

Veterans For Peace National Resolutions

(Updated January 2013)

National Resolution Index (Resolutions follow the Index)

A

- [Afghanistan \(2008\)](#)
- [Agent Orange Eligibility For “Blue Water Navy” Vietnam Veterans, Support Of \(2009\)](#)
- [Agent Orange Eligibility For Vietnam Veterans With Parkinson’s Disease, Support Of \(2009\)](#)
- [Agent Orange Victims, Justice for Vietnam’s \(2008\)](#)
- [Agent Orange Legislation: Victims Of Agent Orange Relief Act Of 2011, HR 2634, Support For \(2011\)](#)
- [Amazon.Com VFP Affiliation \(2012\)](#)
- [Anthrax Vaccinations \(1999\)](#)
- [Alternatives To Military Service \(2005\)](#)
- [Article 9-Like \(Japan\) Amendment to US Constitution \(2006\)](#)
- [Award Joseph Darby \(2004\)](#)
- [Atomic Veterans, Fairness For \(2007\)](#)
- [ASVAB Testing & Protection of Student Privacy \(2008\)](#)

B

- [Berrigan, Phillip, Honorary Membership \(2003\)](#)
- [Bowers, Veronza, Freedom Of \(2005\)](#)
- [Bradley Manning, Dismissal Of Charges Against \(2012\)](#)
- [Bring Them Home Now \(2003\)](#)
- [Burn Pit Exposure, Justice For Victims Of \(2010\)](#)
- [Bush, George, Demand Full Release of George W. Bush Military Service Record \(2003\)](#)
- By-Laws Change – Also See “Statement Of Purpose, VFP, By-Laws Change”

C

- [Campaign for a New Foreign Policy, Endorsement of \(2003\)](#)
- [Luis Posada Carrillo, Extradition of \(2005\)](#)
- [Civil Disobedience \(2007\)](#)
- [Civilian Conservation Corps, Reactivation of \(2007\)](#)
- [Climate Change, Action On \(2007\)](#)
- [Closing Of U.S. Military Bases Outside It’s Borders \(2010\)](#)
- [Cluster Munitions, U.S. Sale To South Korea \(2012\)](#)
- [Coca-Cola – Say No To Coke, Stop Murders of Union Workers \(2003\)](#)
- [Colombia, Resolution On \(2001\)](#)
- [Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty \(2000\)](#)
- [Conservation, Veterans For Peace Consistency To \(2008\)](#)
- [Conscientious Objectors Change To UCMJ \(2008\)](#)
- [Corrie, Rachel – Honorary Membership \(2003\)](#)
- [Corrie, Rachel, Investigation of \(2004\)](#)

- [Corporate Personhood. Abolition Of](#) (2011)
- [Cost of War To the Infrastructure](#) (2004)
- Counter Recruitment
- [Cuba. Establishing Normal Relations With](#) (2004)

D

- [Day Of The Dissappered. International](#) (2007)
- [Death Penalty](#) (2001)
- [Defense Of Liberty](#) (2003)
- [Department of Peace Reaffirmation](#) (2003)
- [Department of Peace and Space Preservation](#) (2002)
- [Department of Peace. Establishment of the United States](#) (2004)
- [Depleted Uranium \(Three resolutions - Also see "Uranium Munitions" under item "U"\)](#) (2003)
- [Depleted Uranium. Prenatal Testing For The Effects Of](#) (2007)
- [Depleted Uranium Adjudication](#) (2008)
- [Depleted Uranium Suppressed Study](#) (2011)
- [Depleted Uranium Dust. Clinical Research On The Consequences Of Inhaling](#) (2011)
- [Don't Ask Don't Tell Policy. Lift The](#) (2005)
- [Drugs](#) (2001)

E

- [Earth Charter Initiative VFP Membership](#) (2010)
- [Earth Charter](#) (2010)
- [Election Monitoring](#) (1999)
- [Engagement Campaign](#) (2008)
- [Endless War](#) (2002)
- [Entertainers. Support For Speaking Out](#) (2003)
- [Extensions Of Duty. Cessation Of Involuntary](#) (2004)

F

- [Fireworks Free Celebration](#) (2005)
- [Flag Desecration](#) (2004)

G

- [Gaza. Ending The Blockade Of](#) (2010)
- [Gaza Flotilla Support](#) (2010)
- [Genetic Screening](#) (2004)
- [GI Resisters. Resolution Calling For Unconditional Amnesty For All](#) (2012)
- [Gun Violence. Stopping](#) (2004)

I

- [Illegal Drugs – A New Approach](#) (2012)
- [Impeachment Of President Barack H. Obama For War Crimes](#) (2011)
- [Impeachment, 60 Day Notice to Remove Troops or Face](#) (2004)
- [Incarcerated Member Chapter Formation And Operation](#) (2008)
- [Instant Runoff Voting](#) (2002)
- [Intelligence Fixing. Inquiry Into](#) (2005)

- [International Criminal Court \(3 Resolutions\)](#) (2002)
- [Iran, Opposing Military Intervention In](#) (2002)
- [Iraq Moratorium](#) (2008)
- [Iraq War, End The – Veterans Convoy](#) (2007)
- [Iraq War, Opposition To](#) (2003)
- [Iraq, Call For The Withdrawal of National Guard Troops From](#) (2006)
- [Iraq War, Reaffirming Opposition To](#) (2002)
- [Iraq, Money For Human Needs, Not War, Bring The Troops Home Now... Repeal the Patriot Act](#) (2003)
- [Israeli Defense Force Attack On Gaza Humanitarian Aid Flotilla, Condemnation Of](#) (2010)
- [Israel, Ending Military Aid To](#) (2010)
- [Israel, Stop U.S. \\$30 Billion Military Aid To](#) (2009)
- [Israel-Palestine Conflict, Arab League Proposal](#) (2007)
- [Israel-Palestine Peace \(Also See Under “P”, Palestine\) – \(2 Resolutions\)](#) (2002)
- [Israel-Palestine Conflict](#) (2004)
- [Israel, Resolution To Sanction In Support Of U.S. And International Law](#) (2010)
Note: For Additional Israel-Palestine Resolutions Reference Resolutions Under P - Palestine
- [Ivins, Raise Hell For Molly, Campaign To Bring Our Troops Home Now](#) (2007)

J

- [Japan, Article 9 Of The Japanese Constitution](#) (2 Resolutions) (1999)
- [JROTC – Discontinuance Of, In Public Schools](#) (2000)
- [JROTC, Remove From Schools](#) (2003)

K

- [Korea \(Six Resolutions\)](#) (2002)
- [Korean Peace Delegation To Korea](#) (2008)
- [Korea Cluster Munitions](#) – Also See Under “C” - Cluster Munitions, U.S. Sale To South Korea
- [Korea, Withdraw From](#) (2006)

L

- [Labor Resolution](#) (2005)
- [Labor, Veterans And](#) (2003)
- [Land Mine Treaty, Ottawa](#) (1999)
- [Landmines, Antipersonnel](#) (2 Resolutions) (2002)
- [Lebanon, Resolutions On](#) (2006)
- [Lee, Representative Barbara](#) – VFP Salutes For Courage (2003)
- [Lethal Weapons, Development And Use Of More And New](#) (1999)
- [USS Liberty, June 1967 Attack On](#) (2002)
- [Lincoln Brigade](#) (2001)
- [Living Wage Resolution](#) (2005)
- [Low-Risk Aid For The Healing Of Veterans](#) (2012)

M

- [Medical Discharges](#) (2008)
- [Medical Marijuana Use And Research](#) (2007)

- [Membership Policy. Change To](#) (2005)
- [Merchant Marine of World War II. Belated Thank You To The](#) (2004)
- [Mexico - Supporting Red Por La Laz Y La Justica \(Network For Peace And Justice\)](#) (2011)
- [Military Budget Resolution](#) (2011)
- [Military Budget Reduction](#) (2000)
- [Military Recruiting In Secondary Schools](#) (2004)
- [Military Spending And Legitimate Defense](#) (2003)
- [Minefields. UNA Of The USA "Adopt A Minefield" Program](#) (1999)
- [Missile Defense](#) (2001)
- [Money For Human Needs \(See under "I", Resolution - Iraq, Bring The Troops Home Now... Repeal the Patriot Act\)](#)

N

- [National Guard, Defederalizing The](#) (2008)
- [Naturalization Oath Of Allegiance](#) 2012
- [9/11 Attacks Inside The United States. Support A Valid Investigation Into The National Security Failures Of The](#)
- [Nuclear Disarmament](#)
- [Nuclear Power Plants. Abolishment Of](#)
- [Nuclear Test Ban Treaty – See "C" – Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty](#)
- [Nuclear Weapons. Abolition Of By The Year 2020](#)
- [Nuclear Weapons. Oppose Mini-Nukes](#)

P

- [Palestine \(VFP\) Working Group - Palestine Resolution for 2012](#)
- [Palestine. Democracy In](#)
- [Palestine. Resolution On Economic Support For Justice and Peace In](#)
- [Palestinian Rights Under International Law. Support Of](#)
Note: For Additional Palestine-Israel Resolutions Reference Resolutions Under I - Israel
- [Patriot Act](#) – See under "I", Resolution - Iraq, Bring The Troops Home Now... Repeal the Patriot Act
- [Peace. Department Of](#) – See "D", Department of Peace
- [Pinyon Canyon Land Preservation](#)
- [Post Traumatic Stress Disorder \(PTSD\)](#)
- [Prisoner Of Conscience Fund. Establish A Privately Funded](#)
- [Prisoner Abuse Resolution](#)
- [Prisoner Torture](#)

R

- [Resistors. Military](#) – See Under "G" - GI Resistors
- [Resolution – 2005 National Convention Master](#)

S

- [Schools. Curtail Militarism In. And Protect Student Privacy Rights](#)
- [Selective Service Registration. Ending](#)
- [Sexual Harassment of Women In The Military](#)
- [Shadow Project. Recognition Of The](#)

- [SOA/WHISC Resolution](#)
- [SOA – Continue Support TO Close The School Of The Americas/WHISC](#)
- [South Korea. U.S. Dumping Of Toxic Chemicals In](#)
- [Korea Cluster Munitions – Also See Under “C” - Cluster Munitions, U.S. Sale To South Korea](#)
- [Space. Preserving For Peaceful Use](#)
- [Space. Against Weapons And Nuclear Weapons In](#)
- [Space. Opposition To “Star Wars”](#)
- [Space. No Weapons In](#)
- [Space Preservation and Department Of Peace](#)

I

- [Teen Age Recruits](#)
- [Toxic and Incendiary Weapons. Against The Use Of](#)
- [Toxics. Battlefield](#)
- [Toxic Effects. Weapons With](#)
- [Treaties. Honoring Of](#)
- [Treatment Of Soldiers Returning From Iraq And Afghanistan. Proper](#)
- [Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#)

U

- [Unilateral Action. Refraining From](#)
- [Union Made Material](#)
- [United Nations Funding](#)
- [United Nations Dues. Payment Of \(Two Resolutions\)](#)
- [United Nations. Support Of](#)
- [United Nations Police Force](#)
- [United Nations. Year 2000 Culture Of Peace](#)
- [Uranium Munitions](#)

V

- [Vaccinations. Department Of Defense Anthrax Program](#)
- [Veterans Administration \(VA\) Benefits And Legal Status In Cases Of Other Than Honorable Discharges](#)
- [Veterans Out-Reach \(Veterans Representative\)](#)
- [Veterans Day](#)
- [Veterans For Peace. Increasing Democracy & Openness In](#)
- [Veterans Healthcare And Readjustment](#)
- [Vieques \(Four resolutions\)](#)
- [Vietnam Friendship Village Project](#)
- [Vietnam \(Three Resolutions\)](#)
- [Vietnam Normalization – Opposing Californian Senate Resolution 117](#)

W

- [War Crimes - Resolution On Prosecuting George W. Bush, Dick Cheney And Other Bush Administration Officials For War Crimes, Crimes Against Peace and Crimes Against Humanity](#)
- [War Prevention. Future](#)
- [WHISC – Under “S”, see SOA](#)

- [Weapons Of Mass Destruction. Request For Investigation Of](#)

Y

- [Youth Promise Act](#)

A

AFGHANISTAN

(Submitted by Elliott Adams, President, Veterans For Peace)

Whereas when the United States invaded the sovereign nation of Afghanistan, the only threats to our nation existing there were non-indigenous groups whom we ourselves had fostered and fed, and

Whereas history elsewhere, and almost seven years of struggles in Afghanistan and Iraq, have shown us that military force is not an effective solution to terrorist threats, and

Whereas our invasion has thrown Afghanistan and the region into political turmoil, diminishing the existing governments' capability to deal with these threats with effective political and police methods, and

Whereas our wanton use of force and violence against the people of Afghanistan has inflamed world opinion against the United States and has diminished our nation's ability to work toward world peace and our own security by non-violent means.

Therefore Be It Resolved Veterans For Peace calls on the government of the United States to immediately withdraw all military and intelligence forces from Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Be It Further Resolved that Veterans For Peace calls on the government of the United States to provide humanitarian aid directly to the people of Afghanistan, in non-coercive forms, to help the Afghan people rebuild their own nation and their lives in cooperation with other nations in the region; and to allow the people of Afghanistan to freely determine their own government without interference by the US.

Be It Further Resolved that Veterans For Peace renounces the claim that the war in Afghanistan is somehow the "right" war and reaffirm our position that war must be abolished.

Approved at the 2008 VFP national convention

AGENT ORANGE ELIGIBILITY FOR "BLUE WATER NAVY" VIETNAM VETERANS, SUPPORT OF

(Submitted by Paul Cox, Chapter 69)

Whereas numerous herbicides and pesticides were sprayed from 1961 to 1971 over large areas of South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia during the war against Vietnam, and

Whereas the herbicides, collectively known by the most commonly used one, Agent Orange, contained poisons, including 2,3,7,8 TCDD (dioxin) and others, that cause harm to people and animals, and

Whereas since 1991, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has recognized that a long list of diseases suffered by Vietnam veterans and children of Vietnam veterans are caused by their exposure to Agent Orange/dioxin, and

Whereas the VA has refused to recognize that Vietnam veterans who served on stations off shore of Vietnam (known as Blue Water Navy) were also exposed, even though the blue water duties often included opportunities for exposure to dioxin, and even though many of these veterans have the same diseases that have been linked to exposure to dioxin, and

Whereas House Resolution H. R. 2254, the Agent Orange Equity Act, introduced by House Veterans Affairs Chair Representative Bob Filner, instructs the VA to provide benefits to all Vietnam Veterans suffering the ravages of Agent Orange exposure, including the Blue Water Navy veterans, and

Whereas Veterans for Peace's Statement of Purpose affirms its responsibility to seek justice for veterans and victims of war.

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans for Peace urges all members of Congress and the Senate to support and vote for quick passage of H.R. 2254, and its Senate counterpart, and for President Obama to sign the bill into law.

Approved at the 2009 VFP national convention

AGENT ORANGE ELIGIBILITY FOR VIETNAM VETERANS WITH PARKINSON'S DISEASE, SUPPORT OF

(Submitted by Paul Cox, Chapter 69)

Whereas Parkinson's disease is a chronic, progressive neurological disorder that causes devastating physical and mental symptoms such as tremors, debilitating slow movements, postural instability, significant sleep disturbances, and a variety of cognitive impairments that ultimately results in complete disability, and

Whereas many veterans who were exposed to herbicides such as Agent Orange and other toxins during their service in Vietnam are suffering from Parkinson's disease, and

Whereas there is sufficient scientific evidence of an association between exposure to Agent Orange and other toxins in Vietnam and the contracting of Parkinson's disease, and

Whereas the Veterans Administration has refused to recognize the association of Parkinson's disease to Vietnam service, and

Whereas House Resolution H. R. 1428, *Wartime Disability Compensation to Certain Veterans with Parkinson's Disease*, introduced by House Veterans Affairs Chair Representative Bob Filner, instructs the VA to provide presumptive service-connection benefits to all Vietnam Veterans suffering the ravages of Parkinson's disease, and

Whereas Veterans for Peace's Statement of Purpose affirms its responsibility to seek justice for veterans and victims of war.

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans for Peace urges all members of Congress and the Senate to support and vote for quick passage of H.R. 1428, and its Senate counterpart, and for President Obama to sign the bill into law.

Approved at the 2009 VFP national convention

AGENT ORANGE VICTIMS, JUSTICE FOR VIETNAM'S

(Submitted by Paul Cox, Chapter 69 - Veterans Speakers Alliance)

Whereas the U.S. government, in violation of international law, waged massive chemical warfare in Vietnam, including the use of Agent Orange and other herbicides containing dioxin, the most toxic chemical known in science, and

Whereas chemical companies, including Dow Chemical and Monsanto, knowingly produced Agent Orange with the toxic by-product dioxin, which could have been eliminated, but would have necessitated an additional manufacturing process. Maximizing profits came before human lives, and

Whereas more than three million people have been sickened, disabled or died from the effects of Agent Orange/dioxin in Vietnam from various forms of cancers, reproductive illnesses, immune deficiency, endocrine deficiencies, nervous system damage, physical and developmental disabilities and emotional problems, and

Whereas Agent Orange continues to poison the people and environment of Vietnam through residues of dioxin that remain in the land, water and food in several "hot spots" located around the areas of former US military bases, and

Whereas several generations of Vietnamese children are now suffering from disabilities due to their parents' exposure to Agent Orange from living near "hot spots", and

Whereas the U.S. government has refused to recognize its responsibility and its commitment made in the Paris Peace Accords to heal the wounds of war and has failed to provide assistance for the serious health, economic and environmental devastation caused by Agent Orange that continues through to the present day, and

Whereas Dow Chemical and Monsanto and the other chemical manufacturers have refused to recognize that Agent Orange is deleterious to human health and have refused to recognize their responsibility to compensate their victims in Vietnam, and

Whereas many Veterans for Peace members suffer from affects of Agent Orange from their exposure in Vietnam, and other Veterans for Peace members suffer from effects of U.S. chemical warfare in the Gulf or in other wars, our members feel a strong commitment to assure that Vietnamese Agent Orange victims receive justice and compensation, and

Whereas the Vietnam Agent Orange Relief & Responsibility Campaign, a project of Veterans For Peace, is leading a national campaign to hold the U.S. government and chemical companies accountable to the victims of Agent Orange in Vietnam as well as to their U.S. veteran and Vietnamese American victims.

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace calls on the U.S. Congress to appropriate and deliver to Vietnam sufficient funds to provide health care, education, vocational education, chronic care, home care and medical equipment, including support for family members who are caregivers for Agent Orange victims; to clean up the "hot spots" where dioxin remains in the environment; and to provide other services that may be needed.

Be It Further Resolved that the U.S. Congress simultaneously provide for health care and related services for the children and grandchildren of American veterans exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam and provide assistance to Vietnamese Americans affected by Agent Orange;

And Be It Further Resolved that Veterans For Peace calls upon Dow Chemical and Monsanto to assume their responsibility by allocating funds to make a significant contribution to meet the needs of victims of Agent Orange in Vietnam;

And Be It Further Resolved that we urge all VFP chapters and members to continue to support the Vietnam Agent Orange Relief & Responsibility Campaign and to work to gain U.S. government and corporate assistance for the victims of Agent Orange and to build solidarity with the Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange/dioxin.

Approved at the 2008 VFP national convention

AGENT ORANGE LEGISLATION: VICTIMS OF AGENT ORANGE RELIEF ACT OF 2011, HR 2634, SUPPORT FOR – 2011

(Submitted by Paul Cox, VFP Chapter 69)

Whereas, The U.S. government, in violation of international law, waged massive chemical warfare in Vietnam, including the use of Agent Orange and other herbicides containing highly toxic dioxin, from 1961 to 1971, and

Whereas, Chemical companies, including Dow Chemical and Monsanto and thirty-six others, knowingly and unnecessarily produced Agent Orange contaminated with dioxin, and

Whereas, Dioxin exposure causes various forms of cancers, reproductive illnesses, immune deficiency, endocrine deficiencies, nervous system damage, physical and developmental disabilities, emotional problems, and epigenetic effects, and

Whereas, In Vietnam more than three million people, and in the U.S. hundreds of thousands of veterans, their children, and Vietnamese-Americans, have been sickened, disabled or died from the effects of Agent Orange/dioxin, and

Whereas, Dioxin residues in the soil, sediment, and food continue to poison many people in numerous areas throughout southern Vietnam, and

Whereas, Vietnamese of least three generations born since the war are now suffering from disabilities due to their parents' exposure to Agent Orange or from direct exposure in the environment, and

Whereas, Many Veterans for Peace members and other veterans suffer from affects of Agent Orange due to their exposure in Vietnam, as do their children, and

Whereas, Vietnamese Americans have the same types and incidence of health problems related to Agent Orange as the Vietnamese and US Veterans, and

Whereas, The U.S. government has refused to recognize its responsibility clean up the contamination it left in Vietnam or to heal the wounds of war, and has failed to provide assistance for the serious health, economic and environmental devastation caused by Agent Orange that continues through to the present day, and

Whereas, Dow Chemical and Monsanto and the other chemical manufacturers have refused to recognize that Agent Orange is deleterious to human health and have refused to recognize their responsibility to compensate their victims in Vietnam, and
Whereas, 2011 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the start of the defoliation program in Vietnam in 1961 without any significant remedial action by the U.S. government or the chemical companies, and

Whereas, Veterans for Peace has a long history of holding the US Government and the chemical companies accountable to all victims of Agent Orange both in Vietnam and in the U.S., and

Whereas, Congressman Bob Filner has in July, 2011, introduced legislation into the House of Representatives—Victims of Agent Orange Relief Act of 2001, HR 2634—that contains four elements: environmental remediation of the widespread dioxin contamination in Vietnam; assistance to Vietnamese Agent Orange victims for health care and other necessary social services; creation of regional medical centers in the US for the Agent-Orange-affected children and grandchildren of US veterans; and medical assistance to the Vietnamese-Americans affected by Agent Orange.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, Veterans for Peace calls for all Congress members to co-sponsor and support HR 2634, Victims of Agent Orange Relief Act of 2011,

And Be It Further Resolved, Veterans for Peace calls on all Senators to enact and support similar legislation.

And Be It Further Resolved, Veterans for Peace calls for Dow Chemical, Monsanto, and the other chemical companies to assume their responsibility by allocating funds to make a significant contribution to meet the needs of victims of Agent Orange in Vietnam.

