennis Kucinich regarding his impeachment resolution.
- September 23: 7:30am, at the front of the National Archives Building on Constitution Ave. in Washington, D.C., five military veterans risked arrest after climbing a 9-foot retaining fence and occupying a 35-foot high ledge to raise a 22x8 foot banner stating, "DEFEND OUR CONSTITUTION. ARREST BUSH AND CHENEY: WAR CRIMINALS!"
- October 20: South central Michigan chapter of Veterans For Peace receives \$10,000 check from Yoko Ono for a contribution to their Peace Studies Scholarship Fund.

- November 15: 8:00 am, at the National Archives Building on Connecticut Ave., eight military veterans and a military mother climbed a 9-foot retaining fence and for two days occupied a ninety-foot high scaffolding to raise two 450 square foot banners stating, "DEFEND OUR CONSTITUTION. ARREST BUSH AND CHENEY: WAR CRIMINALS!" and "WE WILL NOT BE SILENT."
- 23rd National Convention held in Minneapolis

2009

- January: VFP sponsors a "STOP TORTURE" event featuring James Yee, former U.S. Army Chaplain at Guantanamo and Demissie Abebe, Ethiopian torture survivor and current Executive Director of [TASSC](#).
- January 17: VFP members and supporters surprised and delighted tourists at the Newseum in Washington, D.C. by distributing a new tabloid produced by Chapter 99, called, [War Crimes Times](#). Simultaneously they displayed a huge banner saying, "[ARREST BUSH AND CHENEY](#). [CORPORATE MEDIA: PARTNERS IN CRIME](#). [READ WARCRIMESTIMES.ORG](#)"
- January 21: VFP joins the "Bring the Guard Home! Campaign"; [State campaigns](#) are active in Alaska, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Vermont, Virginia, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Washington D.C. and Wisconsin.
- February, 10: VFP Joins 67 other organizations asking Obama to review U. S. policy on landmines.
- May 5: VFP members from several chapters organize against the "Army Experience Center," a life-sized war game and recruiting tool, in a suburban Philadelphia shopping mall.
- MAY 15: VFP [writes Obama](#) opposing escalating violence in Afghanistan, saying, "We've seen the look in the eyes of the people we occupied. We felt their anger and their humiliation. At some point, Mr. President, you will end these occupations. We stand ready to assist you (but) until then you will find us in the streets."
- MAY 29: VFP member, Ellen Barfield was arrested with three others in a Congressional Foreign Relations Committee hearing, calling for "No More Blood Money!" Ellen spent 25 days in jail before being released.
- June 17: VFP Mendicino County, CA chapter establishes a petition to create a moratorium and ban on the military use of depleted uranium.
- Fall: VFP members travel to Honduras, Venezuela, Egypt, Palestine, and Viet Nam
- October: Hundreds of people gathered outside the White House for the National Campaign for Non-Violent Resistance. Over 80 were arrested, including eight VFP members: Ward Reilly, Leah Bolger, Tarak Kauff, Mike Hearington, Mike Ferner, Ken Mayers, Jim Goodnow, and Hans Michael Bermeersch. Those protesting were calling for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan, ending the illegal bombing with U.S. drones, closing the Bagram prison, and ending indefinite detention and torture.
- October 13: VFP holds major action outside recruiting center in Times Square, NY to expose the issue of Military Sexual Trauma (MST) which is an epidemic in the military but not treated as one. VFP is contributing to changing this through events like Military Rape Awareness Week, declared by the VFP board to be [October 12-16, 2009](#). Members of VFP, Iraq Veterans against the War, Granny Peace Brigade, Codepink: Women for Peace, World Can't Wait, Artists Response Team and We Will Not Be Silent, stood outside the recruiting center in Times Square NYC to warn women recruits about the alarming rates of sexual assault and rape of women in the military. Sandra Lee, a survivor of military rape and Eve Ensler, internationally known playwright both spoke to the crowd and led the march to the recruiting station. [read press release](#).
- 24th National Convention held in College Park, Maryland.

