

## In Memoriam: Paul N. “Pete” McCloskey, Jr. [1927-2024]

It is with great sadness that we inform VFP members and friends of the passing of Pete McCloskey on May 8, 2024, at the age of 96.

Pete's accomplishments are many: a decorated Marine Corps colonel; U.S. House Representative, 1967–1983; environmental champion; outstanding lawyer; author; etc. But we in VFP will remember him, above all, as a great peace warrior and an advisor to Veterans For Peace.

Online obituaries paint a sketch of a remarkable man whose war-time experiences fueled his later antiwar activism:

“Despite himself being a combat veteran, McCloskey also became a staunch anti-war representative, traveling to Cambodia to see the devastation caused by American bombing and denouncing the U.S.’ role in the war.” [Legacy.com, May 9, 2024]

"McCloskey was no revolutionary, but, as a decorated Marine veteran who wanted U.S. troops out of Vietnam and as the first congressman to urge consideration of Nixon’s impeachment on the House floor, he led a life of vigorous dissent.....Suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, he had recurring dreams of peering into a trench and emptying his weapon into young, terrified enemy troops. **In 2014, he traveled to North Korea and arranged to meet with a war veteran from the other side — a retired three-star general who, like McCloskey, had been wounded. 'I told him how bravely I thought his people had fought, and we embraced,' McCloskey told The Times. 'We ended up agreeing that we don't want our grandchildren or great-grandchildren to fight, that war is hell, and there's no glory in it.'**" [Los Angeles Times, May 8, 2024]

We salute Pete, in particular, for his great courage in traveling to DPRK (North Korea), a country that is still vilified and sanctioned heavily by our government, and realizing a historic meeting and reconciliation with a former enemy soldier who had also fought in the Korean War about the same time as Pete did.

We pray for Pete's eternal peace and offer our deep condolences to his surviving wife, Helen, and his four children.

Pete McCloskey *Presente!*

**VFP Korea Peace Campaign project (US)**

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[www.veteransforpeace.org](http://www.veteransforpeace.org)