Approved at the 2011 VFP national convention – Portland, OR

AMAZON.COM VFP AFFILIATION

(Submitted by Dan Gilman – VFP Chapter 92)

Whereas, the Seattle Times (March 31, 2012) reports, as of December 30, 2011, Seattle-based Amazon.com, Inc. had annual sales of \$48.1 billion, an annual profit of \$631 million, and a market value of \$78.7 billion, and

Whereas, the Seattle Times (March 31, 2012) reports: "Last year, amid a troubled economy, United Way of King County said it received record donations from some of the area's largest companies" but it received nothing from Amazon and "In a city noted for its big-time philanthropy, Amazon has been a small-time donor.", and

Whereas, the Seattle Times (April 2, 2012) reports that: "The world's largest Internet retailer [Amazon] currently collects sales taxes from customers in just five states giving it a price advantage [as against local retailers] of up to 10 percent in most of the country" and "States have lost more than \$52 billion during the past six years due to untaxed Internet purchases", and

Whereas, the Seattle Times (April 3, 2012 and May 10, 2012) reports credible allegations of illegal, sweatshop-like conditions and practices in several Amazon warehouses resulting in significant worker injuries and mistreatment, and

Whereas, independent bookstores: 1) Are essential for the "discovery and nurturing" of talented new writers (Boston Review, Nov./Dec. 2010); 2) Help foster a sense of literary community among costumers (PolicyMic, Dec. 2011); and, 3) Contribute significantly more money to the local economy than do large national/multinational retailers (American Booksellers Association, undated), and

Whereas, the Seattle Times (April 3, 2012) reports: "Early on, Amazon took a hard line against unions. A high-profile organizing effort by the Communications Workers of America at an Amazon call center in Seattle ended in 2001, when the center was shut down and some 400 workers were laid off...", and

Whereas, a 2008 report by John Logan of the London School of Economics found that Amazon deployed anti-union consultants in Britain and "The union involved in the organizing drive at Amazon, the Graphical Print and Media Union, stated that the company mounted the most aggressive campaign it had ever encountered and accused management of sacking a union activist and committing other unfair practices", and

Whereas, the Christian Science Monitor (December 3, 2010) reports: "WikiLeaks ... was ejected from Amazon cloud-based servers, apparently under pressure from US politicians" and, quoting CNN.com journalist Rebecca MacKinnon, "[Amazon] sent a clear signal to its users: If you engage in controversial speech that some individual members of the U.S. government don't like—even if there is a strong case to be made that your speech is constitutionally protected—Amazon is going to dump you at the first sign of trouble"; and,

Whereas, in a December 15, 2010, email bulletin Veterans For Peace (VFP) President Mike Ferner stated "Amazon wasn't a major revenue source" and announced that the VFP Executive Committee had "voted to break all commercial ties with" Amazon and urged "our members, supporters and the public to boycott Amazon", and,

Whereas, according to VFP Treasurer Nate Goldshlag, the VFP boycott of Amazon was rescinded "some time last year", i.e. in 2011, and VFP has reestablished its commercial ties to Amazon;

Therefore Be It Resolved by Veterans For Peace at its national convention assembled in Miami, Florida, August 8-12, 2012, that Amazon.com, Inc.'s corporate values and practices are inconsistent with the values and practices of VFP, and

Be It Finally Resolved that VFP should end its affiliation with Amazon.com, Inc.

Approved during the 2012 VFP election

ANTHRAX VACCINATIONS – See V – Vaccinations

ALTERNATIVES TO MILITARY SERVICE:

(Submitted by R. Lane Anderson, Chapter 54)

Whereas citizenship and civic responsibility has too often been presented by the Pentagon through JROTC in our high schools and not challenged by other perspectives and;

Whereas veterans are most capable of challenging this perspective with alternatives and;

Whereas many worthy organizations await leadership to present their perspectives of Sustainability, Peace, Environmentalism and Activism as alternative citizenship roles for a future,

Therefore be it resolved that Veterans For Peace National encourages its members to work with like minded organizations and people to develop resources and classes in public schools that offer alternative views of citizenship to that of JROTC.

Approved at the 2005 national convention, Dallas, TX

ARTICLE 9-LIKE (JAPAN) AMENDMENT TO US CONSTITUTION, SUPPORTING AN
(Submitted by Charles Overby, VFP member)

A Proposal To Be Sent To All Members Of The U.S. Congress

Whereas, modern high technology warfare threatens all life on Planet Earth, and

Whereas, Veterans For Peace understands this reality in one of its five "Statements Of Purpose" by declaring that it seeks "To abolish war as an instrument of national policy.", and

Whereas, at the conclusion of World War II, the United States also understood this reality and helped by placing a clause, Article 9, in Japan's constitution that abolishes war as an instrument of national policy for Japan, and

Whereas Article 9 seems like a profound model for all nations on the planet, And

Whereas, unfortunately since the end of World War II, the United States has become the Earth's most war addicted nation, and

Whereas, Veterans For Peace knows that in the 1920s and 1930s, out of revulsion at the obscenity that was WW-I, many war renouncing constitutional amendments were proposed and debated in the Congress.

Therefore, chapters are encouraged to ask their members of the US Congress to stop the pressure by the US government on the government of Japan to remove Article 9 from their constitution. And chapters are encouraged to read Article 9 during a chapter meeting.

Furthermore, Veterans For Peace ask, in a letter to all members of the US Congress that at least some Congress persons summon the courage to read into the Congressional Record the following proposal for a US Constitutional Amendment modeled after our Article 9 gift to Japan - thus beginning the process so that one day in the future our progeny might have a beautiful habitable planet on which to live. It is time to begin this long-term process now, and with the United States of America.

Proposed Amendment To The United States Constitution

Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, we the people of the United States forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.

In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized.

Recognizing that conflict is part of the human condition, the United States, will henceforth work in cooperation with the United Nations, The World Court and all other relevant international institutions, and all other nations to resolve its international conflicts with non-violent means under international rules-of-law, as it does its domestic conflicts under national rules-of-law. The United States will abandon its addiction to "rules-of-war" in favor of "rules-of-law."

Any provisions of the United States Constitution that are in conflict with this war-renunciation amendment are hereby rendered null and void. The Congress shall have the power to enact appropriate legislation to give effect to this amendment."

Approved at the 2006 VFP National Convention

Award for Joseph Darby

(Submitted by Charles R. Bauerlein – Chapter 31)

Be it resolved that military police specialist Joseph Darby, of the 372 Division stationed in Cresaptown, MD, be recommended for an award for meritorious service for exposing the abuses at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

Approved at the July 2004 VFP convention, Boston, MA

ATOMIC VETERANS, FAIRNESS FOR

(Submitted by F. Lincoln Grahfs, VFP Chapter 61)

Whereas a number of eminent scientists have stated that any amount of exposure to radiation can have harmful effects; and

Whereas many veterans have had claims for radiation related injuries denied because of inability to prove that their exposure was sufficient to meet the government guidelines; and

Whereas in many of the early nuclear weapons tests both measurement and record-keeping were of questionable reliability; and

Whereas in the 109th congress a bill entitled The Atomic Veterans Relief Act (HR 2962), provisions of which would eliminate the process of “dose reconstruction” which is both costly and of questionable value, languished in committee until the conclusion of that congress. This bill would have declared the presence of military personnel at a nuclear explosion to be a presumptive cause of certain illnesses, thus rendering them eligible for treatment and compensation by the Department of Veterans Affairs

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace calls upon the congress to revive and enact legislation comparable to The Atomic Veterans Relief Act.

Approved by the Board 8/16/07

Approved by the VFP Annual Meeting 8/18/07

ASVAB TESTING & PROTECTION OF STUDENT PRIVACY

(Submitted by New Hampshire VFP Chapter 62)

Whereas the federal Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is given to approximately 600,000 students in two-thirds of the high schools across the nation without identification as a military recruitment tool, and

Whereas the ASVAB was created by the Department of Defense (DOD) to evaluate an individual's eligibility for military enlistment and is designed to provide recruiters with a source of pre-qualified leads, but is promoted for career exploration, and

Whereas many students and parents believe they are already protected from having their private information shared with military recruiters via the Opt Out option defined in Section 9528 of NCLB, and

Whereas the ASVAB allows the military recruiters to circumvent Section 9528, and

Whereas individual schools have the option of withholding private student information from military recruiters by selecting Option 8, an internal designation the military uses, although statistics from the U.S. Military Entrance Processing Command indicate that only 5.7% did so in fiscal year 2007, and

Whereas Option 8 has become the blanket policy in several large school districts including Los Angeles Unified and two districts in Maryland, which allows schools and students to receive and use test results for guidance purposes, and individual students can choose to release their scores to military recruiters, and

Whereas unwanted military recruitment which often includes high pressure tactics should not be consequential to the taking of any assessment provided in public schools.

Therefore Be It Resolved that all Chapters of Veterans for Peace be encouraged to contact school superintendents and high school principals, if pertinent, to urge all ASVAB-testing schools to use Option 8 to protect student privacy and publicize the use of Option 8 in all ASVAB testing scenarios.

Be It Further Resolved that the national office of Veterans for Peace, whenever possible, be encouraged to use its media publications and website to inform members of this resolution.

Approved at the 2008 VFP national convention

B

BERRIGAN, PHILIP HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

(Submitted by Jozef Hand-Boniakowski)

Whereas, Father Philip Berrigan was a priest and a civil-rights activist, a husband, a father of three, and, a fighter for freedom and social justice; and

Whereas, Communitarian Phillip Berrigan and like-minded friends built a nonviolent movement based upon the imagery of beating swords into plowshares; and

Whereas, Neighbor Phillip Berrigan lived in community at Jonah House, the Baltimore home of his family and the Plowshares movement; and,

Whereas, Witness Phillip Berrigan kept a consistent and persistent vigil against violence during the eight decades of his life; and,

Whereas, War Resister Phillip Berrigan was a favorite target of J. Edgar Hoover and his abusive FBI; and,

Whereas, Inmate Phillip Berrigan frequently resided within the dwellings of United States penal institutions as a political prisoner of conscience; and,

Whereas, Seeker of Truth Phillip Berrigan was an implacable inspector of the United States arsenal of weapons of mass destruction, calling attention to their inherent evil nature; and

Whereas, Activist Phillip Berrigan symbolically confronted the nation's nukes with small hammers, vials of blood and courage; and,

Whereas, Counselor Phillip Berrigan and companions, struggling against the immoral Vietnam

War, liberated the Catonville draft board records; and

Whereas Infantryman Phillip Berrigan served during World War II in Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge; and,

Whereas, Teacher Phillip Berrigan is an example to the younger generation coming of age; and,

Whereas, Phillip Berrigan, a lifelong veteran for Peace, a hero, and an inspiration to those who follow in the cause in Peace; and

Whereas, it is with sorrow, regret and gratitude, that we as Veterans For Peace, mourn the passing of our friend, Phil Berrigan, on December 6, 2002,

Therefore, let it be resolved that, in order to honor and commemorate his remarkable work and life, Veterans For Peace, bestows posthumous honorary full membership to our Brother and Comrade, Phil Berrigan, who continues to Wage Peace!

Phil Berrigan Presente!

Approved at the 2003 VFP convention, San Francisco, CA

BOWERS, VERONZA, FREEDOM OF

(Submitted by Patrick Tate, Chapter 116)

Whereas, Veronza Bowers, Jr., a U.S. Navy veteran and member in good standing of Veterans For Peace (Chapter 116 - Mendocino County, California), after serving his full sentence of 30 years in federal prison has been held in illegal detention for a year-and-a-half past his release date making him one of the longest-held political prisoners in U.S. history; and

Whereas, this conviction occurred during the infamous Cointelpro scandal in which the Black Panther Party was targeted by J. Edgar Hoover, head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and

Whereas, Mr. Bowers, in his 31 years of incarceration, has been a model prisoner with the highest possible "salient factor rating" issued by the Federal Bureau of Prisons and

Whereas, Mr. Bowers' petition for parole was supported by extensive psychological tests and evaluation administered by an independent agency, with the purpose of determining whether he would be a threat to society if released and Whereas, Mr. Bowers has a legal right for Mandatory Parole after serving his full sentence under law and has been recommended for release on three separate occasions by duly-sanctioned parole examiners as well as vote of the full U.S. Parole Commission only to be rescinded, literally, at the very last moment, by the intervention of the United States Attorney General at the behest of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) and

Whereas, the U.S. Parole Commission has, consistently violated its own rules and regulations, therefore be it

Resolved, that Veterans For Peace urges the U.S. Parole Commission to grant Veronza Bowers, Jr. petition for Mandatory Parole and immediate release from federal prison, and be it further

Resolved, that Veterans For Peace urges the U.S. Parole Commission, the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, the U.S. Attorney General and all other agencies of the Bush administration to respect

the rule of law as well as the Constitutional and human rights of all veterans, presently incarcerated, on probation or parole, who have served this great nation.

Approved at the 2005 national convention, Dallas, TX

BRADLEY MANNING, DISMISSAL OF CHARGES AGAINST

(Submitted by Gerry Condon – VFP GI Resistance Working Group)

Whereas, the U.S. wars upon and occupations of the peoples of Iraq and Afghanistan are based on the lies of the 1% who profit from war, and have nothing to do with the legitimate defense of the United States or the interests of 99% of the People, and

Whereas, the so-called “Global War on Terror” is little more than a cover for U.S. military aggression in pursuit of the imperial ambitions of the 1%, and

Whereas, the initiation of these “wars of choice” by the U.S. government, as well as the conduct of the U.S. military in Iraq and Afghanistan, have violated international law, including the UN charter and the Geneva Conventions, and

Whereas, international law, domestic U.S. law and the Uniform Code of Military Justice require soldiers to refuse to participate in war crimes, and further require military personnel to report any evidence of war crimes, and

Whereas, PFC Bradley Manning, after allegedly releasing the “Collateral Murder” video and other evidence of U.S. war crimes in Iraq and Afghanistan, has been held in U.S. military prisons for over two years, including eight months of solitary confinement and “cruel and inhuman” treatment, according to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, and

Whereas, Bradley Manning has been charged with “Aiding the Enemy,” and faces possible life imprisonment, and

Whereas, the documents made public by WikiLeaks should never have been kept from public scrutiny, and these revelations have helped fuel worldwide discussion about U.S. overseas engagements, civilian casualties of war, imperialistic manipulations and military rules of engagement, and

Whereas, according to journalists, Bradley Manning's alleged actions helped motivate the democratic Arab Spring movements, shed light on secret corporate influence on our foreign policies and, most recently, contributed to the Obama Administration agreeing to withdraw all U.S. troops from the occupation in Iraq, and

Whereas, President Barack Obama, when campaigning for the presidency, promised to protect whistle-blowers, not to persecute them, and

Whereas, Veterans For Peace considers Bradley Manning to be a hero, and awarded him the Courage of Conscience award at our 2010 Convention, and

Whereas, Bradley Manning was recently chosen as Global Exchange's Human Rights Award People's Choice Winner, and,

Whereas, the entire parliamentary delegation of The Movement in the Icelandic Parliament has nominated Bradley Manning for the Nobel Peace Prize, and

Whereas, Veterans For Peace supports GIs who follow their consciences and obey international law;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace calls on the U.S. government and military to dismiss all charges against PFC Bradley Manning, and

Be It Further Resolved that Veterans For Peace call on the President to pardon PFC Manning in the event that he is convicted of any charges, and

Be It Finally Resolved that Veterans For Peace will communicate these demands to all appropriate authorities and that we will work to build public support to free Bradley Manning.

Approved during the 2012 VFP election

BRING THEM HOME NOW!

(Submitted by David Cline, Stan Goff - Michael Uhl -Charley Richardson, MFSO - Nancy Lessing, MFSO)

Whereas: The American public was deceived by the Bush administration about the motivation for and intent of the invasion of Iraq;

Whereas: Millions of Americans are opposed to the occupation of Iraq, military families want their loved ones out of Iraq, the overwhelming majority of Iraqis are opposed to the occupation;

Whereas: Our troops are embroiled in a regional quagmire based on false pretexts for war and occupation;

Whereas: Our troops are being made casualties of combat, environmental hazards, and post-traumatic psychological disorders;

Whereas: Military families are being subjected to needless and extreme hardship, including loss of benefits imposed by the same administration that has sent them into an illegal war;

Whereas: The people of Iraq have been subjected to two bloody invasions by the United States, between which was a period of over a decade of low intensity war and cruel sanctions that were responsible for the untimely deaths of hundreds of thousands of people;

Whereas U.S. based multinational corporations are poised to continue the plunder of Iraq through exploitation of Iraqi oil and of the "rebuilding" process;

Whereas the United States has to bear responsibility for the destruction of Iraqi infrastructure and the deaths of uncounted numbers of Iraqi civilians;

Be it resolved that Veterans For Peace endorse and sponsor the Bring Them Home Now campaign and join in demanding the repatriation of all troops in Iraq to their home bases, and a return of sovereignty to the Iraqi people to determine their own future free from U.S. interference.

Be it further resolved that Veterans For Peace call on the United States to provide financial resources to support the reconstruction of Iraq, under the control of the Iraqi people.

Approved at the 2003 VFP convention, San Francisco, CA

BURN PIT EXPOSURE, JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF

(Submitted by Gene Marx -Chapter 111)

Whereas, since 2001, hundreds of contractor-managed (Halliburton Company/KBR, Inc.) open-air burn pits have exposed American soldiers, veterans and former employees of defense contractors who worked and lived on or near military bases in Iraq and Afghanistan to toxic smoke, ash and fumes generated through the disposal of waste in open burn pits, and

Whereas, prolonged exposure to the pits' smoke, ash, and fumes continue to cause injuries such as chronic illnesses, risk of illnesses and wrongful death, and

Whereas, current multidistrict litigation (MDL) alleges that these contractors used open burn pits rather than clean-burning incinerators at the majority of U.S. Military facilities in the Middle East in order to increase profits, and

Whereas, burn pits have been cited as the cause of maladies ranging from respiratory problems to cancers in veterans and former contractors who worked at bases, and

Whereas, the US military has been slow to acknowledge the numerous health problems allegedly associated with contractor-managed burn pits, and

Whereas, the American Lung Association called for the military to ban open-air burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan on June 23, 2010;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace support the banning of open-air burn pits.

Be It Further Resolved that VFP formally support the Bishop Bill, HR-4477. The Military Personnel Toxic Registry Act, and its requirement of the Secretary of Defense to establish a medical surveillance system to identify members of the Armed Forces exposed to chemical hazards resulting from the disposal of waste in Iraq and Afghanistan, to prohibit the disposal of waste by the Armed Forces in a manner that would produce dangerous levels of toxins, and for other purposes.

Be It Further Resolved that VFP endorse regulatory agency action or legislative action by Congress, and all "presumptive" disability benefits for a number of disabilities related to service in Iraq and Afghanistan and exposure to burn pits.

Approved at the 2010 VFP national convention

BUSH, GEORGE, DEMAND FULL RELEASE OF GEORGE W. BUSH MILITARY SERVICE RECORD

(Submitted by Maureen Griswold, VFP Chapter 101)

Whereas, documents from the George W. Bush military service record obtained by the Freedom of Information Act are posted at a number of Internet websites (i.e. www.awolbush.com; www.talion.com/georgebush.html; <http://users.cis.net/coldfeet/document.htm>), and such documents show George W. Bush did not report for duty for at least 6 months to possibly over 1 year from 1972 – 1973,

Whereas, military service members charged with AWOL/Desertion are routinely court-martialed and if found guilty receive punishment including incarceration,

Whereas, contrast to other military veterans/presidential contenders in Campaign 2000, George W. Bush never voluntarily released his full military service record,

Whereas, George W. Bush as Commander-In-Chief of U.S. Armed Forces deployed military service members into harm's way for an elective war on Iraq,

Be It Proposed that VFP publicly demands George W. Bush to immediately release his full, uncensored/unaltered military service record to address allegations he is a military deserter

Approved at the 2003 VFP convention, San Francisco, CA

C

"CAMPAIGN FOR A NEW FOREIGN POLICY", ENDORSEMENT OF (Submitted by Michael August Chapter 89, Nashville, TN)

Whereas democracy and human rights are ideals that the American people hold dear, and our elected officials have not held true to these values,

Whereas we face no greater threat than nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction,

Whereas the Declaration of Independence urged "a decent respect for the opinions of mankind," and our foreign policy is not reflecting that core value,

And whereas Veterans for Peace, Los Angeles Chapter has already done so,

Be it resolved that Veterans for Peace fully endorses the Campaign for a New Foreign Policy, as outlined by Peace Action**:

We call on our elected officials to:

1. Support human rights and democracy.

*Oppose arms transfers and military assistance to human rights abusers (governments).

*Actively support efforts to regulate and control the international arms trade.

2. Reduce and control the nuclear threat.

*Oppose funding for the development of new nuclear weapons.

*Support programs and agreements designed to reduce and secure the world's existing nuclear stockpiles.

*Oppose missile defense and space weapons that increase the pace of nuclear proliferation.

3. Cooperate with the world community.

*Strengthen international law and stability by opposing the doctrine of "preemptive attacks."

*Promote and support international systems that foster global cooperation such as the United Nations and the International Criminal Court.

**Peace Action originated out of a merging of two organizations, SANE (The Committee for Sane Nuclear Policy, founded in 1957) and FREEZE (Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign, founded in the early 1980's). www.Peace-Action.org

Approved at the 2003 VFP convention, San Francisco, CA

LUIS POSADA CARRILLO, EXTRDITION OF

(Submitted by Albuquerque Chapter 63)

Whereas Luis Posada Carrillo is principally responsible for the 1976 bombing of the Cubana plane that killed 73 people, and

Whereas the United States is ostensibly engaged in a "War on Terror," and

Whereas Venezuela has requested the extradition of Luis Posada Carrillo, and

Whereas Posada will appear for trial in El Paso, Texas on August 29, 2005

Now therefore be it resolved that Veterans For Peace calls for honoring the request of Venezuela for extradition of Luis Posada Carrillo.

Approved at the 2005 convention, Dallas, TX

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

Whereas the war in Iraq has now gone on for over 4 years with no definite end in sight, resulting in the death of about 4,000 U.S. troops and a million innocent Iraqi civilians, and

Whereas this war was conceived and sold to the American people with lies and half truths, including repeated claims by the Bush administration that Saddam Hussain was allied with al-Qaeda, had a stock of weapons of mass destruction, and other false assertions, and

Whereas the Bush administration, aided and abetted by an inert Congress, a neocon activist Supreme Court, and the largely monolithic, corporate-controlled media, has broken international laws and treaties, endorses torture and secret renditions to countries that are known to torture, denies habeas corpus to prisoners and spies on our own citizens, and

Whereas Veterans For Peace and other organizations committed to justice and peace have been protesting all of these immoral and illegal actions through all channels that are legally available to us for over four years: resolutions, speeches, letters, lobbying, marching and joining protests, urging impeachment, opposing military recruitment under false pretenses with very limited success, and

Whereas opportunities are soon arising including the SOAW annual protest at Fort Benning and the simultaneous occurrence of the 2008 VFP national convention in the Twin Cities with the Republican National Convention in St. Paul MN, now therefore

Be it resolved that Veterans For Peace hereby declares that in the tradition of a great American, Henry David Thoreau, protesting taxation for the Mexican War of 1848 and in the tradition of another great American, Martin Luther King, Jr., protesting racism at home and war in Vietnam, VFP recognizes the value of nonviolent civil disobedience as a necessary part of the struggle for justice and peace in these desparate times, understanding that there may be a high price to pay by individuals who decide to act.

