

AN OPEN LETTER TO NON-VETERANS

Why I became an Associate Member of Veterans For Peace, Inc.

Associate members are a valuable component of VFP and our work towards a peaceful future. Below is a sample letter written by one of VFP's associate members, Joan Powell. Please use this as an example for drafting a letter of recruitment of non-veteran members.

Dear [name],

Everybody knows a veteran or is related to a veteran. Veterans are our fathers, our mothers, our sisters, brothers, work-mates, fellow-worshippers. Our lives are inextricably bound to our veterans; sometimes painfully and with regret - sometimes happily, with gratitude and pride sometimes with an anguished mix.

Veterans For Peace serves vets by giving expression to their desire to make right what was wrong and led to war, and to assure that what they fought for is not lost - the Peace we all desire. There is healing, here, for spirits wounded by violence and disillusionment.

Veterans know the true costs of war, having witnessed:

- ✓ Life violently removed from the bodies of companions and enemies alike
- ✓ The moral and physical destruction of civil society as death machines rage through villages and cities
- ✓ The hardening of emotional and spiritual arteries as civilization becomes accustomed to horrors occurring elsewhere, anywhere, on a daily basis
- ✓ The diversion of wealth from social development to social destruction

As an associate member, I have been able to participate with the Veterans For Peace as they draw on their experiences to turn our citizens and leaders away from the paths of war. Veterans and non-veterans, alike, want our lives to mean something more than wealth and accomplishments of status and power. We look at a world in agony, filled with disparity between peoples seeking opportunity for decent lives, and wonder, helplessly, what can we do about it?

I found opportunity, as one who did not serve directly, to join with veterans seeking peace, sharing their desire to leave a better world. As Associate members of Veterans For Peace, we can give our own lives additional meaning by working alongside veterans, engaging the process of peace. We, too, can inform the uninformed, teach nonviolent methods of conflict resolution, convince our leaders there are better ways than war to create wealth, expand opportunity, provide security, bring peace to the world.

I ask you to join me in support of your Veteran For Peace. Fill out and sign the membership form with this letter and become an Associate member of Veterans For Peace, Inc.

Joan A. Powell - Associate Member