2010

- February: VFP members and supporters send 980+ emails to the commanding general of Marc Hall in support of releasing him from a Kuwaiti prison for a rap song he wrote.
- March: Dennis Lane is hired as VFP's Executive Director.
- May 31: Two VFP members, Ann Wright and Hedy Epstein (from STL) were aboard one of the boats in an aid flotilla bound for Gaza, raided by the Israeli military. Nine people were killed.
- June 4: VFP holds workshop and participates at U.S. Social Forum in Detroit with 10,000+ activists. Also, a group of VFP members and supporters hung a large banner on the abandoned Eddystone Hotel to highlight the effect of war spending on American cities.
- August 3: VFP supports the release of military documents on Wikileaks, hoping it leads to greater resistance to the war in Afghanistan and Iraq and begins long-term support of Bradley Manning.
- August 9: VFP holds live torture webcast featuring two veterans who participated in torture, as well as an author. Speakers included Woody Powell, Andrew Duffy, and Justine Sharrock
- September: Houston VFP Chapter hosts four days of radio broadcasts on Afghanistan.

- October 5: VFP joins One Nation march on Washington D.C. where VFP's 15-foot helium blimp publicly asks, "How is the War Economy Working for You?" We also unfurled a giant banner from the roof of the Newseum, creating considerable controversy among members: "Mr. Obama: Stop these fucking wars. War is the obscenity!"
- October 8: Second live webcast on torture, featuring two victims of torture, VFP member Phil Butler and British citizen Moazzam Begg.
- October 22: Over the past four years, VFP's Iraq Water Project has placed more than 80 water treatment devices--ultraviolet and reverse osmosis--in various Iraqi schools, clinics and other institutions, including Abu Ghraib Prison. Latest installation is at a village school near Nassiriya, in southern Iraq.
- November 8: Maine Chapter of VFP walks across the entire state for peace, human rights and veterans care.
- December 10: 130 arrested, including Daniel Ellsberg, Chris Hedges and many VFP officers and members, for nonviolent civil resistance in D.C. White House action, protesting ongoing wars and occupations.
- 25th National Convention held in Portland, Maine. Speakers included Chris Hedges, Jerry Genesio,

2011

- March 19: Over 200 people, at the gates of the White House, in an action led by VFP, chant, "Stop the Wars. Expose the Lies. Free Bradley Manning," to mark the anniversary of the invasion of Iraq. Some chain themselves to the fence and eventually 124 are arrested, the largest number of people arrested in peaceful protest in Washington in a long time. VFP participates in other rallies including San Francisco and Chicago.
- March 20: Over 400 people rally at the main gate of Marine Corps headquarters in Quantico, VA, demanding Bradley Manning be released from solitary confinement and freed. Several dozen, mostly VFP and IVAW members are arrested.
- March: Following these two days of protest, VFP members begin planning for a fall occupation of Washington, D.C. Planning committee rapidly grows beyond VFP and chooses date of October 6, to mark 10th anniversary of the invasion of Afghanistan.
- October 6: A well-planned occupation of Freedom Plaza in Washington, D.C. begins, which by this time is one of a few dozen that have popped up around the country, following examples set in Tunisia and Egypt.
- October: Police in Boston meet a line of VFP members nonviolently protecting Occupy activists in a city park. Police push through VFP ranks, knocking several to the ground.
- November, Police in Oakland violently clear Occupy activists from a city park. Scott Olsen, Iraq vet and VFP member, is struck in the head with a tear gas canister and critically injured. His VFP t-shirt stands out clearly in wire service photos of him laying on the ground, sparking outrage and large support for VFP.
- Tarak Kauff, Ellen Davidson and several other VFP members launch "Veterans Peace Teams" to provide a group of well-trained members to stand between police and Occupy activists in as many cities as possible when occupations resume in the spring.
- 26th National Convention held in Portland, Oregon. Speakers included the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers via Skype from Afghanistan.

2012

- Leah Bolger elected VFP's first woman President.
- Ann Wright travels to Jeju Island, Korea, to dramatize the struggle waged by Koreans against a new U.S. Navy base for the latest generation warships, the Aegis class cruisers.
- February, Mike Reid takes over as VFP Executive Director.
- March: Tarak Kauff, Elliott Adams and Mike Hastie travel to Jeju in solidarity with Koreans protesting the Navy base but are deported by Korean officials before they can get through customs.
- 27th National Convention held in Miami. Speakers include Alice Walker, Fr. Roy Bourgeois and Paula Caplan.