Approved as amended by the Board 8/16/07
Approved by the VFP Annual Meeting 1/18/07

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS, REACTIVATION OF

(Submitted by Jay Alexander, Tampa Bay VFP Chapter 119)

Whereas an updated CCC would be seen as an alternative to military service for single young adults; and

Whereas those who enroll would receive competent work supervision with superior safety training and a living wage. They would be provided after work with free classroom education that would enable them to enter the private and public sector with confidence; and

Whereas the reactivated CCC could provide able manpower at the scene of man-made and natural disasters across America. They could render assistance to the American Red Cross to aid victims help in the clean-up and rebuilding of infrastructure and repair damage to the environment; and

Whereas the updated CCC program would be under direct government control and not under any private contractor. Any government agency or private agency receiving federal funding for similar work would be dissolved and absorbed into the newly formed CCC agency to prevent overlap and fraud; and

Whereas the reactivated CCC would give veterans preference for leadership and supervisory positions within the agency and help alleviate the high unemployment among young adults; and

Whereas this popular program has potential to save the planet with imagination as public works programs to bring about short term job training

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace calls upon the President and Congress to reactivate and update the template of the Civilian Conservation Corps, a popular program of the administration of President F.D. Roosevelt.

Approved by the Board 8/16/07

Approved by the VFP Annual Meeting 8/18/07

CLIMATE CHANGE, ACTION ON

(Submitted by Steven R Boyer, VFP Chapter 27 – Twin Cities)

Whereas there is overwhelming evidence, and overwhelming consensus in the international scientific community, that significant global climate change is underway; and

Whereas massive migrations and unimaginable deprivations following significant and rapid climate change will inevitably result in conflict (wars) among nations and peoples; and

Whereas mitigating policies and behaviors must be implemented without delay in order to avoid catastrophic, perhaps cataclysmic, climate change and the likely breakdown of civil society; and

Whereas the United States government, largely controlled by financial and corporate interests, is the major impediment to progress in reducing, delaying or eliminating human contributions to the causes of climate change; and

Whereas financial and corporate interests only respond to economic stimuli

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans for Peace issue a strong, uncompromising, public statement denouncing of the failure of the United States government to address climate change; and

Be It Further Resolved that Veterans for Peace will endeavor to unite individuals and groups world-wide to exert unrelenting pressure on the United States government (and all governments) to take immediate and meaningful steps to reduce human contributions to climate change; and

Be It Further Resolved that unrelenting pressure take the form of a massive, international boycott of a key American corporation, or another proactive, aggressive action designed to impact the financial health of corporate interests, thus inducing those interests and therefore also the United States government to address this issue in meaningful ways, to be decided by a Veterans for Peace committee organized for that purpose or by the membership at large.

Approved by the Board 8/16/07

Approved by the VFP Annual Meeting 8/18/07

CLOSING OF US MILITARY BASES OUTSIDE ITS BORDERS

(Submitted by Sally Thompson - Chapter 63)

Whereas, the United States has more than 725 military bases outside of our borders, at the cost of billions of dollars annually, and

Whereas, we are constantly being reminded that we are vulnerable to attack, signifying that the bases are not making us safer, and

Whereas, our country is suffering a major recession, resulting in drastic cuts in every service except the military;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace calls for immediate beginning of closure of military bases outside of our borders.

Be It Further Resolved that we call for completion of the closures be accomplished by the year 2020.

Approved at the 2010 VFP national convention

CLUSTER MUNITIONS, U.S. SALE TO SOUTH KOREA

(Submitted by John Kim, VFP-Korea Peace Campaign Project)

Whereas, in June 2012, the Pentagon's arms sales agency (Defense Security Cooperation Agency) notified the U.S. Congress of its intension to sell 367 advanced cluster bombs (CBU-105D/B WCMD Sensor Fuzed Weapons) to the South Korean Air Force, and

Whereas, the proposed arms sales is valued at \$325 million, and the prime beneficiary of this sales is Textron Systems Corporation, a major weapons manufacturer in Wilmington, MA, and

Whereas, the CBU-105 cluster bomb is a weapon of mass destruction, each weighing 420 kg, that can disperse a total of 40 heat-seeking bomblets, covering an area of 40 acres, and

Whereas, the Pentagon already sold to South Korea other numerous cluster bombs, including CBU-87, CBU-97, CBU-103, M-26 rockets, ATACMS missiles, etc., and

Whereas, like landmines, cluster bomb is an indiscriminate weapon which can inflict gross sufferings upon civilians, during armed conflict and many years thereafter, due to the frequent failure of its smaller bomblets to explode upon impact, and

Whereas, according to the Cluster Munition Coalition, cluster bombs caused more civilian casualties in Iraq in 2003 and Kosovo in 1999 than any other weapon system, and

Whereas, the proposed sale will violate the Convention on Cluster Munitions, an international treaty that bans the production, transfer, stockpile, and use of cluster munitions, and

Whereas, the proposed sales will violate Paragraph 13(d) of the Korean War Armistice Agreement, which prohibits "introduction into Korea of reinforcing....weapons and ammunition," and provoke further military tensions and arms race on the Korean Peninsula;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Veterans For Peace (VFP), meeting at its national convention in Miami, Florida, on August 11, 2012...

- 1) Condemns the proposed Pentagon sales of cluster bombs to South Korea;
- 2) Calls upon the Congress to oppose the proposed sales;
- 3) Calls upon the Obama administration to stop selling the cluster bombs to South Korea and other nations immediately, and join the Convention on Cluster Munitions; and
- 4) Urges all VFP members and local chapters, as an expression of our concern on this issue, to send a copy of this resolution to our Representatives and Senators in Congress.

Approved during the 2012 VFP election

COCA-COLA – SAY NO TO COKE, STOP MURDERS OF UNION WORKERS AT COCA-COLA PLANTS IN COLUMBIA

(Submitted by David Welsh)

Whereas, U.S. taxpayer dollars are spent on Plan Colombia, an aid program; 90 percent of the U.S. aid to Colombia is military aid increasingly channeled to the non-governmental, right-wing paramilitaries; and

Whereas, these paramilitary groups operate unhindered by the government as an anti-union and anti-people military force in the country; and

Whereas, 4,000 unionists have been assassinated by the paramilitary death squads since 1985, and 192 of them in 2002 alone but no one has ever been brought to justice; and

Whereas, such actions deny Colombian workers the most basic internationally recognized rights to organize into unions and to collectively bargain; and

Whereas, Coca Cola is one of the top companies trying to bust union organizing in Colombia; eight of the local union's officials have been murdered and many others have been tortured, kidnapped, jailed, raided, or received death threats to themselves and their families; and

Whereas, the Colombian unionists have launched an international campaign to stop consuming Coca Cola products until the company calls off the paramilitaries and bargains fairly with the workers;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans for Peace demand that Congress end the funding of Plan Colombia and all US military aid to Colombia; and

Be It Further Resolved that Veterans for Peace support the “Stop Killer Coke” campaign, behind the slogan “Unthinkable! Undrinkable!” – asking people to stop consuming Coca Cola products— including Sprite, Fanta, Nestea, Minute Maid, Powerade, Swerve dairy drink and Dasani water – until the terror against workers in the Coke bottling plants in Colombia ceases.

Approved at the 2003 VFP convention, San Francisco, CA

COLOMBIA, RESOLUTION ON

(Submitted by Jesse Perrier, Fredy Champagne, Smedley Butler/New Jersey/Puerto Rico/Pittsburgh Chapters)

Whereas, the VFP Statement of Purpose declares that we will work to “restrain our government from intervening, overtly or covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations”,

Whereas, U.S. intervention through “Plan Colombia”) and its “Andean Regional Initiative” successor) has contributed to escalated violence with major human rights violations, environmental destructions and forced relocations,

Be It Resolved that VFP opposes all U.S. military aid to Colombia in any form (such as financial, training, materiel).

Be It Further Resolved that VFP form a “VFP Colombia Committee” to conduct research and liaison with other organizations to develop an educational action program.

Approved at the 2001 VFP convention

COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY

...That VFP encourages demonstrations in the states where Senators who voted against the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty are seeking reelection.

Board approved. Members concurred.

Approved at the 2000 VFP convention

CONSERVATION, VETERANS FOR PEACE CONSISTENCY TO

(Submitted by Lane Anderson, VFP Chapter 54, Cosponsored by Gordon Sturrock, VFP Chapter 929, Jack Dresser, Chapter 929, Endorsed by VFP Chapters 54, 66, and 92)

Whereas Veterans For Peace is committed by previous resolutions and statements to protecting the environment and ending our addiction to oil, and

Whereas Veterans For Peace activities sometimes have a negative environmental impact and increase our addiction to oil.

Therefore be it resolved that Veterans For Peace commit to decreasing the negative environmental impact of its activities, including the greenhouse gas footprint and overall energy usage. This could be accomplished by:

- Selecting green facilities, food services and supplies for meetings, including conventions

- Encouraging carpooling and green transportation to VFP functions
- Investigating remote participation by audio and video over the Internet

Approved at the 2008 VFP national convention

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS CHANGE TO UCMJ

(Submitted by Jon Monday, VFP Chapter 91. Endorsed by the Board of the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors – CCCO).

Whereas the current military legal codes only allow for Conscientious Objection to be based on religious grounds and must also be against all wars, of any kind, we believe that there is a urgent need to change those codes to allow for conscientious objections against particular wars and for reasons of Religious, Moral, or Legal grounds.

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace supports changing the Uniform Code of Military Justice and other appropriate regulations so that active duty military personnel can declare themselves to be Conscientious Objectors to specific wars based on a religious, moral, or legal basis.

Approved at the 2008 VFP national convention

CORRIE, RACHEL – HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

(Submitted by Arnie Welber)

On March 16, 2003, Rachel Corrie became the first U.S. citizen to shed her own blood on Palestinian soil in Gaza, while trying to prevent an Israeli army bulldozer from destroying a Palestinian home.

We honor Rachel for the ideals of justice, fairness and peace she literally stood for, right up to the moment of her death.

We honor Rachel for the qualities we would emulate; love, compassion, commitment, courage.

We honor Rachel because we need her example to strengthen our own resolve in the pursuit of peace and justice and fairness for all.

Therefore VFP assembled in national convention in San Francisco does hereby bestow honorary membership posthumously on Rachel Corrie

Approved at the 2003 VFP convention, San Francisco, CA

CORRIE, RACHEL, INVESTIGATION OF

(Submitted by Cliff Wells)

WHEREAS there is a House Concurrent Resolution (H. CON. RES. 111) which "...calls on the United States Government to undertake a full, fair, and expeditious investigation into the death of Rachel Corrie..." and

WHEREAS H. CON. RES. 111 is currently stalled in the House Committee on International Relations, and

WHEREAS Rachel Corrie was made an honorary member of Veterans for Peace

at its 2003 National Convention.

BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans for Peace calls for an independent investigation into the death of Rachel Corrie.

Approved at the July 2004 VFP convention, Boston, MA

CORPORATE PERSONHOOD, ABOLITION OF

(Submitted by Rick Staggenborg, VFP Chapter 141)

Whereas, government is created by consent of the governed, and

Whereas, corporations are created under law established by governments that are created to serve the people and corporations do not exist independent of these laws, they must be subject to laws and regulations designed to protect the public interest, and

Whereas, the regulation of these entities is the right of states who incorporate them and not the federal government beyond setting minimum standards of regulation, and

Whereas, the Supreme Court has granted corporations rights and privileges under the unjustified pretext that corporations are persons and citizens of the United States and through an overly broad interpretation of the Commerce Clause, and

Whereas, corporations are not people so cannot be considered persons;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans for Peace calls for the passage of a Constitutional amendment that would substantially state the following:

Section 1. The rights and privileges granted to citizens of the United States as enumerated in this Constitution, its amendments, and extended through case law, are exclusively reserved for human beings.

Section 2. All non-biological entities in the United States shall be subject to the requirements of any and all laws enacted by the people and their elected governments.

Section 3. The minimum regulation of corporations by the states shall be that their charters will include banning direct or indirect funding of candidates for office and the requirement that the corporations operate in the public interest. Corporations will be liable for any and all costs and damages that their operations create to the government and the taxpayers who support it.

Approved at the 2011 VFP national convention – Portland, OR

COST OF WAR TO THE INFRASTRUCTURE

(Submitted by John N. Sutcliffe, VFP Northwest Arkansas Chapter)

Whereas most Americans can better relate to the multi-billion dollar cost figures for the present administration's imperialist wars if those figures are expressed as directly responsible for the under funding of specific government programs in their local communities,

therefore it be resolved that the national Veterans For Peace leadership work with our local chapters to establish that portion of their state, county and local community taxes spent on military weapons and imperialist expansion programs, and therefore largely responsible for depriving adequate funding for specific items in their state, county and local community budgets

for public education, public health, low cost housing and family assistance, public transportation, police and fire protection and maintenance of essential public utilities and public infrastructure.

Approved at the 2004 VFP convention, Boston, MA

COUNTER RECRUITMENT

Also see “Teen Age Recruits” under reference “T”, and “Military Recruiting In Secondary Schools” under reference “M”

CUBA, ESTABLISHING NORMAL RELATIONS WITH

(Submitted by F. Lincoln Grahfs)

Whereas for a half century the United States has maintained an economic and political embargo against the island of Cuba; and

Whereas, although the Cuban people have, in the last decade, made great strides in creating a viable, self-sustaining economy, the embargo deprives them of supplies needed for adequate health care and comfortable living; and

Whereas Cuba does not presently constitute a threat to the United States; and

Whereas normalized relationships between Cuba and the United States would benefit the people and businesses of both countries;

Be it resolved, therefore, that Veterans For Peace urges the government of the United States to take immediate steps aimed at establishing normal relationships with the Cuban government and people.

Approved at the July 2004 VFP convention

D

DAY OF THE DISAPPEARED, INTERNATIONAL

(Submitted by Daniel I. Fearn, VFP Chapter 23)

Whereas the the International Day of the Disappeared on 30 August is an annual commemoration day created to draw attention to the fate of individuals imprisoned at places and under poor condition unknown to their relatives and/or legal representatives, and

Whereas work on secret imprisonment is an important part of the activities for a number of international bodies and organizations in the fields of human rights activism and humanitarian aid, including Amnesty International, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Committee of the Red Cross, and

Whereas imprisonment under secret or uncertain circumstances is a grave violation of some conception of human rights, as well as, in the case of an armed conflict, of International Humanitarian Law, and

Whereas the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has registered over 46,000 cases of people who disappeared under unknown circumstances related to their opposition to their governments, and

Whereas the Día internacional del Desaparecido was originated in Costa Rica by the Federación Latinoamericana de Asociaciones de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos in association with local and regional groups working against secret imprisonment and forced disappearances in Latin-American countries, and

Whereas the United States under, most recently, the presidency of George W. Bush has actively pursued policies resulting in wide spread illegal imprisonment, disappearances, torture and even death to individuals around the world;

Let it be resolved, that the Veterans for Peace will observe 30 August as International Day of the Disappeared to further the goal of ending these crimes and the occasions for them. We encourage all chapters of the Veterans for Peace to place this day on their activities calendars and to observe this day appropriately in the hope of promoting awareness of this trespass of international humanitarian law and ending these practices by states throughout the world.

Approved as amended by the Board 8/16/07
Approved by the VFP Annual Meeting 8/18/07

DEATH PENALTY

(Submitted by Samantha Smith Chapter 45 and Smedley D. Butler Chapter 9)

Whereas, Veterans for Peace is an organization dedicated to the elimination of war and the establishment of nonviolent methods as the only way to resolve conflicts;

Whereas, members of Veterans for Peace have a deep knowledge of the effects of war on military personnel, having experienced them personally and observed them in those who served with them;

Whereas, among the best known effects of war on military personnel are post-traumatic stress disorder, alcoholism, and drug addiction,

Whereas, it is well known that individuals acting under the influence of any of the above may act not only in ways contrary to the behavior they maintained before entering the military;

Whereas, members of Veterans for Peace know from their own military training that such training not only promotes and encourages violence but attempts to establish it as an automatic response;

Whereas, actions taken under the influence of post- traumatic stress disorder, alcoholism, and/or drugs are generally violent;

Whereas, actions taken by individuals who have been trained to be violent are generally violent;

Whereas, there does not now exist in the United States adequate alcohol and drug counseling for veterans;

Whereas, there does not now exist in the United States adequate counseling and programs to ensure that veterans recover from post-traumatic stress disorder;

Whereas, there does not now exist in the United States adequate counseling and reintegration programs to ensure that individuals coming out of the military are prepared to return to society with violence no longer being an automatic response;

Whereas, an estimated one-quarter of the men in prison in the United States today are veterans;

Whereas, a large percentage of the crimes for which veterans have been and are convicted were committed by a veteran suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and/or under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs;

Whereas, many if not most or all of these crimes could have been prevented had those who committed them not been trained for military service in the ways in which they were;

Whereas, many, if not most or all of these crimes could have been prevented had those who committed them received adequate counseling and programs upon release from military service;

Whereas, even after an individual has committed a crime, however heinous or violent it may have been, it is always possible that that individual can change and become fully capable of living peacefully and responsibly in society upon participation in adequate counseling and programs;

Whereas, court-ordered executions mimic the behavior that society claims to abhor in murderers and all killing is violent; killing carried out by the government teaches and encourages violence;

Whereas, life imprisonment without any possibility of parole should a prisoner be truly rehabilitated is also a punishment that is vengeful and violent;

Whereas, the purpose of prisons should not be to inflict punishment but to provide a safe, humane environment that will protect society while individuals are incarcerated and also prepare prisoners to return to and make positive contributions to society; and

Now, Therefore, we, the members of Veterans for Peace, assembled at our annual meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico on August 25, 2001, do hereby declare that we are totally opposed to state-ordered executions; and

We Further Declare that we are totally opposed to the imposition of sentences of life imprisonment without any possibility of parole.

Approved at the 2001 VFP Convention

DEFENSE OF LIBERTY

(Submitted by David Honish, Chapter 66, Austin, TX and John Amidon, Chapter 10, Albany, NY)

On October 26, 2001 members of Congress passed the USA Patriot Act, many of whom did not read the bill. After the legislation was read, it was found to give extraordinary and unprecedented powers to the executive branch, powers which relegated the First Amendment, the Fourth Amendment, The Fifth Amendment, the Sixth Amendment, the Eighth Amendment and the Fourteenth Amendment to the list of abdicated rights and abandoned freedoms of a once shining but now failed Republic. Ben Franklin stated that those who would sacrifice liberty for security deserve neither. Congress through its fear, ignorance, corruption, apathy and incompetence trashed the Bill of Rights and rendered the Constitution a meaningless and obsolete document in the New World Order.

American citizens are presently held in military custody without being charged, without lawyers and without due process. The United States of America, transformed by the Bush administration in cooperation with Congress, had lost its soul, its ethics, its compassion and finally its Constitution. Citizens of our land however have proved more competent and resilient than the gutless representatives in Washington and municipality upon municipality have passed resolutions against the Patriot Act and we as Veterans will honor the oath we took to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. As rightful sons and daughters of the Constitution, for all humanity, VFP declares itself in open revolt against the USA Patriot Act.

Be it resolved that Veterans For Peace Members will engage in efforts to educate the public on the urgent need to:

- 1) Repeal the patriot act.
- 2) Prevent passage of patriot act II, or any similar such legislation.
- 3) Guarantee preservation of the Bill Of Rights in its original form.
- 4) Stop government and/or corporate assaults on individual freedom under the guise of national security.

Approved at the 2003 VFP convention, San Francisco

DEPARTMENT OF PEACE REAFFIRMATION

(Submitted by O'Kelly, McCluskey, and Western Washington Chapter 92)

WHEREAS we the people are entitled to know that before breaking the peace and entering into a state of war, the president has been fully advised by the advocates for peace vs. the advocates of war.

WHEREAS To achieve the highest quality in this critical decision making process through a balance between the forces for war and the forces for peace, it is imperative to create a cabinet level Peace Dept.

WHEREAS Failure to have an institutional balanced decision making process has led us into questionable wars, which might have been avoided

WHEREAS there is currently no political or policy counterbalance to the Department of Defense in the Executive Branch,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2003 VFP National Convention to endorse HR 1673 - "To establish a Department of Peace" (108th Congress 1st Session) in principle and to forward this endorsement to Representative Dennis Kucinich (D-OH 10).

Approved at the 2003 VFP Convention, San Francisco, CA

DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND SPACE PRESERVATION

(Submitted by Tom Gale, VFP Samantha Smith Chapter)

Whereas, the community of nations voted in 1967 to keep space free of weapons,

Whereas, the Bush Administration has terminated the 1972 Anti Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia (USSR) and has shaped a new Nuclear Treaty with Russia so as not to destroy nuclear weapons but to store them in stockpile,

Whereas, the Bush Administration is actively moving forward to create the Master of Space military program called the National Missile Defense (NMD),

Therefore, Veterans For Peace urges its members to support actively HR2459, The Department of Peace, sponsored by Representative Dennis Kucinich (D, OH). This bill, submitted in July 2001 with forty-three co-sponsors was sent to and still sits in committee. It can be found on www.thomas.gov

Passed 2002

DEPARTMENT OF PEACE, ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNITED STATES

(Submitted by Damon Harrison - P. Jesse Perrier)

Whereas, on July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress unanimously declared the Independence of the 13 Colonies – and (the achievement of) peace was recognized as one of the highest duties of the new organization of free and independent states; and,

Whereas, during the course of the 20th century alone, more than 100,000,000 (100 million) people perished in wars, and now at the dawn of the 21st century violence seems to be an overarching cavalier theme in the world; and

Whereas, America is one of the most fortunate and privileged nations on earth and we have a birthright to tap the infinite capabilities of humanity to transform consciousness and conditions which impel (or compel) violence at a personal, group, or national level - toward developing a new understanding of, and a commitment to - compassion and love, in order to create a 'shining city on a hill', the light of which is the light of nations; and,

Whereas, society must conceive of peace as not simply being the absence of violence (and destruction), but *more-so* the active presence of the capacity for a higher evolution of the human awareness for respect, trust and integrity; and,

Whereas, on April 8th, 2003 a Bill (HR1673) to create a U.S. (cabinet level) Department of Peace was submitted in the (100th Congress) U.S. House of Representatives - and ultimately referred to the Committee on Government Reform; and,

Whereas, the Department of Peace is an idea whose time has come; so,
Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Veterans For Peace Convention members in Boston, July 2004 assembled, respectfully and officially request a joint session of the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives convene to endorse *and establish* a cabinet level U.S. Department of Peace whose primary goal will be dedicated to peacemaking and the continued study of conditions (and resolutions) that are conducive to both domestic and international peace; and,

Be It Further Resolved, the Mission of the Department of Peace shall be to (1) hold peace as an organizing principle (which will function as an aid) coordinating services to every level of American society; (2) endeavor to promote justice and democratic principles to expand human rights; (3) strengthen nonmilitary means of peacemaking; (4) promote the development of human potential; (5) work to create peace, prevent violence, divert from armed conflict, use field-tested programs and develop new structure in nonviolent dispute resolution; (6) take a proactive, strategic approach in the development of policies that promote national and international conflict prevention, nonviolent intervention, mediation, peaceful resolution, and structured mediation of conflict; (7) address matters both domestic and international in scope; and (8) encourage the development of initiatives from local communities, religious groups, and nongovernmental organizations/agencies; and,

Be It Further Resolved, the U.S. Department of Peace will be headed by a Secretary of Peace, with Subcommittees comprised of intergovernmental U.S. department and agency support staff,

as well as a national intergovernmental and community Advisory Council Board made up of world-peace advocates; and,

Be It Further Resolved, the U.S. Department of Peace shall establish a National Day of Peace to observe and celebrate the blessings of *Peace*; and,

And therefore,

Be It Finally Resolved, (that) future generations of the world's children can forever recognize there exists a welcomed place, the U.S. Department of Peace, where they can go to accentuate their human right to demand and perpetuate World Peace and social justice – for all.

This resolution reaffirms and supplements a resolution passed in 2003

Approved at the July 2004 VFP convention, Boston, MA

DEPLETED URANIUM

(Submitted by Peter Aronson, VFP DU Committee, VFP Humboldt Bay Chapter 56 California)

Whereas Depleted Uranium (also known as DU) is radioactive, and

Whereas radiation safety standards are based on data from external exposure models, and

Whereas many reputable nuclear physicists, including former Pentagon and VA experts, describe enormous health consequences when models of internal exposure to DU are used, and

Whereas these scientist also U.S suggest internal DU exposure is a likely cause of GWS; and

Whereas increased rates of birth defects and cancer occur in exposed areas, and

Whereas the nuclear industry, the Pentagon, the VA, and the munitions industry, have vested interests in describing DU as safe, and each would each be significantly impacted by adjusting to newer standards, and

Whereas evidence suggests the risk associated with DU exposure has been suppressed by those with vested interests, and

Whereas the global consequences of contamination by nuclear (enriched and "Depleted" Uranium) exposures are eternal (4.5b years for DU), and

Whereas screening, testing and treatment procedures for DU exposed troops and civilians currently exist, and,

Whereas UK, US and other global scientists have the capacity to assess the health consequences of internal DU exposure, and

Whereas it is our duty to protect the welfare of U.S. and allied military personnel, veterans, and innocent civilians at home and abroad,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the VFP support global banning of all DU munitions and other radioactive weapons, in accordance with the 1949 Geneva Convention (warring nations must avoid harming civilian populations) and

Be It Further Resolved VFP support screening and treatment for all exposed members, or former members of the U.S. Armed Forces, and

Be It Further Resolved that VFP formally support the McDermott bill, HR 1483 The DU Munitions Act of 2003, and its comprehensive approach to environmental mitigation, cleanup requirements, and scientific models studying internal exposure to DU, and

Be it further resolved the VFP enlist the support of other national veteran groups in advancing awareness and suggesting actions on DU-related issues.

Approved at the 2003 VFP Convention, San Francisco, CA

DEPLETED URANIUM WEAPONS

(Submitted by Howard Welsh)

Therefore be it resolved that Veterans For Peace demand a world wide moratorium on the use of Uranium and depleted uranium weapons including but not limited to anti-tank penetrates, guided bombs and assorted missiles, and the United States take the lead in eliminating the manufacture, distribution and proliferation of such weapons in addition to fully disclosing the results of studies undertaken regarding the environmental and health effects of such weapons.

Approved at the 2003 VFP Convention, San Francisco, CA

DEPLETED URANIUM

(Submitted by Tucson Chapter 13, Humboldt Bay Chapter 56, and Garberville Chapter 22)

“...VFP address the President and the Department of Defense with the demand that they: Ban the further use of DU weapons and armor and destroy our stores of such on hand, Ban the sale of DU weapons to any other country and urge these countries which already possess DU weapons to destroy them, Provide appropriate protective medical testing and medical care of service personnel from DU contamination, Provide appropriate protective measures, monitoring and medical care of service personnel who handle DU weapons or clean up DU contamination, Clean up the DU contamination in the battlefields of Kosovo, Bosnia and Iraq, utilizing the unused monies budgeted for the Yugoslavian conflict.”

Approved at the 1999 VFP Convention, Philadelphia, PA. MSA, without opposition.

DEPLETED URANIUM

Also see “Uranium Munitions” under reference item “U”

DEPLETED URANIUM, PRENATAL TESTING FOR EFFECTS OF

WHEREAS The United States and other countries have used, and continue to use, many tons of depleted uranium munitions in recent engagements; and

WHEREAS it has been convincingly established that exposure to the effects of depleted uranium weaponry can have serious harmful genetic consequences for children whose parents have been thus exposed; and

WHEREAS among individuals exposed to the effects of depleted uranium there has occurred an alarmingly high rate of congenital malformations in newborns as well as of miscarriages and premature births;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Veterans for Peace will strongly recommends that Congress consider and pass legislation which will offer prenatal early screening to every military family whose member has served in the areas where depleted uranium weapons and armor have been in use.

Approved by the Board 8/16/07

Approved by the VFP Annual Meeting 8/18/07

DEPLETED URANIUM ADJUDICATION

(Submitted by Lane Anderson, VFP Chapter 54, Albert Holtz VFP Chapter 112
Cosponsored by Gordon Sturrock, VFP Chapter 929, Jack Dresser, Chapter 929)

Whereas Veterans For Peace has passed resolutions urging the ban of depleted uranium since 2004, and

Whereas veterans afflicted with illnesses caused by depleted uranium will not be considered service connected or receive benefits until illnesses are adjudicated in the VA as caused by depleted uranium exposure.

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace support the adjudication of illnesses caused by depleted uranium exposure by assisting Dr. Holtz in finding a veteran with such an illness, allowing him to use the newsletter, website and listserves and enabling him to assist the veteran in adjudication within the VA system.

Approved at the 2008 VFP national convention

DEPLETED URANIUM SUPPRESSED STUDY

(Submitted by Thomas Fasy, VFP Chapter 34)

Whereas, from 2002 through 2004, scientists at the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFRRI) in Bethesda MD carried out an important experiment designed to assess the ability of depleted uranium to cause gene mutations in various tissues and organs of mice, and

Whereas, in this experiment, 80% of the mice exposed to the highest dose of depleted uranium developed cancers, and

Whereas, these cancers included testicular cancer, bladder cancer and thyroid cancer which are malignancies not commonly linked to uranium exposure, and

Whereas, these experiments have important public health implications not only for military personnel who have served in Iraq and other lands contaminated with depleted uranium dust but also for the civilians who live in those lands, and

Whereas, no detailed report describing the results of these experiments has been published in the more than seven years since these experiments have been completed;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans for Peace calls upon the Secretary of Defense to release a full report on the results of the experiments on uranium-exposed mice which were concisely summarized at a conference titled: "Depleted Uranium Weapons: Toxic Contaminant or Necessary Technology?" held on March 6, 2004 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and to provide an explanation of why the results of these experiments have been suppressed for more than seven years; and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a Registry of Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Wars [GWI and the ongoing Iraq War] who have developed malignancies or whose children have developed malignancies; and Congress to support epidemiological studies of all veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars and their families, and of the rising incidence of cancer among Iraqi civilians, including studies designed to assess the possibility that depleted uranium may act as a transgenerational carcinogen, i.e., that D.U. may increase the incidence of malignancies in the children of individuals exposed to D.U.

Approved at the 2011 VFP national convention – Portland, OR

DEPLETED URANIUM DUST, CLINICAL RESEARCH ON THE CONSEQUENCES OF INHALING

(Submitted by Thomas Fasy, VFP Chapter 34)

Whereas, uranium (including depleted uranium) is known to be a kidney toxin, a neurotoxin, an immunotoxin, a carcinogen, a mutagen and an inducer of birth defects, and

Whereas, the vast majority of military personnel and civilians with significant exposures to depleted uranium have inhaled depleted uranium dust particles, and

Whereas, the efforts of the Department of Veterans Affairs to monitor the health effects of exposure to depleted uranium have focused largely on several dozen veterans of the 1991 Gulf War who have embedded depleted uranium shrapnel, and

Whereas, the definitive and classic laboratory test or biomarker for identifying individuals with significant exposures to depleted uranium is a urine assay which can detect abnormal ratios of uranium isotopes in the urine, and

Whereas, abnormal results in such a urine assay are often not persistent and durable and consequently such urine assays are not sensitive tests for identifying individuals whose exposure to depleted uranium occurred in the distant past - for example in 1991 or in 2003;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans for Peace calls upon Congress to fund:

1) Clinical studies of adverse health effects occurring in cohorts of veterans who have had documented inhalational exposures to depleted uranium dust particles or who have had, by virtue of their duties, highly probable inhalational exposures to depleted uranium dust particles; and

2) Research aimed at identifying novel biomarkers of uranium exposure which are persistent and durable and which may be useful for identifying individuals whose exposure to depleted uranium occurred in the distant past - for example in 1991 or in 2003.

Approved at the 2011 VFP national convention – Portland, OR

DON'T ASK DON'T TELL POLICY, LIFT THE

(Submitted by Mike Felker Chapter 31, Aaron Davis Chapter 118)

Whereas the don't ask, don't tell policy enacted by the defense department in

1993, known as legislation 10 USC 654 has been counterproductive.

Whereas under this policy, GLBT personnel have been denied the right to have relationships, insurance coverage, hospital visitations, survivor benefits etc.

Whereas nearly 10,000 GLBT personnel have been discharged since the policy was adopted.

Therefore, be it resolved, that Veterans For Peace calls for the Senate and House Armed Services Committees in congress to convene immediately, and call on the president to lift the don't ask, don't tell policy on GLBT personnel in the armed forces, and allow them to serve openly.

Approved at the 2005 national convention, Dallas, TX

DRUGS

(Submitted by Joe Minella and Gideon Rosenbluth)

Whereas, the government of the United States has, for the last thirty years and more, attempted to control the problems of drug abuse and addiction by means of policies collectively known as the "war on drugs",

Whereas, these policies are primarily militaristic, punitive, and brutal, and are therefore causing an unacceptable level of collateral (innocent) damage,

Whereas, these policies, even after many expensive, cold-blooded, and constitutionally dangerous expansions, have brought only increased and ongoing misery, suffering, and death in our society and other societies,

Whereas, these policies are irrefutably linked to the dissolution of families, to the neglect of children, to joblessness, crimes of violence, historic levels of official corruption, property crimes, and to the empowerment of an endless parade of well-heeled and vicious criminal organizations, large and small,

Whereas, these policies have needlessly cost the lives of too many hundred police officers, and put the lives of thousands of officers needlessly at risk, and have corrupted thousands of officers in hundreds of communities, and have distorted and strained the relationship between police and citizens,

Whereas, these policies have left certain drugs, like heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, and marijuana on the streets where our children can more easily find them,

Whereas, these policies have caused dishonest, confusing and shameful messages to be sent to our children,

Whereas, these policies have caused the long term imprisonment of hundreds of thousands of non-violent Americans for victimless crimes, making America the world's leading jailer,

Whereas, these policies have led to the serious erosion of the constitutional protections which are the birthright of every American,

Whereas, these policies have led directly to the suffering and death of many thousands of innocent people in other countries and have contributed to national and ecological and human catastrophes in Columbia, and have seriously destabilized and corrupted other Latin American countries, and many other countries around the world,

Whereas, these policies have taken away several hundred billion dollars, the wealth of a generation, from education, health care and families, forever, to no meaningful positive effect,

Whereas, these policies, in practice, have greatly exacerbated the problems of race relations and demolished much of the progress made by minorities in the last fifty years,

Whereas, these policies have caused the reduced availability of legal, effective and safe pain medications for millions of seriously ill and terminally ill patients,

Whereas, these policies have led to the demonization, terrorization, and abandonment of those Americans most in need of help, those who are trapped in a serious problem with drugs,

Whereas, these policies have no, in eighty years, reduced drug use, drug abuse, drug availability, or the negative effects of those behaviors,

Whereas, the government of the United States has imposed these destructive policies, by threat and force, on all the States of the United States, on most other countries, and on the United Nations,

Whereas, the government of the United States and, for the most part, our elected representatives, have repeatedly and stubbornly refused to acknowledge the destructiveness and lack of effectiveness of these policies or to even consider an official examination of these policies, even after being strongly and repeatedly encouraged to do so by many prominent, experienced, and knowledgeable citizens,

Whereas, it is most probable that continuing and/or expanding these failed policies will lead only to more misery, destruction, and death,

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the members of Veterans for Peace, Inc., that we condemn the arrogant and callous disregard for life and family and children, and the scandalous and indefensible squandering of enormous resources on the people of the United States, all of which permeates these policies and their application.

Be it further resolved by the members of Veterans for Peace, Inc., that we hereby strongly oppose the efforts by the government of the United States to continue these destructive and cruel policies.

Approved at the 2001 VFP Convention

E

EARTH CHARTER INITIATIVE VFP MEMBERSHIP

(Submitted by Jay Alexander - Chapter 119)

Whereas, as we should adopt as a sister Peace organization, the Earth Charter, and

Whereas, we should join and adhere to the Earth Charter Initiative, as our missions are very similar, and

Whereas, the mission of the Earth Charter Initiative is to promote the transition to sustainable ways of living and a global society founded on a shared ethical framework that includes respect and care for the community of life, ecological integrity, universal human rights, respect for diversity, economic justice, democracy, and a culture of peace;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Veterans For Peace organization join the Earth Charter Initiative which has the potential to save the planet with an ethical imagination and intelligence.

Approved at the 2010 VFP national convention

EARTH CHARTER

(Submitted by Mark Wilson, Dana Briggs, Western Washington Chapter 92)

Whereas Veterans for Peace is dedicated to increasing public awareness about the costs of war, to abolishing war as an instrument of international policy, and using non-violent means towards these ends.

Therefore be it resolved that Veterans for Peace endorses The Earth Charter (www.earthcharter.org) in principle; and

Be it further resolved that Veterans for Peace specifically endorses The Earth Charter principles regarding peace and the military, i.e.

Section I, Principle 3 -- build democratic societies that are just, participatory, sustainable, and peaceful

Section II, Principle 6e -- prevent military damage to the environment

Section IV, Principle 16 (all) -- promote a culture of tolerance, nonviolence, and peace

Approved at the 2003 VFP convention, San Francisco, CA

ELECTION MONITORING

(Submitted by Wayne Wittman, Minnesota Chapter 27)

“...the national Board of Directors of VFP be encouraged to: Authorize election-monitoring delegations to monitor elections whenever there appears to be the opportunity to improve the election processes and witness election outcomes, thus promoting nonviolent political decision-making and enhancing the dignity of the human person.” Approved at the 1999 VFP Convention, Philadelphia, PA.

Approved at the 1999 VFP Convention, Philadelphia, PA.

ENGAGEMENT CAMPAIGN, VETERANS FOR PEACE

(Submitted by the VFP Engagement Campaign Steering Committee - Cherie Eichholz, Nate Goldschlag, John Grant, Sandy Kelson and Hal Muskat)

Whereas in past resolutions, Veterans For Peace has supported the notion of veteran outreach to, and engagement with, active duty, reserve and National Guard soldiers, and

Whereas the time is right, now, for encouraging more such outreach and engagement by veterans to soldiers at the bases and armories where they live and work all over the nation. Veterans For Peace is an experienced veterans group with thousands of veteran members in chapters or as at-large members all across the nation, and

Whereas outreach and engagement by veterans to soldiers requires knowledge of the resources available, information on techniques for outreach and an awareness of the many pitfalls presented by such an enterprise. It also requires a place to obtain handout materials with realistic, up-to-date, usable information, and

Whereas, where possible, Veterans For Peace members can work with members of allied organizations like Iraq Veterans Against The War, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, Military Families Speak Out and others. When this is not possible, VFP members should have the capacity to work on their own.

Therefore Be It Resolved by a majority of members of Veterans For Peace at the 2008 National Convention that Veterans For Peace and the Veterans For Peace Board Of Directors shall endorse and support the VFP Engagement Campaign in its efforts to:

- 1) Provide Veterans For Peace members across the nation with a Veterans For Peace resource for guidance and relevant materials to facilitate outreach to active duty soldiers in their areas, and
- 2) Seek funding sources to facilitate temporary and/or permanent bases of operation near military installations wherever this is deemed feasible.

Approved at the 2008 VFP national convention

ENDLESS WAR

(Submitted by David Cline - F. Lincoln Grahfs and Wilson Powell)

The response of the US Government to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 has initiated policies which have already restricted civil liberties through passage of the Patriot Act and other repressive legislation, justified a military assault against Afghanistan and promised endless war against many other countries.

We believe that the jingoistic brand of counterfeit patriotism generated by the administration's actions and statements is stifling dissent and threatens genuine security for the people of this country.

The resulting massive increase in military spending threatens social programs that should be serving to improve people's lives both here and abroad.

These actions, combined with our retreat from a host of international disarmament, environmental and criminal justice treaties, threaten democracy at home and diminish the prospects for peace and stability in the world.

THEREFORE, Veterans For Peace calls for an end to endless US wars and insists that assaults upon our constitutional rights be rescinded. Our government must stop functioning unilaterally and become a responsible member of the community of nations.

We commit ourselves to the struggle of re-directing our government toward these ends.

Passed 2002

ENTERTAINERS, SUPPORT FOR ENTERTAINERS UNDER ATTACK FOR SPEAKING OUT

(Submitted by James Starowicz)

Whereas a number prominent actors, musicians and other popular figures, including Martin Sheen, Danny Glover, Susan Saradon, Tim Robbins, Janeane Garafalo, and the Dixie Chicks, have expressed their dissent regarding the war in Iraq, threats to our civil liberties and the backward direction the Bush administration is taking our country, and

Whereas they have come under increasing attack, including vile slanders and challenges to their patriotism and right to speak as well as right-wing boycotts, for exercising their right as free people,

Be it resolved that Veterans For Peace condemns these attacks as assaults on the very freedoms that we served and often shed blood to defend, and will take whatever actions are appropriate, both locally and nationally, to show our support and solidarity with these courageous, patriotic Americans.

Approved at the 2003 VFP convention, San Francisco, CA

EXTENSIONS OF DUTY, CESSATION OF INVOLUNTARY

(Submitted by Vicky Monk and John Chisholm)

WHEREAS "Stop Loss" is contrary to the concept of an all volunteer military,

BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans for Peace calls for the cessation of stop-loss and involuntary extended tours of duty.

Approved at the July 2004 VFP convention, Boston, MA

E

FIREWORKS FREE CELEBRATION

(Submitted by R. Lane Anderson, Chapter 54)

Whereas: Many combat veterans suffer from fireworks displays, having to retreat further from the society they were sent purportedly to fight for.

Whereas: The presence of fireworks in the celebrations of our national holiday prevent these combat vets from enjoying family gatherings on these holidays.

Therefore be it resolved that Veterans For Peace encourage firework free celebrations.

Approved at the 2005 national convention, Dallas, TX

FLAG DESECRATION

(Submitted by Richard Basham, Chair – VFP Evansville, IN Chapter)

Whereas Veterans for Peace is a veterans organization committed to finding peaceful solutions to conflicts and;

Whereas Veterans for Peace believes that the unique perspectives of veterans are important ingredients in public discourse and decision making and;

Whereas Veterans for Peace does not want the diverse views of veterans to be monolithically misrepresented in public discourse and;

Whereas Veterans for Peace does not wish the service and sacrifice of veterans to be trivialized and;

Whereas Veterans for Peace wishes to extend and preserve the freedoms for which its members served and fought in the U.S. Armed Services and;

Whereas there have been few documented cases of desecration of the U.S. flag and;

Whereas amending the U.S. Constitution to outlaw flag desecration encroaches on First Amendment guaranteed freedom of speech and;

Whereas such an amendment to “protect” the flag suppresses speech and muffles the voices of dissent and;

Whereas promoting such an amendment as an “honor” to veterans does not honor our service and;

Whereas Veterans for Peace wishes to articulate its position on the proposed flag desecration amendment to the U.S. Constitution;

Therefore, be it resolved that Veterans for Peace opposes the proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution to “protect” the flag and calls on veterans, citizens and other organizations to oppose it.

Approved at the July 2004 VFP convention

G

GAZA, ENDING THE BLOCKADE OF

(Submitted by Cherie Eichholz - Chapter 92) and Nate Goldshlag - Chapter 9)

Whereas Israel has blockaded Gaza since 2007 in violation of international law, specifically the Fourth Geneva Convention which states: “No protected person may be punished for an offense he or she has not personally committed. Collective penalties and likewise all measures of intimidation or of terrorism are prohibited”, and

Whereas Israel during Operation “Cast Lead” in December 2008 and January 2009 bombed and destroyed much infrastructure in Gaza – factories (219 estimated), schools, hospitals, offices, mosques, homes (over 3,000 estimated, with an additional 20,000 damaged) — in addition to killing over 1400 people, most of them non-combatants and children, and

Whereas Israel damaged or destroyed 48% of the 122 health facilities in Gaza during Operation “Cast Lead”, according to the World Health Organization, and

Whereas it is estimated that 60% of the children of Gaza suffer from malnutrition and estimates by the UN put the amount of food allowed in to Gaza by Israel at approximately one-quarter of the minimum amount necessary, and one-quarter of what came into the country prior to the siege, and

Whereas the World Food Programme UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that Israel has destroyed between 35% and 60% of the Gaza agriculture industry and that nearly all of the 13,000 families whose livelihoods depend directly on farming, herding and fishing having suffered considerable impairment, and

Whereas items like cement and glass, which could be used to rebuild Gaza, as well as numerous goods essential for mere existence, are prohibited from entering Gaza, and

Whereas in order to obtain life's necessities Gazans are risking their lives as they tunnel out of the country, an exploit that has caused the deaths of over 200 people, and

Whereas the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs calls the situation "a massive destruction of livelihoods and basic services" and

Whereas John Ging, Director of Operations in Gaza for the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), noted that a conference in Sharm el-Sheikh last year put the price tag at \$4.5 billion to reconstruct Gaza and that "That's \$4.5 billion, at the moment, of despair and misery until such time that recovery and reconstruction gets under way", and

Whereas Mr. Ging commented that "the physical suffering of so many continues on a daily basis, not just physical suffering, but psychological suffering because people are at their wits' end to understand when all of this will come to an end", and

Whereas the Statement of Purpose of Veterans For Peace asserts that we will: "restrain our government from intervening, overtly and covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations," and that we will "seek justice for veterans and victims of war;"

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace condemns in the strongest possible terms the Israeli blockade of Gaza that has caused so much suffering, and calls on the United States Government to pressure Israel to permanently lift the blockade and allow food, aid, and reconstruction materials to flow freely into Gaza.

Approved at the 2010 VFP national convention

GAZA FLOTILLA SUPPORT

(Submitted by Tarak Kauff - Chapter 58)

Whereas, it is imperative that all persons of conscience challenge U.S. Government policy that funds and supports Israel's cruel and illegal blockade of Gaza and it's collective punishment of 1.4 million people, including 800,000 children, and

Whereas, the Free Gaza Flotilla has, at great cost and sacrifice brought the world's attention to this illegal blockade of Gaza, and

Whereas, there is now a U.S. campaign to purchase and outfit a U.S boat which will sail in the next international flotilla to break the siege of Gaza;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace encourages it's members, and Chapters, to do everything in their power to encourage and promote support for this U.S, boat, The Audacity of Hope, which will present a challenge to US foreign policy and affirm the universal obligation to uphold human rights and international law.

Approved at the 2010 VFP national convention

GENETIC SCREENING

(Submitted by Bud Deraps, St. Louis Chapter 61)

Whereas there is compelling evidence that an unusually large number of United States Military personnel who, in the course of their military service, were exposed to chemical, nuclear or biological warfare materials have parented children with birth defects

Therefore be it resolved that anyone who in the course of military service has been exposed to chemical, nuclear or biological agents, upon determination that he or she has conceived a child, should be entitled, at government expense, to “state of the art” tests for the purpose of ascertaining any defects present in the fetus.

Approved at the July 2004 VFP convention, Boston, MA

GI RESISTERS, RESOLUTION CALLING FOR UNCONDITIONAL AMNESTY FOR ALL
(Submitted by Gerry Condon – VFP GI Resistance Working Group)

Whereas, the U.S. wars upon and occupations of the peoples of Iraq and Afghanistan are based on the lies of the 1% who profit from war, and have nothing to do with the legitimate defense of the United States or the interests of 99% of the People, and

Whereas, the so-called “Global War on Terror” is little more than a cover for U.S. military aggression in pursuit of the imperial ambitions of the 1%, and

Whereas, the initiation of these “wars of choice” by the U.S. government, as well as the conduct of the U.S. military in Iraq and Afghanistan, have violated international law, including the UN charter and the Geneva Conventions, and

Whereas, international law, domestic U.S. law and the Uniform Code of Military Justice require soldiers to refuse to participate in war crimes, and further require military personnel to report any evidence of war crimes, and

Whereas, tens of thousands of U.S. troops have absented themselves from the military or otherwise refused to deploy or re-deploy to illegal wars and occupations, and

Whereas, hundreds of GI resisters who are seeking sanctuary in Canada, Germany and other nations are at risk of being deported to the U.S., where they would be imprisoned, and

Whereas, thousands of GI resisters are living underground in the United States, where they face the daily possibility of arrest and imprisonment, and

Whereas, thousands of GI resisters have been discharged from the military with less-than-honorable discharges that deny them much needed benefits, including treatment and compensation for the wounds of war, and that relegate them to lifetime discrimination in the job market and elsewhere, and

Whereas, in 1973, when U.S. troops began to withdraw from Vietnam, GI resisters in Canada and Europe, along with Vietnam Veterans Against the War, church and civil liberties groups initiated and led a broad-based movement for unconditional amnesty for all war resisters, and

Whereas, President Jimmy Carter, in his first act upon assuming the presidency in January 1977, granted an unconditional pardon to Vietnam era draft resisters and created a program of leniency for military deserters, who were quickly discharged upon turning themselves into the military, and

Whereas, Veterans For Peace supports GIs who follow their consciences and obey international law by refusing to participate in illegal wars or war crimes;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace calls on the U.S. government and military to grant an unconditional amnesty to all GI resisters who are facing punishment for refusing to fight in illegal wars and occupations, for refusing to participate in war crimes, for leaving military control without official permission, for seeking treatment for the wounds of war, and for resisting sexual violence, sexism and racism within the military, and

Be It Further Resolved that Veterans For Peace calls for the upgrading of all less than honorable discharges and for the creation of a single type, nondiscriminatory discharge, and

Be It Finally Resolved that Veterans For Peace will communicate these demands to all appropriate authorities and that we will work to build public support for amnesty for all GI resisters.

Approved during the 2012 VFP election

GUN VIOLENCE, STOPPING

(Submitted by Mike Felker, Chapter 31)

Whereas, as veterans, many of us have firsthand experience with the consequences Of guns; and

Whereas every day in the United States, 77 people, ten of whom are Children, die in shootings; and

Whereas, as veterans for peace, we are in a unique position to work to curtail Gun violence; and

Whereas more than 300 U.S. companies produce arms and/or ammunition, and the country is estimated to have one of the world's largest domestic markets for small arms, an estimated 34% of the nation's 280 million citizens owning personal firearms; and

Whereas private gun ownership is generally not subject to either licensing or registration; and

Whereas guns are a significant cause of death among U.S. citizens, especially Urban minorities and youth; and

Whereas United States firearm homicide and suicide rates are the highest in the developed world.

Therefore be it resolved that Veterans for Peace supports renewal of the Federal Assault Weapons Law, prohibiting the manufacture, sale and importation of certain military-style, semi-automatic assault weapons and ammunition magazines that hold more than ten rounds, which was passed in 1994 and, unless renewed, will expire in September 2004; and

Be it further resolved that VFP members are urged to work for renewal of this legislation.

Approved at the July 2004 VFP convention

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ILLEGAL DRUGS – A NEW APPROACH

(Submitted by Tim Keenan – VFP Chapter 50)

Whereas, the U.S. funded war on drugs results in approximately 10,000 deaths per year in Mexico, costs U.S. taxpayers \$15 billion per year in interdiction and \$18 billion per year on incarceration of drug offenders;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace calls on the government of the United States to legalize use of marijuana, end the war on drugs, and divert interdiction and incarceration funds to drug education and treatment.

Approved during the 2012 VFP election

IMPEACHMENT OF PRESIDENT BARACK H. OBAMA FOR WAR CRIMES

(Submitted by Phil Restino, VFP Chapter 136)

Whereas, Barack H. Obama is Commander In Chief of the U.S. Armed Forces and the head of the Executive Branch of the United States government, and

Whereas, President Obama, on 19 March 2011, committed a criminal act by ordering the U.S. military to war in Libya without first obtaining the consent of the U.S. Congress in a direct violation of the U.S. Constitution, and

Whereas, the illegal U.S. invasion, bombing and occupation of Iraq initiated by the Bush administration continues under the Obama administration; and

Whereas, the U.S. government is currently engaged in illegal wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia, and Libya, and President Obama pledged to increase the number of military personnel and tax dollars spent on the these wars, and

Whereas, the U.S. military used and continues to use depleted uranium munitions, cluster bombs and white phosphorous in densely populated areas in violation of U.S. laws and international laws and treaties prohibiting the indiscriminate killing of civilians; and,

Whereas, the Geneva Conventions specifically prohibit the use of especially injurious weapons and materials causing unnecessary harm that remain active and lethal after battle, and over large areas of land, and

Whereas, large numbers of babies born in Iraq and Afghanistan suffer life-long illness and deformity like severe disfigurements and brain damage, Down's syndrome, and weak hearts doctors state are caused by the U.S. military's massive and widespread use of toxic and radioactive materials, and

Whereas, millions upon millions of Iraqi, Afghani, Pakistani, Yemeni, Somali, and Libyan civilians have been maimed, poisoned, displaced from their homes, and killed in a direct result of ongoing, illegal acts of war by the United States, and

Whereas, illegal, immoral and counterproductive detainee torture and brutalization at the hands of the U.S. military's Immediate Reaction Force continue at Guantanamo under the Obama administration and in particular, the torture of Pfc. Bradley Manning at Quantico, Virginia, and

Whereas, President Obama is an accessory after the fact in obstructing justice by failing to order the Department of Justice to initiate investigations into numerous and blatant U.S. war crimes committed by the Bush administration, for which it is manifestly accountable under the law, and

Whereas, Millions of Americans, including Veterans For Peace and Prosecute Them Now, supported the impeachment of Bush/Cheney for the same war crimes that are being committed now by Obama in violation of the U.S. Constitution, U.S. federal laws, the United Nations Charter, the Hague Convention, the Geneva Conventions, The United Nations Convention Against Torture and the Nuremberg Tribunal Charter, and

Whereas, Veterans For Peace and Prosecute Them Now are committed to the stated mission to restrain our government from intervening overtly and covertly in the internal affairs of other nations, to seek justice for veterans and victims of war, to increase public awareness of the exact costs of war, and to abolish war as an instrument of national policy;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace call on the U.S. House of Representatives to immediately begin impeachment proceedings against President Barack H. Obama for failure to uphold his sworn oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States of America from all enemies foreign and domestic, and for his commission of war crimes, crimes against humanity, obstruction of justice and the violation of numerous national and international laws, treaties and conventions.

Approved at the 2011 VFP national convention – Portland, OR

IMPEACHMENT, 60 DAY NOTICE TO REMOVE TROOPS OR FACE

(Mike Ferner, VFP Chapter 39)

Whereas: The war against Iraq, having caused untold suffering and cost untold treasure, must be ended at the first possible moment, and

Whereas: The United States presence in Iraq is causing, not preventing destabilization and violence, and

Whereas: Veterans for Peace is committed to ending this immoral, unjust war of empire regardless of who wins the 2004 U.S. presidential election, and

Whereas: Active, engaged citizens have in the past and will continue to change the course of history,

Therefore: Be it resolved that Veterans for Peace, gathered in convention in Boston, demands that the next U.S. President announce, within 10 days of taking office, that he will withdraw all U.S. troops from Iraq within 60 days, and

Be it further resolved: That if this 10-day period following the inauguration passes without a publicly-announced decision to withdraw all troops from Iraq within 60 days, Veterans for Peace chapters around the nation will begin a campaign, including but not limited to, petitions calling for the impeachment of the President.

Approved at the July 2004 VFP convention, Boston, MA

INCARCERATED MEMBER CHAPTER FORMATION AND OPERATION

(Submitted by Michael Thomas)

Whereas, there is a voiceless population of U.S. military veterans incarcerated within this nation's State and Federal penological facilities. These veterans constitute between 10% and

30% of any State's prison system, and up to 25%-30% of Federal prisoners. These veterans, therefore, number approximately 150,000-200,000 individuals at any given time, out of 2,000,000 citizens incarcerated nationwide – the highest of any nation, and

Whereas, these incarcerated men and women were veterans first, before serving time. Most have family and loved ones still depending on them, while those with no one must shift for themselves, and

Whereas, these veterans incarcerated remain eligible for benefits and services from State and Federal Veteran Administration(s) and organization(s) with only minimal restrictions. These men and women remain isolated, unwilling or unable to seek veterans assistance themselves through penological bureaucracy, and have practically no organized institutional veterans group representation, and

Whereas, these veterans incarcerated have documented higher rates of untreated PTSD, psychological disorders, and/or substance abuse addictions, as well as untreated physical ailments, most of which are service-connected or aggravated by military service. And that these veterans, when released, constitute an utterly unacceptable high proportion of the nation's homeless and disadvantaged, and

Whereas, veterans incarcerated earn no funds while in custody, and when institutional jobs become available, such work pays mere pennies-an-hour, rendering these men and women unable to afford organizational membership fees unless they are the few that have some form of outside support or asset(s), and

Whereas, veterans incarcerated exemplify "...the true social, and spiritual costs of war", and embody the Veterans For Peace Statement of Purpose of "Increasing public awareness of the full costs of war" and "...to seek justice for veterans and victims of war".

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace encourage and facilitate the formation of Veterans For Peace incarcerated Chapters nationwide, with appropriate modified By-Laws peculiar to institutional settings and with identical purposes and goals as the non-incarcerated Chapters.

Be It Further Resolved that Veterans For Peace incarcerated members shall have their membership dues waived during that member's physical incarceration, and shall remain so waived for a period not less than six (6) months, nor longer than one (1) year, upon that members parole or discharge from physical custody with that person then transferring their incarcerated membership to a dues-paying membership of a non-institutional Chapter in their area of residence.

Be It Further Resolved that Veterans For Peace, by recognizing and organizing veterans incarcerated, shall mobilize and assist the segment of the nation's military veterans still paying the social, economic, and spiritual costs of war, adding their significant voice to the struggle of world peace.

Approved at the 2008 VFP national convention

INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING

(Submitted by Barry Hanson and Vern Simula, VFP Chapter 80, Duluth)

Whereas, corporate abuse of power is a root cause of many of our economic, political and environmental problems;

Whereas, corporate abuse of power has severely compromised both our democracy and our sovereignty as a nation state;

Whereas; corporate abuse of power has subverted our free market economic system;

Whereas, the current electoral system of the US does not allow the citizenry to express its preferences adequately;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of Veterans For Peace, at their convention August 17, 2002 call upon the Congress of the US to enact a bill mandating an instant runoff voting system for all Federal elections.

Passed 2002

"INTELLIGENCE FIXING". INQUIRY INTO

(Submitted by VFP Chapter 63, Albuquerque, NM)

Whereas, to date the war against Iraq has cost more than 1700 American lives and tens of thousands of Iraqi lives, and

Whereas, a recent memo from Downing Street, London says that British officials thought that "intelligence and fact were being fixed" in Washington in 2002 to justify a war against Iraq, and

Whereas, Representative John Conyers has generated a petition signed by more than 500,000 people that demands answers from the White House regarding the allegations of “intelligence and facts fixing” contained in the memo and used to coerce the United States to attack Iraq,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Veterans For Peace, Inc. urges its members and the general public to strongly support Representative Conyers’ petition.

Approved at the 2005 national convention, Dallas, TX

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT, RESOLUTION ON
(Submitted by John Kim, Chapter 34, NY)

Whereas, one of the main purposes of Veterans For Peace is to abolish war as an instrument of foreign policy and

Whereas, the international community established the International Criminal Court (ICC) on July 1, 2002 to prosecute those individuals who would commit serious war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide in the future;

Whereas, a successful operation of the ICC will contribute greatly to further development of international justice and peace—deterring future commission of serious war crimes or naked aggression; and

Whereas, the U.S. government is shamefully taking active measures to oppose and undermine the ICC at this time;

Now, Therefore, Veterans for Peace (VFP), meeting at its national convention in Duluth, Minnesota, August 17, 2002,

- 1) Calls upon the US to stop its unjust, short-sighted opposition to the ICC immediately and join the Court at once; and
- 2) Urges all VFP members and chapters to wage an active campaign in support of the ICC.

Passed 2002 – Duluth, MN

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

..That VFP urges the U.S. to promptly ratify the Rome Agreement and actively participate in creating the International Criminal Court.

Board approved, Members concurred.

Approved at the 2000 VFP convention

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC), ACCEDING TO THE
(Submitted by Bruce Wick)

Following the 11 June 2004 suggestion of Chalmers Johnson that “the United States should have ratified the treaty establishing the International Criminal Court,” be it,

Resolved, by Veterans for Peace, in Annual Convention assembled,

that Congress, via joint resolution of House and Senate, accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (UN Doc. A/CONF. 183/9*)¹;

That this Resolution be promptly communicated to all members of Congress; and,

That Veterans for Peace enjoins its members, officers and directors to contact their respective Senators and Representatives in support of this resolution, as well as any other members of Congress with whom they are acquainted.

Approved at the July 2004 VFP convention, Boston, MA

IRAN, OPPOSING MILITARY INTERVENTION IN

(Submitted by Gene Marx -Chapter 111)

Whereas, President Obama and members of his Administration have alleged that Iran poses an imminent threat to the United States, U.S. troops in the Middle East, and U.S. allies, and

Whereas, these allegations are similar to the lead-up to the Iraq War and U.S. Occupation, with the selective use of information and unsubstantiated accusations about Iran's nuclear program and its supply of weapons to Iraqi forces as centerpieces of a case to the American people for aggression against Iran, and

Whereas, the U.S. House of Representatives are currently considering resolution H.R. 1553 green-lighting an attack on the Iranian people by supporting Israel to use all means necessary to "eliminate nuclear threats" posed by Iran, and

Whereas, Iran has not threatened to attack the United States, and no compelling evidence has been presented to document that Iran poses a real and imminent threat to the security and safety of the U.S. that would justify an unprovoked unilateral pre-emptive military attack, and

Whereas, top US military leaders have warned of the many dangers of military strikes against Iran, and

Whereas, we cannot ignore the history of U.S. government misinformation used to inspire U.S. aggression in Vietnam and again in Iraq, as embodied in the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution and more recently in what we know now as false claims of weapons of mass destruction, and

Whereas, Iranian activists have urged that even raising the specter of war undercuts the opposition in Iran, and

Whereas, a pre-emptive U.S. military attack on Iran would violate international law and our commitments under the U.N. Charter and further isolate the U.S. from the rest of the world, and

Whereas, an attack on Iran is likely to inflame hatred for the U.S. in the Middle East and elsewhere, inspire terrorism, and lessen the security of Americans, and

Whereas, the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and occupations have already cost the lives of more 5,600 American service men and women, and countless civilians, and

Whereas, the Iraq and Afghanistan War and occupation has cost U.S. taxpayers more than \$1 trillion, depriving our cities of much-needed funds for services and infrastructure.

Therefore Be It Resolved Veterans For Peace hereby supports diplomatic engagement with Iran on nuclear issues; in pursuit of good faith negotiations toward peaceful resolutions as outlined for signatories of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the United Nations Charter.

Be It Further Resolved that VFP opposes any U.S. or Israeli attack on Iran, and urges the Obama administration to continue to pursue vigorous diplomatic engagement with that nation.

Approved at the 2010 VFP national convention

IRAQ MORATORIUM

(Submitted by Bill Christofferson, VFP Chapter 102. Endorsed by VFP Chapter 102).

Whereas the Iraq Moratorium is a national grassroots movement uniting people and groups who interrupt their daily routines to act on the Third Friday of every month to end the Iraq war and occupation, and

Whereas Veterans for Peace was one of the first national organizations to endorse the Moratorium when it began in September 2007, and

Whereas a number of Veterans for Peace chapters, and individual VFP members across the country, sponsor or participate in monthly Iraq Moratorium actions, and

Whereas the Iraq Moratorium already has sparked more than 1,200 locally-based actions in 41 states and 240 communities and helps build the national antiwar movement by encouraging and challenging members of the silent majority who say they oppose the war to do something to end it.

Therefore Be It Resolved that the 2008 national convention of Veterans for Peace renews its enthusiastic endorsement of the Iraq Moratorium and encourages its members and local chapters to sponsor, organize, and participate in Iraq Moratorium activities on the Third Friday of every month until the war and occupation end.

Approved at the 2008 VFP national convention

IRAQ WAR, END THE - VETERANS CONVOY

(Submitted by Sanford Kelson and Cherie Eichholz)

Whereas, Lieutenant Ehren Watada, addressing the 2006 Veterans For Peace National Convention, observed that the Iraq War has been tearing our country apart and despite the efforts made by countless activists, including many members of VFP, this illegal and immoral war continues destroying lives at a constantly increasing rate;

Whereas, Lt. Watada called for a change in strategy, to wit: to give unconditional support to the soldiers and let them know that resistance to participation in an illegal war is not futile, that they can act on their consciences and that veterans and peace activists would support them;

Whereas, active duty soldiers who resisted and rebelled during the Vietnam War were instrumental in bringing that war to an end;

Whereas, in March 2007, approximately 15 members of VFP, Military Families Speak Out, and Iraq Veterans Against the War participated in a Veterans' Convoy that engaged active duty military personnel on a one-on-one basis in military towns to inform them that VFP will support them in the exercise of their consciences.

Whereas, convoy members distributed “Sir, No Sir!” and “The Ground Truth” videos, a pamphlet explaining the Appeal For Redress and a G.I. Rights pocket card explaining active duty service members’ legal rights to engage in anti-war activities;

Whereas, members of the Veterans’ Convoy who were Iraq veterans stood at the front gates of the military bases wearing desert fatigues displaying signs reading: “Iraq Veterans Against the War,” and “ivaw.org”;

Whereas, the overwhelming response of active duty military personnel and the military communities to convoy participants was positive and was further evidenced by a spike in signing the Appeal For Redress and joining Iraq Veterans Against the War;

Whereas, IVAW conducted a similar convoy in June of 2007, that was equally successful, and

Whereas, staying the course solely with the traditional anti-war efforts is not sufficient.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by a sufficient majority of the members of VFP at a duly convened meeting this 18th of August 2007 in St. Louis, Missouri, as follows:

The Board of Directors of Veterans For Peace is encouraged to actively and vigorously continue the Veterans’ Convoy project as a major effort, to work in solidarity with IVAW, and to invite West Point Graduates Against the War, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Military Families Speak Out, Courage to Resist, the Military Task Force of the National Lawyers Guild and like organizations to join as equals in the project.

Approved as amended by the Board 8/16/07
Approved by the VFP Annual Meeting 8/18/07

IRAQ, END THE OCCUPATION OF (Submitted by Todd Boyle)

Whereas the United States and "coalition" invasion and occupation of Iraq was illegal under international and Constitutional law, unjust according to many major religious and secular groups, and was strategically unwise and remains so today;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans for Peace call on the United States Congress and the President for an immediate end to the illegal military occupation of Iraq.

Approved at the 2003 VFP Convention, San Francisco, CA

IRAQ WAR, OPPOSITION TO (Submitted by Wayne Whitman - John Amidon - Woody Powell)

Whereas the threatened invasion of Iraq by US military forces appears to be imminent, and

Whereas there has been no credible evidence offered that Iraq possesses or is developing weapons of mass destruction with the intention of using them against the US or any other nation—and there is testimony from former UN weapons inspector Scott Ritter, that the UN team concluded that no such capability existed then and is unlikely to exist in the present;

Whereas there has been no credible evidence offered linking Iraq with the terrorist organization Al Qaida or any other terrorist organization threatening the US or any other nation;

Whereas any further military action would only inflict greater injury upon innocent people, mostly civilians, already suffering from unrelenting bombing and sanctions imposed over the last eleven years and would certainly destroy that country's already severely damaged infrastructure;

Whereas any further military action is likely to more deeply undermine our national security by inflaming and adding to the number of those who find our policies at the least objectionable and often criminal;

Whereas further military action against Iraq will place the lives of US military personnel in jeopardy resulting in unnecessary death and injury to them;

Whereas the impending escalation of military action is just one more example of the US habit of applying military force to the solution of political problems, in violation of the UN charter and international law, that has already made us a pariah within most of the international community, including staunch allies of former times:

Therefore be it resolved that Veterans For Peace opposes any military action against Iraq.

Passed 2002

IRAQ, CALL FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS FROM
(Submitted by Wes Hamilton, VFP Chapter 109)

Whereas, the conditions underlying the Authorization for use of Military Force against Iraq Resolution (PL 107-243), have been proven false or declared invalid;

Whereas, the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (also known as the 9-11 Commission), was unable to find any connection between the tragedy of 9-11 and the people of Iraq;

Whereas, the President himself has declared the weapons of mass destruction, one of the pretexts for preemptory action, do not exist:

Whereas, there never was a threat to the security of the United States posed by Saddam Hussein or the people of Iraq;

Whereas, the January elections in Iraq, the election of a National Assembly, and the effort to create a new constitution, all applauded by the President as indications of the birth of democracy in the region, also serve to indicate that Iraq no longer represents a threat, real or imagined, to the security of the United States;

Whereas, the United Nations sanctions, also tied to the weapons of mass destruction and to the regime of Saddam Hussein, and which serve as a secondary basis for the authorization of military action, are no longer valid;

Whereas, the Governor and State Legislature in each state have a particular responsibility to the members of the National Guard, their families and to the community that they serve;

Whereas, the National Guard was created, in part, for the protection of the citizens of state from natural disasters or threats of violence within the state boundaries, as well as to protect the sovereignty of US borders;

Whereas, National Guard troops have been called up in unprecedented numbers to serve on active duty in Iraq;

Whereas, National Guard troops have been poorly equipped and have received only rudimentary training for service in these wars, and are therefore suffering casualties at rates considerably higher than those of regular Army troops;

Whereas, National Guard troops are being subjected to unfair and involuntary extensions of duty well beyond the terms of their enlistment contracts, and their families, employers and communities have had to bear the hardship of accommodating the prolonged absence of the Guard members;

Whereas, the National Guard at home have been decimated by the mobilization of troops for these foreign wars, and whereas, with a disproportionate number of National Guard members in civilian life serving as police officers, firefighters, EMT personnel, prison guards, etc., their absence has left our own communities vulnerable and ill-prepared for any natural disaster or terrorist attack within our states' borders;

Whereas, the prospect of further cuts to federal spending in human services and other local assistance programs, and the threat of additional cuts to the already criminally impoverished Veterans Administration, will place additional demands on currently overstressed state and local social services;

Therefore Be It Resolved: The Veterans For Peace calls for the Governors of the fifty states to exercise their power as Commander-in-Chief of their respective National Guard to publicly compel the President of the United States to justify the continued deployment of National Guard personnel in, or in support of, the military incursion in Iraq, pursuant to PL 107-243, and further to pursue and exhaust every avenue in their power to immediately bring, or cause to be brought home, all National Guard troops presently serving in Iraq, or in training for that war, and to prevent their re-deployment in support thereof.

Approved at the 2006 VFP National Convention

IRAQ WAR, REAFFIRMING OPPOSITION TO

(Submitted by Woody Powell and David Cline)

In the sixteen months since March 2003, when the United States invaded Iraq, the reasons given to justify a preemptive military attack have all proven to be distortions or lies.

The cost in terms of blood and treasure (over 900 US military dead, many thousands wounded, over 150 billion dollars and counting) while unknown tens of thousands of Iraqis have been killed, many more wounded, and their country devastated by the war, the occupation and the resulting violence.

Veterans For Peace, at our 2004 convention, reaffirms our opposition to the continued occupation of Iraq as expressed in previous resolutions, and calls, once again:

1. for the return of our troops to US soil.
2. for the restoration of real sovereignty and the end of the plunder of Iraq by foreign corporations.
3. for the US government to pay for the rebuilding of Iraq through the international community.

Approved at the July 2004 VFP convention, Boston, MA

**IRAQ, BRING THE TROOPS HOME NOW - END THE OCCUPATION OF IRAQ-
MONEY FOR HUMAN NEEDS, NOT WAR- REPEAL THE PATRIOT ACT**

(Submitted by David Welch)

Whereas, the people in Iraq want the US occupation to end, and the US soldiers in Iraq want to come home. We ask: Who is benefiting from this war, and who is paying the price?; and

Whereas, every day, people are dying as a consequence of this illegal occupation... Every day human misery expands in the drive for world Empire and corporate globalization... Every day, jobs are lost and vital social programs that serve and protect working people are being looted and destroyed, as the Bush administration cynically manipulates the so-called "war on terrorism" to carry out the social transfer of wealth from the bottom to the top; and

Whereas, the Bush administration lied to the people, to the Congress, and to the United Nations as it raced to wage war against Iraq. Now tens of thousands of Iraqis and many hundreds of GIs have been killed or maimed – by Rumsfeld's count over 1000 attacks on US forces since May 1st. As the anger of the Iraqi people inevitably grows, the body count on both sides will sharply increase; and

Whereas, as the anti-war movement predicted, the Iraqi people view US forces as colonial occupiers, not liberators. American soldiers are killing and being killed in a war that serves only the interests of U.S. oil monopolies and corporate elites - George W. Bush's real constituents. Soldiers and their families are realizing that high government officials, mostly millionaires who shuttle between corporate boardrooms and government posts, are using U.S. troops as a private security detachment for the multinational corporations' plunder of Iraq's oil riches; and

Whereas, the Pentagon now admits they will have 150,000 troops in Iraq for the "foreseeable future," at a cost of nearly \$4 Billion a month -- on top of the cost of maintaining US troops and bases in 130 other countries – and this rapid rise in the power and reach of the military is closely linked to the unprecedented assault on the civil rights, union rights, benefits (including veterans' benefits), and living standards of working people going on right now in the United States; and

Whereas, the Bush administration - which only came to power due to massive racist disenfranchisement and voting fraud -- has used the excuse of their "endless war" to sponsor a wholesale assault on the Bill of Rights, institutionalize racial profiling, assume extraordinary powers for the Executive branch, and adopt new repressive laws like the Patriot Act; and

Whereas, on October 25, 2003 the anti-war, civil rights, social justice and labor movements – joined in ever increasing numbers by family members of military personnel and veterans and international delegations -- will march on Washington, D.C. to demand an immediate end to the US war and occupation in Iraq, repeal of the Patriot Act, and money for human needs, not for war; therefore be it

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans for Peace, meeting in convention, 8/9/2003, demands: 1) an immediate end to the US/British war and occupation in Iraq – Bring the Troops Home Now; 2) repeal of the Patriot Act and other repressive laws; 3) reordering of national priorities toward the human needs of our people. We need jobs and real security, not militarism and empire-building; and be it further

Be It Further Resolved that Veterans for Peace endorse the October 25, 2003 International March on Washington, D.C. behind the banner: *Bring the Troops Home Now...End the Occupation of Iraq...Repeal the Patriot Act...Money for Human Needs, not for War and Empire.*

Approved at the 2003 VFP Convention, San Francisco, CA

**ISRAELI DEFENSE FORCE ATTACK ON GAZA HUMANITARIAN AID FLOTILLA,
CONDEMNATION OF**

(Submitted by Stephen S. Noetzel -Chapter 69)

Whereas, in humanitarian response to the continuing Israeli blockade preventing all commerce and delivery of civilian goods to Gaza, in the spring of 2010 an international gathering of humanitarian aid ships known as the Gaza Freedom Flotilla was organized by a coalition of over 700 human rights activists for the express purpose of delivering civilian aid cargo to the isolated population of Gaza, and

Whereas, said Flotilla, comprised of some six civilian cargo ships loaded with some 10,000 tons of donated civilian aid goods embarked from Cyprus in late May, and continued on its peaceful mission through the Mediterranean sea toward Gaza, and

Whereas, during the evening of 30 May, the aid Flotilla was intercepted by Israeli warships (in International waters, well beyond any national territorial limits), and ordered not to continue toward Gaza, and

Whereas, leaders of the aid-flotilla clearly and repeatedly communicated to the Israeli Defense Forces that the aid-flotilla carried no weapons or military supplies, and furthermore invited full inspection of the unloading of the humanitarian aid supplies once the flotilla reached Gaza, and

Whereas, the naval IDF responded that the blockade preventing delivery of all cargo to Gaza, civilian, humanitarian or otherwise would be fully enforced, and

Whereas, on the 31st of May, 2010, at approximately 04:30 GMT, (at Latitude:32.64113, Longitude:33.56727" in international waters, some 70 miles from the coast of northern Israel and 90 miles from Gaza), Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) operating from (its) Naval ships and military helicopters, under cover of darkness, instituted an unprovoked commando-style raid on the Egyptian registered cargo ship Mavi Marmara, 'flagship' of the aid-flotilla, and

Whereas, despite pleas by aid-delivery participants who urgently assured IDF forces that their numbers consisted only of non-combatant and peaceful civilians, IDF Commandos rappelled from helicopters to the deck of the aid-flotilla flagship and immediately initiated hostile and aggressive military action against peaceful, unarmed aid-delivery participants, utilizing deadly force, including, but not limited to military small arms, automatic rifles, tear gas, blinding lights and flares, and stun grenades, and

Whereas the IDF commandos quickly escalated the illegal boarding to the perpetuation of violent and ultimately deadly action against the flotilla civilians, and

Whereas said violence escalated to severe beating and the point-blank shooting of unarmed civilians, and ultimately the murder of nine (9) flotilla participants and serious injury to many others;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace officially condemns the aforementioned blatant attack and calls on appropriate members of the Israeli government (and) the US State Department (and) the United Nations Human Rights Commission to join in official condemnation of this unprovoked violence.

Be It Further Resolved that Veterans for Peace calls for an official investigation of the raid under the power and authority of the United Nations' International Court of Justice (ICJ) at the Hague (aka the World Court) to determine if members of the IDF who participated in the raid, and/or members of the Israeli government who authorized the raid should face international criminal charges under international law and under auspices of said court.

Approved at the 2010 VFP national convention

ISRAEL, ENDING MILITARY AID TO
(Submitted by Bob Heberle - Chapter 27)

Whereas, Veterans For Peace has as a Statement Of Purpose, "To abolish war as an instrument of national policy" and military aid to any country is in conflict with that statement, and

Whereas, Noam Chomsky characterized the Israel 2006 attack on Lebanon as he "US-Israel invasion", where 1,000 were killed, mostly Lebanese civilians, and

Whereas, an Israeli commander stated in December 2006 "We fired more than a million cluster bombs in Lebanon and that is widely forbidden by international law Phosphorous and cluster bombs were heavily used", and

Whereas, Israel disproportionately killed 1,300 Palestinians in 2009 in retaliatory attacks on Gaza for the Hamas firing rockets indiscriminately that killed 13 Israelis, six of whom were reported to be civilians, and

Whereas the United States continues to supply military funding that supported the Israeli military attack that killed nine activists during the June humanitarian flotilla to Gaza, and

Whereas, in August 2007, the Bush Administration agreed to increase U.S. military assistance to Israel by \$6 billion over the following decade. Israel is to receive incremental annual increases of \$150 million, starting at \$2.55 billion in FY2009 and reaching \$3.15 billion per year for FY2013-2018, and

Whereas, The U.S. funding that pays for the guns and ammunition, F-16 bombers, and Apache helicopters that are used to carry out Israel's occupation of Palestinian land and people serves neither Israelis, Palestinians, nor Americans, and

Whereas, Israel is the second highest recipient of U.S. military aid after Colombia, and

Whereas the U. S. continues to provide Israel over \$7 million a month that entitles every Israeli free universal health care while U.S. citizens do not have universal government health care;

Therefore Be it Resolved that Veterans For Peace urges the United States government to immediately stop all military aid to Israel.

Approved at the 2010 VFP national convention

ISRAEL, STOP U.S. \$30 BILLION MILITARY AID TO
(Submitted by Charles Powell, Chapter 63)

Whereas Veterans For Peace is an organization which strives for Peace, Justice, and self-determination throughout the world, including the Middle East, and

Whereas the longstanding Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a major flashpoint in international affairs, and

Whereas Veterans For Peace has previously...

- Called for immediate removal of the wall from all Palestinian lands
- Called for dismantlement of all Israeli settlements on the West Bank and Gaza
- Called for the end of the Israeli military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza
- Called for the return of Israel to its 1967 borders as mandated by UN resolution 242
- Called for internationally supervised negotiations for the creation of an independent Palestinian state and for resolution of all related issues of security and for the refugees "right to return," and

Whereas the people of the region continue to suffer because of the prolonged militarization of the conflict, and

Whereas the United States is the largest single source of political, financial, and military assistance to Israel, and

Whereas the United States and Israel signed a Memorandum of Understanding in August 2007 committing the U.S. to give Israel \$30 billion more in military aid over the next decade, and

Whereas the military and financial support of one party over another, in hostilities of this long duration does not serve the interests of peace,

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace calls for the U.S. government to cancel the dangerous August 2007 Memorandum of Understanding and stop the additional \$30 billion in military aid to Israel.

Approved at the 2009 VFP national convention

ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT, ARAB LEAGUE PROPOSAL TO NEGOTIATE IN

(Submitted by Mike Woloshin, Chicago Area VFP Chapter 26)

Whereas it has long been the position of Veterans for Peace, expressed through numerous prior Convention Resolutions, that the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict must be resolved in a manner in which both Palestinian and Israeli states co-exist in peace, and

Whereas in order to achieve this objective, Israel must withdraw from the occupied territories to mutually agreed to borders with the future Palestinian state in return for peace, and

Whereas the Arab League has offered to negotiate with Israel, on the basis of its 2002 proposal, for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories to mutually agreed to borders for the future Palestinian state, the establishment of the Palestinian state and a mutually agreed to solution to the issue of re-settlement of Palestinian refugees, in return for peace with and diplomatic recognition of Israel

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans for Peace shall support and encourage the efforts of the Arab League to negotiate a solution to the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict in which both Palestinian and Israeli states co-exist in peace and the issue of re-settlement of Palestinian refugees is resolved by mutual agreement, and

Be It Further Resolved that the President and Members of the Board of Directors of Veterans for Peace shall draft a letter to the representatives of the Arab League, expressing the support of Veterans for Peace for the efforts of the Arab League to negotiate a peaceful solution to the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict.

Approved by the Board 8/16/07

Approved by the VFP Annual Meeting 8/18/07

ISRAEL - PALESTINE PEACE

Whereas the Middle East conflict continues to cause loss of life for Palestinians and Israelis and

Whereas continuation of this conflict threatens the security of the world and

Whereas the efforts of the U.S. to mediate a peace treaty have been rebuffed by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, and

Whereas Prime Minister Sharon refuses to withdraw from occupation of the Palestine Territories

Therefore, in the recognition of the absolute need for Palestine and Israel to co-exist in Peace, Veterans For Peace calls for the US government to cut off all economic and military aid to the state of Israel until the following conditions are met:

1. The withdrawal of all Israeli presence to the boundaries defined by UN Resolution 242.
2. The establishment of a Palestinian State in the now-occupied territory.
3. The return of Israel to its original borders.

Approved 2002

ISRAEL - PALESTINE PEACE

(Submitted by Gene Glazer, VFP Chapter 21 North Jersey)

Whereas the conflict between Palestine and Israel continues to threaten the security and safety of the Middle East and

Whereas the presence of Israel is protected and ensured by the economic, military and political aid provided by the United States and

Whereas the military and financial support of one party over another, in hostilities of this long duration does not serve the interests of peace

Therefore in the recognition of the absolute need for Palestine and Israel to co-exist in peace, Veterans for Peace calls for the United States government:

- 1 - To support full U.N. statehood for the nation of Palestine
- 2 -To provide the necessary aid and assistance for the state of Palestine to survive and prosper
- 3 - To support U.N. efforts for the return of Israel to its 1967 borders as called for in Resolution 242

4 - To support the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the now occupied territories

Approved at the 2003 VFP convention, San Francisco, CA

ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

(Submitted by Gene Glazer, VFP Chapter 21)

Whereas it has been the long standing position of Veterans For Peace that a just and lasting peace between Palestine and Israel must be based upon the Palestinian peoples national right to an independent state and Israel's right to a secure existence, and

Whereas the construction of the barrier wall on Palestinian land by the Sharon government is counter-productive to the above stated goal, and

Whereas the International Court of Justice has ruled that the wall being built on Palestinian land is a "de facto annexation" and is illegal;

Therefore VFP calls for:

- 1 - The immediate removal of the wall from all Palestinian lands
- 2 - Dismantlement of all Israeli settlements on the West Bank and Gaza
- 3 - The end to the military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza by the Israeli Defense Force
- 4 - The return of Israel to its 1967 borders as mandated by UN resolution 242
- 5 - Internationally supervised negotiations for the creation of an independent Palestinian state and all related issues of security and the refugees "right to return"

Additionally Veterans For Peace expresses our solidarity with those Israeli military personnel who have taken a stand of conscience and refuse to participate in the occupation of Palestine.

Approved at the July 2004 VFP convention, Boston, MA

ISRAEL, RESOLUTION TO SANCTION IN SUPPORT OF U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

(Submitted by Jack Dresser - Chapter 92)

Whereas, the U.S. Arms Export Control Act prohibits non-defensive use of U.S.-supplied weapons, and

Whereas, Israel has launched massive, brutal and disproportionate violence and infrastructure destruction with U.S.-supplied weapons against the largely helpless population of Gaza as collective punishment, violating the Fourth Geneva Convention and other international laws, and

Whereas, Israel has attacked an unarmed humanitarian flotilla on the high seas with U.S.-supplied weapons, violating the UN Convention on the Laws of the Seas and the sovereignty of the U.S.-flagged Challenger 1 vessel, killing nine human rights activists including one American aboard the Mavi Marmara, and subjecting citizens of 40 countries including the United States to illegal abduction, torture, imprisonment and property theft, and

Whereas, Israel has attacked, intercepted, boarded and seized other Free Gaza vessels and their humanitarian cargoes in international waters in violation of international maritime law, and abducted, transported to Israel and imprisoned American citizens including former congresswoman and Green Party presidential candidate Cynthia McKinney and former U.S. diplomat and VFP member Colonel Ann Wright, and

Whereas, the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act prohibits foreign aid to any nation engaging in a consistent pattern of human rights violations, and

Whereas, Israel has continued to defy U.N. Resolutions 194, 242 and 338 demanding withdrawal to its pre-1967 borders and return of all U.N.-registered refugees to their homes as required under Articles 13 and 17 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and

Whereas, Israel has continued to impose limitations on mobility, association, commerce, property ownership, land use, marriage, and access to educational, medical and other community resources through discriminatory laws and policies, a wall determined illegal by the International Court of Justice, a network of Jewish-only roads that Palestinians cannot cross, and some 700 roadblocks and checkpoints in the West Bank, violating the Fourth Geneva Convention and Articles 13, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22 and 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and

Whereas, Israel has destroyed over 24,000 Palestinian homes and over 300,000 Palestinian olive and fruit trees that provided the agricultural base of the Palestinian economy, and continues to confiscate privately owned Palestinian properties in East Jerusalem in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and Articles 17 and 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and

Whereas, Israel violates Palestinians' rights to life, liberty and security required by Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, having killed 1,449 Palestinian children since September 2000 and maintained a consistent population of over 8,000 Palestinian political prisoners under their military occupation system, and

Whereas, Israel violates Palestinians' rights to equality, justice and protection from mistreatment under the law required by Articles 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 20 and 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, applying separate, unequal and discriminatory legal systems for Jews and non-Jews within both Israel and the West Bank, and

Whereas, Israel has ignored the long-standing offer of the Arab League, including Hamas, to provide diplomatic recognition and guaranteed security to Israel upon compliance with UN resolutions 194, 242 and 338, thereby prolonging its violation of Palestinian human rights, and

Whereas, Israel has refused to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and intends to increase its nuclear weapons stockpile with U.S. "cooperation" - as recently reported by the Israeli newspaper Haaretz citing Israeli Army Radio - which would cause U.S. violation of our commitments to the NPT and thereby violation of Article VI of the U.S. Constitution defining our treaty obligations as "the Supreme Law of the Land,"

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace shall recommend that:

(1) all military aid be withheld from Israel under the Arms Export Control Act, including any transfer of U.S. nuclear materials or technology; and

(2) all other foreign aid be conditional upon Israel's compliance with international law, in particular the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Fourth

Geneva Convention and long-established international laws of armed conflict, United Nations resolutions, and Israel's duties as a United Nations member state; and

(3) the United States discontinue its protection of Israel from international justice through use of United Nations Security Council vetoes, and

(4) VFP endorses the Palestinian civil society call for international Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions.

Be It Further Resolved that the Executive Director is requested to, within thirty days, issue for broad media distribution a press release publicizing this resolution.

Approved at the 2010 VFP national convention

IVINS, RAISE HELL FOR MOLLY, CAMPAIGN TO BRING OUR TROOPS HOME NOW
(Submitted by Robert Manning)

Whereas, Molly Ivins was a nationally syndicated columnist in over 400 newspapers who had hundreds of thousands of mainstream readers that are against the US occupation of Iraq.

Whereas, in her very last public column, Molly called for every citizen in this country to protest Bush's surge policy, to hit the streets, bang pots and pans and raise hell to demand that Congress act to end the US occupation. of Iraq.

Whereas, the Raise Hell for Molly Ivins Campaign has been created to reach out to the 7 out of 10 Americans that want our troops home now, to organize them to join pots and pans protests at the local offices of their members of Congress, and help them to raise hell until Congress acts effectively to end the US occupation of Iraq.

Whereas, the Raise Hell for Molly Ivins Campaign has developed a website (www.raisehellformollyivins.org); a video comprised of Members of the famous San Francisco Mime Troupe; a national; songwriting contest entitled: "The Ballad of Molly Ivins" with well known judges, and a growing number of monthly demonstrations at the local offices of members of Congress on the third Friday of every month.

Whereas, the Raise Hell for Molly Ivins Campaign needs help in its efforts to reach out to ordinary Americans, organize the unorganized, and expand the number of monthly pots and pans protests at Congressional offices in cities and towns throughout the United States.

Therefore, be it resolved that the members of this national convention of Veterans for Peace as a body, fully endorses, supports, and recommends to every chapter throughout the United States create a Chapter Initiative to join the Raise Hell for Molly Ivins Campaign to create a regular and accessible opportunity for people in their local areas to speak out and act to bring our troops home now.

Approved by the Board 8/16/07

Approved by the VFP Annual Meeting 8/18/07

J

JAPAN, ARTICLE 9 OF THE JAPANESE CONSTITUTION

“...that VFP investigate and take a position to advocate for Japan to keep their constitution as a model for all nations to emulate and adopt for themselves. In this regard, VFP opposes the current attempt to revise the U.S.-Japan Security Guidelines.”

Approved at the 1999 VFP Convention, Philadelphia, PA

JAPANESE CONSTITUTION, SUPPORT FOR THE ENDANGERED ARTICLE 9 OF THE
(Submitted by Chuck Overby)

Whereas one of the five goals in Veterans For Peace's (VFP) "Statement Of Purpose" is -- "To abolish war as an instrument of national policy."

Whereas the world's most significant legal expression of this goal exists as Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, "... the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes." Article 9 abolishes war for Japan.

Whereas the Japanese and the United States governments have been overtly and covertly, in Orwellian ways, working for the past half century to destroy Article 9 and make it easier for the USA to harness Japan's so-called "Self-Defense-Force" (SDF) to be America's surrogate military force in "situational" (not geographical) areas surrounding Japan.

Whereas millions of Japanese people who love Article 9 and wish to keep it alive – are growing tired and discouraged by these massive efforts to rid the world of this treasure. These dear people are losing hope and desperately need our encouragement.

Therefore, be it resolved that Veterans For Peace proclaim to Japanese people – "We as a body share your love for the wisdom and ideal that is Article 9. We encourage you in your non-violent efforts to keep your and the US government from killing it. We join you in seeing Article 9 as having arisen like a Phoenix out of the ashes and holocausts of World War II, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki – and as humanity's cry for an end to the obscene brutality that is war. We share with you, dear Japanese friends, your vision that Article 9 is Earth's living model for 'rules-of-law' to replace 'rules-of-war.' "

Approved at the July 2004 VFP convention, Boston, MA

JROTC – DISCONTINUANCE OF IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
(Submitted by Don Thompson, Gen. George Marshall VFP Chapter 63)

...That VFP opposes Junior Reserve Officer Training (JROTC) in the public schools of the U.S. and calls for their discontinuance.

Approved at the 2000 VFP convention

JROTC, REMOVE JROTC AND MILITARY RECRUITERS FROM OUR SCHOOLS
(Submitted by John Amidon, Tom Paine Chapter 10, Albany, NY)

This resolutions calls upon the membership of Veterans for Peace to work together to remove Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) and military recruiters from public schools. As Veterans we have sworn to defend and uphold the Constitution of the United States from both foreign and domestic enemies.

JROTC teaches that the government gives the citizens its rights. This is a complete perversion of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence and for this reason alone, JROTC and military recruiters need to be removed from our schools.

However it get worse. The purpose of JROTC and military recruitment in our schools is the exploitation of children by adults for the purposes of violence. Conditioning our young to unquestionably accept the nobility of war and the correctness and virtue of killing as a solution to problems creates successive generations of confused, fearful and deadly young. Incapable of thoughtful or critical thinking and without a foundation in ethical behavior and integrity, without even a cursory understanding of our Constitution and Bill of Rights our young are easily manipulated to violate that what they have sworn to defend. JROTC works to undermine the Constitution of the United States and creates a class of uneducated young.

Policy Memorandum 50 of the U.S. Army Recruiting Command clearly demonstrates JROTC is in fact a recruiting program. Concerning military recruiters a growing body of evidence supports the fact military recruiters are lying to our children to enlist them. Promises of education, college, job skills, duty stations and a host of other rewards are offered and often cannot be deliver. Diplomas are manufactured. Some students are threatened and coerced.

Clearly as veterans sworn to defend the Constitution of the United States of America, it is our responsibility to remove JROTC and military recruiters from our schools. Clearly as responsible parents and citizens it is our obligation to protect children, not to support their exploitation by adults who promote violence.

Finally as mature and seasoned Veterans and citizens who have both experienced the horrors and futility of war, we understand the importance and role of high quality education to maintain both a Republic and Democracy. JROTC and military recruiters in public schools are the antithesis and profoundly undermine what is good and great about the United States of America.

Therefore be it resolved that Veterans For Peace will work to remove JROTC and military recruiters from our schools.

Approved at the 2003 VFP Convention, San Francisco, CA

K

KOREA

(Submitted by John Kim, Woody Powell, Chuck Overby and S. Brian Willson – VFP Korea Committee)

Whereas, we are now observing the 50th anniversary of the Korean War;

Whereas, the undeclared Korean War is still continuing to this day due to the lack of a peace treaty or a permanent peace settlement between the U.S. and North Korea;

Whereas, the U.S. owes a heavy responsibility for the artificial division of Korea in 1945, establishment of a separate government in South Korea in 1948, the horrendous bombing and killing of some three million Korean civilians during the Korean War, the fanning of arms race and tensions on the Korean peninsula, and the continuous interference in the internal affairs of the Korean people;

Whereas, government leaders of South and North Korea have held a historic summit meeting and issued a Joint Declaration on June 15, 2000, promising to achieve a peaceful reunification of their country on their own initiative through mutual exchanges and cooperation; and

Whereas, the continued presence of U.S. military in South Korea has been a major source of tension, arms race and rising anti-American sentiment in Korea due to the commission of numerous crimes against South Korean civilians, including the tragic killing of two high school girls by a U.S. armored vehicle on June 13, 2002;

Now, Therefore, Veterans for Peace (VFP), meeting at its national convention in Duluth, Minnesota, August 17, 2002,

Calls upon our government to stop all threats of pre-emptive military strikes against North Korea and enter into serious negotiations with North Korea to end the Korean War officially by signing a peace treaty and normalizing our relations with North Korea;

Extends our support and solidarity to the Korean peoples' just struggle to achieve an independent, peaceful reunification of Korea through their own efforts without foreign interference;

Calls for the immediate re-start of the withdrawal of our 37,000 troops from South Korea;

4) Calls upon our government to honor the right of the South Korean government to prosecute U.S. military personnel stationed in Korea who are accused of crimes against Korean civilians.

5) Calls upon our government to establish an independent commission to investigate the U.S. war crimes committed in Korea and provide a formal apology and reparation to the Korean victims of U.S. war crimes, including the civilian victims of No Gun Ri massacre in South Korea; and

Urges all VFP members and other fellow Americans to wage an active campaign to realize a permanent peace and reconciliation in Korea.

KOREAN PEACE DELEGATION TO KOREA

(Submitted by Wayne Wittman, VFP Chapter 27, Endorsed by VFP Chapter 27)

Whereas the United States was a primary participant in the Korean War being actively engaged in military actions from June 1950 to July 1953 at which time an eagerly sought after military truce was finally agreed to and initiated, and

Whereas the truce has successfully ceased military war actions but a formal peace treaty has never been agreed to and Korea has continually been divided with a great deal of hostility, and

Whereas, the United States government has branded the Peoples Democratic Republic of Korea as a terrorist state and listed the country as a member of the "Axis of Evil", and

Whereas there has recently been actions to encourage the promotion of efforts to develop the normalization of relations between the People's Democratic Republic of Korea and the United States.

Therefore Be It Resolved that the National Veterans For Peace encourage actions, through the VFP Korean Peace Committee, to authorize a delegation to visit the Peoples Democratic Republic of Korea with the intent to promote solidarity and bilateral efforts to stimulate the

development of normalization of relations between the governments of the two countries. It is understood that any cost for such a delegation will be borne by the members of the delegation itself.

Approved at the 2008 VFP national convention

KOREA, WITHDRAW FROM

(Submitted by VFP-Korea Peace Campaign - Tom Kennedy, Peter Shaw, Ted Hughes, Chuck Overby, and John Kim)

Whereas, the U.S. military in Korea is in the process of relocating its main headquarters and northern military bases to Pyeongtaek(Camp Humphreys), another U.S. base below Seoul;

Whereas, the U.S. military is in the process of expanding its Pyeongtaek military base to about 6,560 acres, doubling the current size;

Whereas, the South Korean military and police forces are carrying out the wishes of the U.S. government by expropriating the farm land in Pyeongtaek, against the wishes of some 70 farming families who want to stay on their land and villages;

Whereas, on May 4, 2006, the South Korean authority used some 15,000 police and military personnel to demolish an elementary school at Daechu-ri, Pyeongtaek and put barbed wire fence around the local farm land to be used for the base expansion;

Whereas, on the same day, more than 500 farmers and their supporters were arrested and some 300 persons were beaten and injured in the forcible occupation of the farm land;

Whereas, the primary reason for the relocation of the U.S. military bases to Pyeongtaek is to make it easier for the U.S. to launch a preemptive military attack on North Korea; and

Whereas, the relocation plan may cost several billion dollars for the U.S. and South Korean government;

Now therefore it is hereby resolved that Veterans For Peace (VFP), meeting at its national convention in Seattle, Washington, August 12, 2006,

- 1) Extends its warm solidarity and support to the courageous Korean farmers in Pyeongtaek who are justly resisting the U.S. military expansion there;
- 2) Calls upon the U.S. government to shut down its 100 military bases in South Korea and bring our troops home now, instead of relocating them below Seoul;
- 3) Organizes an official VFP delegation to Pyeongtaek this year to investigate the situation and show our solidarity with the struggling farmers there; and
- 4) Communicates this resolution to members of Congress and the White House.

Approved at the 2006 VFP National Convention

KOREA

(Submitted by John Kim and W. George Johnson)

Whereas, we are now observing the 51st anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War;

Whereas, the Korean War is still continuing to this day due to the lack of a peace treaty or a permanent peace settlement between the U.S. and North Korea;

Whereas, the Pentagon's report on the Nogun-ri massacre was a "whitewash" and merely a tip of the iceberg; and

Whereas, the U.S. owes a heavy responsibility toward Korean people for the artificial division of their country, the horrendous bombing and killing of some three million Korean civilians during the War, the fanning of the arms race and tension on the Korean peninsula, and the continuous interference in the internal affairs of the Korean people;

Therefore Be It Resolved by Veterans for Peace (VFP), assembled at its national convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico, August 25, 2001, that:

VFP calls upon the U.S. government to take active measures to bring the Korean War to an end by signing a peace treaty and normalizing our relations with North Korea;

VFP calls upon the U.S. government to take steps to withdraw our 37,000 troops from S. Korea and reduce billions of dollars per year in military spending;

VFP calls upon the U.S. Congress to set up an independent commission to investigate into the U.S. war crimes committed during the Korean War; conduct and

VFP urges members to organize special forums on the Korean War and participate in future peace missions of VFP to Korea.

Approved at the 2001 VFP convention

KOREA, RESOLUTION ON

(Submitted by VFP-Korea Peace Campaign)

Whereas, it was recently announced that the two government leaders of Korea will hold a second inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang, North Korea on August 28-30;

Whereas, the U.S. military is going to stage another major military exercise in South Korea under the name of "Ulchi Focus Lens" (UFL) from August 20 to 31, 2007;

Whereas, the UFL is the world's largest computer-driven war-fighting command post exercise, involving some 10,000 troops from all branches of the U.S. military—including 5,000 troops and numerous new weapons from outside of Korea—as well as an unknown number of South Korean troops;

Whereas, such major U.S. military exercises in South Korea each year raise military tensions on the Korean Peninsula unnecessarily; and

Whereas, going forward with the 2007 UFL at this time would be counterproductive to creating a favorable environment for the upcoming inter-Korean summit and the Six-Party Talks on denuclearization of Korea;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace (VFP), meeting at its national convention in St. Louis, Missouri, August 18, 2007,

- 1) Welcomes the historic, second inter-Korean summit with our best wishes for further success in promoting peace, reconciliation and cooperation in Korea;
- 2) Condemns the 2007 UFL war game and urges the U.S. to stop all other major military exercises in South Korea in the future;

- 3) Decides to fax a copy of this resolution to the U.S. government and the two government leaders of Korea; and
- 4) Encourages VFP members and local chapters to send a copy of this resolution to their Representatives and Senators in Congress.

KOREA

(Submitted by John Kim - Gordon Chapman - Gary Campbell - Roy Wolff -George McAnanama)

Whereas, we are observing this year the 50th anniversary of the Korean Armistice Agreement that halted the horrific fighting of the Korean War;

Whereas, there is an increasing danger of reviving the Korean War due to the reckless policy of the Bush administration that seriously undermines the Armistice Agreement;

Whereas, the government and people of South and North Korea have been trying to promote a peaceful reunification of their divided country through mutual exchanges and cooperation since the historic summit meeting of the two Korean leaders in June 2000;

Whereas, the continued presence of some 37,000 U.S. troops in South Korea has been a major source of military tension and an arms race, crimes, wasted spending in billions of tax dollars, and an obstacle to self-determination of Korean people; and

Whereas, North Korea (DPRK) has expressed its willingness to end the Korean War and normalize its relations with the United States by signing a non-aggression or peace treaty;

Now, Therefore, Veterans for Peace (VFP), meeting at its national convention in San Francisco, California, August 9, 2003,

Extends our sincere support and solidarity to the Korean people for their just struggle to achieve an independent, peaceful reunification of Korea through their own initiatives without foreign interferences;

Calls upon the Bush administration to stop all military buildups in Korea as well as threats of preemptive military strikes, including the first use of "Mini-Nukes," against North Korea;

Calls upon the U.S. government to take immediate steps to end the Korean War by replacing the shaky Armistice Agreement with a permanent peace settlement through direct negotiations with North Korea, and bring our troops home from Korea finally; and

Calls upon the U.S. Congress to establish an independent Korea commission to investigate the U.S. war crimes or crimes against humanity committed in Korea since 1945 and make recommendations for a just redress for the Korean victims

Approved at the 2003 VFP Convention, San Francisco, CA

KOREA

(Submitted by VFP-Korea Peace Campaign, John Kim, Chuck Overby and Roy Wolff)

Whereas, we are observing this year the 51st anniversary of the Korean War-Armistice Agreement that halted the horrific fighting in Korea on July 27, 1953;

Whereas, the U.S. owes a heavy responsibility for the gross suffering of the Korean people by its arbitrary division of Korea in 1945, maintenance of the two Koreas by its military occupation

of South Korea (ROK) and continuing nuclear blackmails against North Korea (DPRK) since 1950;

Whereas, the government and people of South and North Korea have been trying to achieve a peaceful reunification of their divided country through mutual exchanges and cooperation since the historic summit meeting of the two Korean leaders in June 2000;

Whereas, the continued presence of some 40,000 U.S. troops in South Korea has been a major source of military tension and arms race in the Far East, crimes against Koreans, wasted military spending in billions of our tax dollars, and obstacles to the self-determination of the Korean people; and

Whereas, North Korea has expressed its willingness to end the Korean War, give up its nuclear weapons program and normalize its relations with the United States;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans for Peace (VFP), meeting at its national convention in Boston, Massachusetts, July 24, 2004,

- 1) Extends its warm support and solidarity to the Korean people in their just struggle to realize an independent and peaceful reunification of Korea on their own initiatives without foreign interferences;
- 2) Calls upon the Bush administration to stop all military buildups in and around South Korea and all threats of preemptive military strikes, including the first use of "mini-Nukes," against North Korea;
- 3) Calls upon the U.S. government to take immediate steps to end the lingering Korean War, by replacing the shaky Armistice Agreement with a permanent peace settlement through direct negotiations with North Korea, and bring our troops home from Korea finally;
- 4) Calls upon the U.S. Congress to establish an Independent Commission on the Korean War to investigate the U.S. war crimes committed during the War and to make recommendations for a just redress for the Korean victims of the war crimes; and
- 5) Calls upon the VFP members and local chapters as well as other American people to join in and support the Korea Peace Campaign for a permanent peace, reconciliation and friendship between the people of Korea and the United States.

This resolution supplements a resolution adopted by the 2003 convention

Approved at the July 2004 VFP convention



LABOR RESOLUTION

(Submitted by Wayne Wittman and Ben Chitty)

Whereas Veterans For Peace has long supported the labor movement in the United States, with individual members active in U.S. Labor Against the War, and with the national organization and chapters recognizing trade union principles by adopting policies regarding the use of union made goods and services; and

Whereas Veterans For Peace recognizes that the right to organize is a fundamental principle for self-determination; and

Whereas trade unions have been under vicious and prolonged assault from employers, corporations, courts, and politicians, both here in the United States where the "right to work" means lower wages and loss of medical insurance and pensions, and in Iraq where the United States has prohibited the formation of free trade unions

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace endorses and supports the rights of workers to organize trade unions and political parties in the United States as well as in Iraq and elsewhere; and acknowledges the AFL-CIO Resolution at their 2005 convention to End The Occupation in Iraq and Bring Our Troops Home, and

Be It Further Resolved that Veterans For Peace encourages and supports the inclusion of labor activists, caucuses, and unions within the broader coalition of individuals and organizations working to end the United States occupation of Iraq, and for peace and social justice; and

Be It Further Resolved that Veterans For Peace encourages its members who belong to trade unions to promote and support efforts within their unions to declare opposition to the war in Iraq, to demand decent treatment for soldiers, reservists, and veterans, and to practice real international labor solidarity by denouncing and abandoning such covert operations as the recent use of the AFL-CIO's Solidarity Center to funnel funds from the so-called National Endowment for Democracy to groups plotting to overthrow the legitimate government of Venezuela.

Approved at the 2005 national convention, Dallas, TX

LABOR, VETERANS AND

(Submitted by John Cunningham - Chapter 101 & SEIU Local 715, Ben Chitty - Chapter 060 & AFT Local 2334, Paul Cox - Chapter 069 & UBCJ, Michael Uhl - Chapter 001 & UAW Local 1981)

Whereas, our government fights wars with young men and women enlisted out of poor, immigrant, and working class communities with promises of education and health care; deploys weapons and tactics which kill and maim mostly working people by so-called collateral damage and friendly fire as well as hostile action; and pays for these wars by raising taxes on working people or reducing spending on health care, education, and other social programs; and

Whereas, many labor activists have recognized that our government's declarations of endless war threaten the lives, livelihoods and civil rights of working people, have organized to oppose the invasion and occupation of Iraq, have formed the group US Labor Against the War (USLAW), and have called for a national Labor Assembly for Peace; and

Whereas, rank-and-file trade unionists are often misled into supporting wars and foreign adventures against their political and economic interests out of a sense of patriotic duty and a heartfelt desire to support their husbands, wives, sisters, brothers, sons, and daughters serving in the Armed Forces; and

Whereas, US Labor Against the War has called on veterans and military family members in the labor movement to affirm that opposing bad policy is patriotic, to explain the real problems in military life and how veterans are treated, and to declare that the best way to support our troops is to bring them home alive and well, and to bring them home now;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans for Peace recognizes the importance of (working

people)) as a force for peace and social justice, supports the development of activists for peace within the labor movement, and recognizes the role that antiwar veterans can play within the ranks of labor; and

Be It Further Resolved that Veterans for Peace endorses and supports USLAW's Call to Veterans and Military Family Members in the Labor Movement as published on the website www.uslaboragainstar.org; and

Be It Further Resolved that Veterans for Peace shall encourage all trade unionists and labor activists within its membership to consider endorsing the USLAW call and signing up to speak for peace and for veterans rights at union meetings and labor events, and to join (or start) peace caucuses or committees within their own unions; and

Be It Further Resolved that Veterans for Peace shall urge local chapters to establish liaisons with local antiwar labor groups and USLAW affiliates to provide mutual support and explore joint activities; and

Be It Further Resolved that Veterans for Peace shall designate a national liaison to USLAW, and shall assign a delegation, observer, speaker, or other appropriate representative(s) to the national Labor Assembly for Peace to be held October 24-25, 2003, in Chicago.

Approved at the 2003 VFP Convention, San Francisco, CA

LAND MINE TREATY, OTTAWA

"...VFP calls upon the Clinton Administration to sign The Ottawa Land mine Treaty now, without further delay or excuse; and...VFP shall be active in advocacy work for the Treaty, against production of anti-personnel land mines by U.S. companies, participation in de-mining activities, and educational outreach work on the danger of land mines or similar weapons."

Approved at the 1999 VFP Convention, Philadelphia, PA

LANDMINES, ANTIPERSONNEL

(Submitted by John Kim, Chapter 34, New York)

Whereas, antipersonnel landmines are a weapon of indiscriminate terror in violation of international humanitarian law, inflicting horrible injuries on civilians and soldiers alike, not only during war but also in peacetime;

Whereas, antipersonnel landmines are also a weapon of mass destruction in slow motion, killing or wounding some 20,000 people around the world each year;

Whereas, 143 nations have already signed the Ottawa Ban Landmines Treaty banning use of antipersonnel landmines, and that Treaty went into effect on March 1, 1999; and

Whereas, the U.S. government has so far refused to join the Treaty, even though it is the only remaining superpower with the most advanced weapons;

Now, Therefore Veterans for Peace (VFP), meeting at its national convention in Duluth, Minnesota, August 17, 2002, calls upon our government to join the Ottawa Ban Landmines Treaty at once, without further delay or excuse; and

Calls upon our government to remove and destroy all antipersonnel landmines

planted or in stockpile at home or abroad; and

Urges the Congress to pass a bill outlawing all U.S. production, stockpiling or use of antipersonnel landmines.

Passed 2002

LANDMINES, ANTI-PERSONNEL

...That VFP calls on President Clinton to accede to the Ottawa Treaty at once, without excuse or delay. That VFP calls upon Congress to outlaw all production and stockpile of antipersonnel landmines in the U.S. And that a copy of this resolution be mailed to the President and all members of Congress.

Board approved. Members concurred.
2000 Convention

LEBANON, RESOLUTIONS ON

Resolution 1

Whereas the human costs of the current conflict in Lebanon have been overwhelming,

And whereas Hezbollah fighters continue to fire rockets at cities in northern Israel and while ground combat is takes place in southern Lebanon,

And whereas the totally disproportionate use of force and violence and the indiscriminate destruction of infrastructure by the IDF is a clear violation of international prohibitions against collective punishment and injunctions to protect civilian lives and property,

Therefore be it resolved that Veterans For Peace universally condemns the targeting of civilians by both sides and calls for the United States Government to support an immediate cease-fire and promote negotiations involving all concerned parties to resolve all border disputes and prisoner release issues.

Resolution 2

Whereas the occupation of Lebanese territory by the Israeli Defense Forces constitutes a clear violation of the sovereignty of Lebanon,

Therefore be it resolved that Veterans for Peace calls for the United States Government to use the diplomatic and economic means at its disposal to secure a removal of IDF forces from Lebanese territory. A resolution on Gaza is not in order because the 2004 convention approved a resolution which included the following:

Whereas the International Court of Justice has ruled that the wall being built on Palestinian land is a "de facto annexation" and is illegal;

Therefore VFP calls for:

1 - The immediate removal of the wall from all Palestinian lands

- 2 - Ddismantlement of all Israeli settlements on the West Bank and Gaza
- 3 - The end to the military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza by the Israeli Defense Force
- 4 -The return of Israel to its 1967 borders as mandated by UN resolution 242
- 5 - Internationally supervised negotiations for the creation of an independent Palestinian state and all related issues of security and the refugees "right to return"

Approved at the 2006 VFP National Convention

LEE, REPRESENTATIVE BABBARA - VFP SALUTES FOR COURAGE

(Submitted by VFP Chapter 27-Minnesota)

Whereas, The Black Radical Congress Stated on September 28, 2001, "(We) salute representative Barbara Lee for your courageous stand in opposing the House resolution (64) to provide the U.S. President carte blanche in responding militarily to the horrific events of September 11, 2001. It is an infamous act of violence that brings grief and fear to all decent people at home and abroad. While most of our elected officials beat the war drums and promise to spill the blood of even more people - somewhere, or anywhere - it takes a person with an extraordinary level of integrity and political grit to stand alone against the jingoism that is sweeping the nation. You are proving to have such courage and we are proud that you have raised your voice for peace and justice at this time of crisis"

And, whereas, The "San Jose Mercury News" editorial, October 1, 2001 stated, "The first blast of intolerance hit Oakland Congresswoman Barbara Lee. The only lawmaker to vote against President Bush's mandate to use "all necessary and appropriate force" against terrorists, Lee was branded unpatriotic and worse by people who believe this country must move in lockstep at times like these.- - - - As we move to defend America against terrorism, it's helpful to keep in mind the reasons it's worth defending. The right to free speech should be high on the list. People who dare to go against the mainstream and speak their minds are not un-American. They're as American as they can be."

And, whereas Rep. Lee condemns the large military budget developed at the expense of valuable social programs such as Head Start and education,

And whereas, Representative Lee opposes the administration's plans to increase nuclear threats and use,

And, whereas, Rep. Barbara Lee has long been an ardent supporter of arms control and peaceful solutions to international problems. She has been a staunch opponent of missile defense deployment, working to block the National Missile Defense Act, which called for deployment "as soon as technologically possible." She spoke out against a politically motivated congressional resolution commending military contractors for an allegedly successful intercept test of the missile defense system,

And, whereas, in 1998, she was one of only five members of the House to vote against authorizing the bombing of Iraq over its refusal to allow weapons inspections by the United Nations. In 1999, she was the only member of the House to vote against sending US forces into Yugoslavia

And, whereas Rep. Lee, is the daughter of a retired U.S Army officer,

Therefore, Veterans For Peace, at its 2003 convention, extends its deepest appreciation to Representative Barbara Lee for her courage and patriotism to stand alone September 15, 2001, to vote against Congress's granting of almost unlimited war authority to George W. Bush.

Approved at the 2003 VFP convention, San Francisco, CA

LETHAL WEAPONS, DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF MORE AND NEW

...a resolution to our Congressional members.we urge you (Congressional members) to vote for the cessation of funding for the development of the so-called electronic or Metal Storm gun.”

Approved at the 1999 VFP Convention, Philadelphia, PA. MSA, 60-3.

USS LIBERTY, JUNE 1967 ATTACK ON...

Whereas, for democracy to work in determining governmental actions in a democratic society, all citizens need prompt accurate access to information relevant to policies and actions of their government and,

Whereas, in times of national attack and security threats in our country, temporary withholding of information is often necessary to protect lives and communities and,

Whereas, in order for a society to learn from history citizens need to have full access to all information available about incidents that occur (sinking of the Maine, Tonkin Gulf attack, My Lai) and,

Whereas, the attack on an unarmed United States naval vessel U.S.S. Liberty on June 8, 1967, has never received full or honest disclosure and Naval personnel who served on the U.S.S. liberty on June 8, 1967 have been threatened with severe punishment if they described their experiences of this attack which resulted in the death of 34 U.S. servicemen and the wounding of 172 sailors and,

Whereas, the Liberty's Captain and the members of the crew all stated they believe the Israelis planned to leave no survivors to describe the attack and,

Whereas, the U.S.S. Liberty is the most decorated ship in the history of the US Navy: The Medal of Honor for the Skipper, Captain William McGonagle; two Navy Crosses; 11 Silver Stars; 23 Bronze Stars; 206 Purple Hearts, and the Presidential unit Citation,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the United States Congress initiates an in depth, full and honest investigation into the events of that day, June 8, 1967, in relation to the attack on the U.S.S. Liberty.

Passed 2002

LINCOLN BRIGADE

(Submitted by Bay Area Chapter 069, San Francisco, CA)

Be It Resolved that all members of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, who volunteered in the Spanish Civil War, be accorded honorary membership in Veterans For Peace.

Approved at the 2001 VFP Convention

LIVING WAGE RESOLUTION

(Submitted by Richard E. Underhill)

Whereas, approximately a third of our urban homeless have been shown to be veterans of the U.S. military services, and

Whereas, many newly-released, returning service personnel have lost the jobs or businesses they had when they went on duty, or were unemployed when they entered service, and

Whereas many are now crowding already-strained shelters or are living on the streets,

Whereas, according to the last several U.S. Conference of Mayors reports, the federal minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour is insufficient to afford anyone housing in any major city in America, and

Whereas, there are at least 10 million minimum wage workers in the United States, and

Whereas, The 2000 Conference of Mayors Report described the minimum wage as the most significant factor contributing to homelessness today and,

Whereas, there are 2 million homeless citizens in this country, and

Whereas, there is no single minimum wage dollar amount that can simultaneously satisfy the need to house minimum wage workers in some cities while not damaging small businesses in other cities, and

Whereas, a Universal Living Wage Formula has been crafted by House The Homeless, Inc. of Austin, Texas, which relates to the local cost of housing, as documented by the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) throughout the United States and ensures that any forty-hour-a-week minimum wage worker, can afford housing, and

Whereas, the Universal Living Wage Formula as devised by House the Homeless, Inc., can end homelessness for fully one-third of America's homeless population, of whom women and children constitute the fastest-growing segment, and

Whereas, implementation of the ULW formula can prevent economic homelessness for all minimum wage workers,

Therefore be It resolved, that the organization Veterans For Peace hereby endorses and fully supports the adjustment of the federal minimum wage through the application of the Universal Living Wage Formula that ensures that a 40 hour a week, minimum wage worker, can afford at least an efficiency apartment anywhere in the United States while not spending more than 30% of his or her income on housing.

Furthermore, be it resolved that the organization supports a living or livable wage for all citizens as part of its support for veterans' reintegration into society and mitigation of the damage veterans have sustained through their military service.

Approved at the 2005 national convention, Dallas, TX

LOW-RISK AID FOR THE HEALING OF VETERANS

(Submitted by Tom Swann – VFP Chapter 19)

Whereas, data from the mental health systems of the military and the Department of Veterans Affairs show that the rates of suicide, homelessness, family breakdown, and substance abuse among veterans have steadily continued to rise since the start of the Afghanistan and Iraq Wars, and

Whereas, during those same years, the military and the VA have steadily increased the use of the traditional approaches of psychotherapy and psychotropic drugs, the latter often in combinations of two or even many more drugs, and

Whereas, it is well-documented that psychotropic drugs often increase emotional problems and even the risk of suicide and other violent behavior, and

Whereas, it is also well-documented that many veterans for various reasons are reluctant to visit psychotherapists, and

Whereas, the ongoing isolation of many veterans from their communities is well-documented and is known to be harmful, and

Whereas, many approaches not requiring the labeling of war-traumatized veterans as mentally ill have shown to be helpful, and these include but are not limited to physical exercise, the use of the arts and community connections, meditation, and simple listening sessions;

Therefore Be It Resolved that chapters of Veterans For Peace (VFP) are encouraged to make efforts to depathologize war trauma (that is, stop saying that those troubled by war are therefore mentally ill) and urge the increased use of nonpathologizing, low-risk ways to help veterans heal emotionally, morally, and spiritually by sending requests to that effect to the heads of the mental health systems in the military and the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and

Be It Finally Resolved that VFP chapters are encouraged to contact their United States Senators and members of the House of Representatives to request that they order a Government Accountability Office (GAO) compilation of the research about the effectiveness of alternative, low-risk approaches to healing trauma.

Approved during the 2012 VFP election

M

MEDICAL DISCHARGES

(Submitted by Lane Anderson, VFP Chapter 54. Cosponsored by Gordon Sturrock, VFP Chapter 929, Jack Dresser, Chapter 929, Bill Perry, VFP Chapter 96, Richard L. Long, VFP Chapter 54, Ron Dexter, VFP Chapter 54)

Whereas the mission statement of Veterans For Peace states that "we will work, with others to seek justice for veterans and victims of war", and

Whereas congressionally chartered organizations like the Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion also are committed to seeking justice for veterans, and

Whereas thousands of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom disabled veterans are being discharged without access to the best medical and psychiatric care because they are offered and accept non medical discharges, thus limiting care to the Veterans Administration.

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace urges its members, and Chapters, to work with the Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, and others, to improve medical and psychiatric care for returning disabled vets by advocating for medical discharges for all disabled Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom veterans, through Congressional representatives and our newsletters and email listserves.

Approved at the 2008 VFP national convention

MEDICAL MARIJUANA USE AND RESEARCH

(Martin Chilcutt, Michigan VFP Member)

Whereas, about 2.5 million American veterans suffer from a service-related disability, including over 12,000 individuals in 2005 alone who had artificial legs or arms fitted, and studies have shown that Vietnam veterans have a higher cancer rate than the general population; and

Whereas, the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine concluded after reviewing relevant scientific literature — including dozens of works documenting marijuana's therapeutic value — that "Nausea, appetite loss, pain, and anxiety are all afflictions of wasting, and all can be mitigated by marijuana" and that "there will likely always be a subpopulation of patients who do not respond well to other medications"; and

Whereas, subsequent studies continue to show the therapeutic value of marijuana, including alleviating HIV neuropathy, for which there is no FDA-approved medication, and which is similar to the neuropathic pain suffered by amputees and others; and

Whereas, several veterans have endured prosecution for using marijuana to alleviate their debilitating symptoms; and

Whereas, the Veterans Administration has required some veterans to agree to subject themselves to drug testing — including for marijuana — or be denied pain medications; and

Whereas, the present federal classification of marijuana as a Schedule 1 drug, and the resulting bureaucratic controls impede additional scientific research into marijuana's therapeutic potential, thereby making it nearly impossible for the Food and Drug Administration to evaluate and approve marijuana through standard procedural channels; and

Whereas, numerous organizations endorse or accept the medical and therapeutic benefits of marijuana, including the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of HIV Medicine, American Nurses Association, American Public Health Association, the British Medical Association, California Medical Association, Health Canada, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, the Lymphoma Foundation of America, and the Medical Society of the State of New York; and

Whereas, a national Gallup poll released in November 2005 found that 78% of Americans support "making marijuana legally available for doctors to prescribe in order to reduce pain and suffering"; and

Whereas, patients are using medical marijuana in 12 state-sanctioned programs but still face possible federal prosecution of up to one year in jail for simple possession and up to five years for cultivation of any amount of marijuana; and

Whereas, the Ninth U. S. Court of Appeals, in the case of Walters v. Conant, upheld the right of physicians to recommend medical marijuana to patients without federal government interference, and the United States Supreme Court declined to hear the federal government's appeal of this ruling; and

Whereas, it is estimated that thousands of veterans are using marijuana in accordance with doctors' recommendations for therapeutic and/or palliative relief, yet they are also put at risk of being denied medical treatments by the Veterans Administration if they test positive for marijuana; therefore

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans for Peace supports legislation that eliminates criminal and civil penalties for the doctor-advised, medical use of marijuana by patients with serious physical medical conditions; and be it further, and

Be It Further Resolved that Veterans for Peace urges the Veterans Administration and its doctors not to withhold treatments from a patient under their care simply because they test positive for marijuana; and be it further, and

Be It Further Resolved that Veterans for Peace strongly urges that in a state where patients are permitted to use marijuana medicinally for serious and/or chronic illnesses and a patient's physician has recommended its use in accordance with that state's law and that state's medical practice standards, the patient should not be subject to federal criminal penalties for such medicinal use.

Approved by the Board 8/16/07

Approved by the VFP Annual Meeting 8/18/07

MEMBERSHIP POLICY, CHANGE TO

(Submitted by Kenneth A. Dalton)

That all members of the U.S. Armed Forces on active duty who wish to join Veterans For Peace be given free membership while on active duty. The reason for this resolution is that I believe it is necessary for us to get our message out to members of the Armed Forces and to encourage "Friendly Debate" within the military concerning the war in Iraq and other potential military adventures of the right wing. Furthermore, as these people are discharged, I believe they will become a vital resource to the growth of our organization.

Remember, wars end when soldiers, sailors and air men refuse to fight.

Approved at the 2005 VFP Convention, Dallas, TX

MERCHANT MARINE OF WORLD WAR II, BELATED THANK YOU TO THE

(Submitted by Winston Elstob, VFP Chapter 46)

Whereas H.R. 3729, currently pending in Congress, would correct an injustice that has been inflicted upon a group of WW II Veterans of the U.S. Merchant Marine; and

Whereas while it is impossible to make up for 40 years of unpaid benefits; and

Whereas the average age of Merchant Marine veterans is now 81, many of whom have outlived their savings; and

Whereas unfortunately this group of brave ones were denied their rights under the G.I. Bill of Rights enacted by Congress in 1945; and

Whereas during World War II Merchant Mariners suffered a higher casualty rate than any other branch of service while they delivered troops, tanks, food, airplane fuel and other supplies to every theater of war; and

Whereas General Douglas MacArthur recognized the value and often valiant services of American Merchant Marine and said, "I hold no branch in higher esteem than the Merchant Marine," and Franklin D. Roosevelt when he signed the GI Bill of Rights stated, "I trust the Congress will soon provide similar opportunity to the Merchant Marine who have risked their lives time and time again for the welfare of their country", and when President Roosevelt died Congress failed to pass such a bill for mariners;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace, do hereby adopt the resolution in support of H.R. 3729 Belated Thanks to the Merchant Marine of World War II Act of 2004, which would correct an injustice that has been inflicted upon a group of WW II veterans, the World War II U.S. Merchant Marine, offer compensation for years of lost benefits, and pay each eligible veteran or surviving spouse a monthly benefit of \$1000.
(Winston Elstob, VFP Chapter 46)

Approved at the July 2004 VFP convention, Boston, MA

MEXICO – SUPPORTING RED POR LA LAZ Y LA JUSTICA (NETWORK FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE)

(Submitted by Bruce Macdonald, VFP Chapter 9)

Whereas, the United States war on drugs, as President Obama acknowledged four years prior to taking office, has been an utter failure, and

Whereas, the Global Commission on Drug Policies, in a report issued June 2, 2011, has called upon the United States and other governments "to replace drug policies and strategies driven by ideology and political convenience with fiscally responsible policies and strategies grounded in science, health, security and human rights;" and

Whereas, the United States, at taxpayer expense, has exported the war on drugs to Mexico through Plan Mérida, and

Whereas, weapons from the United States have illegally armed Mexican drug cartels, and the continuing demand for drugs in the United States has provided them with their principle market, and

Whereas, more than 40,000 people, many of them innocent victims, have died in Mexico in drug-related violence since 2006, when President Felipe Calderón decided to deploy the army to fight violence with violence, and

Whereas, growing numbers of people in Mexico have expressed their unwillingness to accept further bloodshed and have voiced their support of reforms and alternative strategies being demanded by Red por la Paz y la Justicia;

Therefore, Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace supports Red por la Paz y la Justicia in their struggle to end a failed drug strategy which has devastated the social fabric of the country at great human cost;

Be It Further Resolved that all Chapters and all members are urged to undertake actions and initiatives which aid, assist and support Red por la Paz y la Justicia in their quest to bring peace and justice to the people of Mexico.

Approved at the 2011 VFP national convention – Portland, OR

MILITARY BUDGET (U.S.) RESOLUTION (2011)

(Submitted by Gary E. May, Chair, VFP 104)

Whereas, the US military budget FY 2012 (DOD spending) is \$707 billion, and

Whereas the next largest military budget was that of the People's Republic of China at \$114 billion or less than 1/6th of the US total, and

Whereas, the 2012 US military budget allows an additional \$2.7 billion for FBI counter-terrorism and \$46.9 billion for Homeland Security, and

Whereas, additional line items put the grand total of 2012 spending to between \$1.03 and \$1.415 trillion, and

Whereas, the US spent over \$3 trillion to track down and kill Osama bin Laden which was about 1/5 of our National Debt of \$14+ trillion, and

Whereas, these expenditures are supposed to secure the safety of this country and its citizens but everywhere raise suspicions of our motives and jealousy of our profligate spending. In addition the killing of bin Laden is supposed to provoke retaliatory attacks by various Al Qaeda aligned groups, and

Whereas, the Marshall Plan initiated by the US to rebuild the European societies and economies after WW II was extremely successful, and

Whereas, it is generally agreed that our current national debt of \$15 trillion is unsustainable by the US in the long term;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace endorse a proposal to reduce the DOD expenditures in FY2012 and each subsequent year budget by 50% - i.e. for FY 2012 cut it from \$707 billion to \$353 billion. The \$354 billion cut would be invested into two protected funds. The first one containing \$254 billion would be used to fund a 21st Century Marshall Plan. This would be used to alleviate the ravages created in countries by wars around the world and help them rebuild their infrastructures, economies, and centers of commerce. It could also be used to alleviate the problems that countries face when struck by natural disasters like the Tsunami in Indonesia, the earthquake in Haiti, etc.;

Be It Further Resolved that for FY 2012 the remaining \$100 billion (from the cut in DOD expenditures) be allocated to a special fund for the relief of the national debt burden;

Be It Further Resolved the amounts deposited in the two funds annually be increased as the DOD expenditures are increased;

Be It Finally Resolved that these two funds be protected and used only for the stated purposes of relieving the effects of war/natural disasters and relieving the US national debt. It is strongly urged that upon approval of this proposal by Veterans For Peace National organization, that all local Veterans For Peace chapters solicit their national and state representatives to identify

potential supporters and sponsors. Of necessity this must be a grass roots campaign to succeed.

Approved at the 2001 VFP Convention, Portland, OR

MILITARY BUDGET REDUCTION

...That VFP urges substantial reduction in U.S. defense spending (except for military pay and benefits, veterans benefits, and negotiations for worldwide arms reductions)

Board approved. Members concurred. 2000 VFP Convention

MILITARY RECRUITING IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

(Submitted by Todd Boyle and Gary Davis)

Whereas military recruiters routinely solicit young people before the age they can legally enlist, and

Whereas the Pentagon spends \$4 Billion annually on advertising and recruiting, much of it aimed at children under 18, and

Whereas these communications are one-sided, omitting critical information and often misrepresent the full reality of military service, and

Whereas schools and other social institutions have been wholly incapable and negligent in informing young people of the truth about war and enlistment.

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans for Peace condemns all military recruitment activities involving minors under 18, and calls for legislation to prohibit

1. All advertising and marketing, video games, or other mass communication from the Department of Defense to individuals under 18. This includes the termination of the JROTC program and all other programs involving high school students, including the "No Child Left Behind" act.
2. The Department of Defense from initiating any communication, phone calls, or conversations, etc. with any individual under the age of 18, and,
3. Engaging (including responding to inquiries) with any individual under the age of 17.

Approved at the July 2004 VFP convention, Boston, MA

MILITARY SPENDING AND LEGITIMATE DEFENSE

(Submitted by Todd Boyle)

Whereas, the only legitimate objective of military expenditures is defending the United States and deterring attack, and

Whereas, the level of resources expended on weapons systems and military personnel by the United States currently exceeds its legitimate defense needs by a huge margin,

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans for Peace should call for reductions in the excessive budget of the Department of Defense, and for Congress to establish, as the criteria for military expenditures, the defense of the United States from existing threats to the territory and property which is our jurisdiction.

Approved at the 2003 VFP Convention, San Francisco, CA

MINEFIELDS, UNA OF THE USA “ADOPT A MINEFIELD” PROGRAM

“...that VFP (a) endorse the UNA project; (b) encourage chapters to participate in the UNA project, to educate the public and raise funds; (c) encourage chapters to coalition with local peace, justice and environmental groups, including the local UNA chapter, to raise funds.”

Approved at the 1999 VFP Convention, Philadelphia, PA. MSA, 51-7.

MISSILE DEFENSE

(Submitted by Alex Maximiac/Joe Powers, Chicago Chapter)

Resolved, that the Bush Administration and members of Congress be strongly urged to rescind steps taken for a unilateral course of action and resume diplomatic negotiations within the international framework established by the Anti-Ballistic Treaty of 1972 and the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks of 1991.

Approved at the 2001 VFP convention

N

NATIONAL GUARD, DEFEDERALIZING THE

(Submitted by Jan Barry, Ken Dalton, and Frank Dunn, VFP Chapter 21; Carl Foster, Al Jaccoma, John Mac Dougall, and Dennis O’Neill, VFP Chapter 34; Camillo “Mac” Bica and Thomas Brinson, VFP Chapter 138)

Whereas President Bush was authorized to federalize the National Guard of the United States in October 2002 under the Authorization for the Use of Military Force ("AUMF") because of the assertion that Iraq had Weapons of Mass Destruction, and to enforce relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, and

Whereas it has long been undisputed that there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, and there are no relevant UN Security Council Resolutions remaining to be enforced within the meaning of the AUMF, and this war has resulted in horrific death, destruction, grievous loss and harm against the people of both the United States and Iraq, including the 260,000 National Guard soldiers who were federalized, and imposed economic and innumerable forms of hardship on those states in the United States from whence they came, and

Whereas in 2008-2009 half the soldiers scheduled to be deployed to Iraq by the Department of Defense and President will belong to National Guard units, at a time of widespread floods, fires, and other emergencies for which the National Guard was created to assist their native states, but for which they and most of their equipment will not be available, having been deployed to

the war in Iraq.

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace endorses and supports the national campaign initiated by the Liberty Tree Foundation to defederalize the National Guard units, to petition the Governors of all the States of the United States to withhold permission to deploy their state National Guard troops and units to Iraq, and to urge the President and Department of Defense to recall National Guard troops and units now deployed to their stateside duties, unless and until the Congress of the United States issues a valid declaration of war against Iraq.

Approved at the 2008 VFP national convention

NATURALIZATION OATH OF ALLEGIANCE
(Submitted by Tim Keenan – VFP Chapter 50)

Whereas, the Naturalization Oath of Allegiance requires naturalized citizens to promise to, “bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; to perform noncombatant service in the armed forces of the United States when required by the law”, and

Whereas, the Selective Service Act that requires male U.S. citizens between 18 and 25 years to register with the U.S. government for potential military service, the statement in the naturalization oath regarding military service is redundant;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace calls on the government of the United States to immediately delete the portion of the naturalization oath of allegiance referencing military service.

Approved during the 2012 VFP election

9/11/2001 ATTACKS INSIDE THE UNITED STATES, SUPPORT A VALID INVESTIGATION INTO THE NATIONAL SECURITY FAILURES OF THE
(Submitted By Harold Saive, Chapter 32)

Whereas the pretext for two illegal wars of occupation, torture and war crimes was justified by the catastrophic events of 9/11/2001, and

Whereas Congress was blocked by the White House from their intended investigation in connection with the massive national security failures of 9/11/2001- (1), and

Whereas not one person has since been held accountable for the national security failures that allowed the 9/11/2001 attacks to succeed, and

Whereas Lee Hamilton, Co-chair of the 9/11 Commission confessed that his Commission was, in his words, “Set up to fail” - (2), and

Whereas significant un-answered questions remain that challenge the official story of the events of 9/11/2001 - (3a,b-4), and

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace supports a legitimate and non-partisan investigation into the catastrophic national security failures of 9/11/2001.

Approved at the 2009 VFP national convention

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

(Submitted by F. Lincoln Grahls – Mike Dedrich)

Whereas the United States now possesses more nuclear weapons than any other nation
And whereas the United States has been a ratified signatory to many nuclear non-proliferation treaties since World War II

And whereas nuclear weapons result in radioactive fallout that contaminates a vast area around any target, making it hazardous both for occupying troops and for people who live and work in the area.

And whereas radioactive debris from a nuclear detonation is carried around the world, effecting the health of everyone

And whereas the very presence of nuclear weapons engenders an atmosphere of fear and consequent international stability,

And whereas the United States has called upon other nation states to reduce or eliminate nuclear weapons stockpiles,

And whereas technology does exist for effective monitoring and detection of nuclear weapons,

VFP therefore calls upon the government of the United States to halt immediately the manufacture of nuclear weapons components and to take all reasonable steps toward universal nuclear disarmament.

Approved at the 2003 VFP Convention, San Francisco, CA

NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, ABOLISHMENT OF

(Eugene E Ruyle, VFP Chapter 162)

Whereas, the nuclear disaster at Fukushima has shown once again that nuclear power plants are, next to nuclear warheads themselves, among the most dangerous devices that our species has ever created, and that, along with nuclear weapons, the construction and proliferation of nuclear power is, as Patrick Moore states in *Assault on Future Generations* (1976), “the most irresponsible, in fact the most criminal act ever to have taken place on this planet,” and

Whereas, as an educational and humanitarian organization dedicated to the abolishment of war and the elimination of nuclear weapons, Veterans for Peace understands the importance of linking nuclear power plants and nuclear weapons with the entire military industrial complex, the same destructive machine that gave us the wars in Vietnam and the Middle East, and

Whereas, in addition to the serious health, safety, environmental, and economic issues involved with nuclear power plants, and the inherent risks of nuclear proliferation and terrorist attacks associated with nuclear power plants, the multiple links between nuclear power and nuclear weapons make it impossible to abolish nuclear weapons as long as nuclear power plants continue to operate, and

Whereas, control over fossil fuels and nuclear energy have been and continue to be a major focus of the wars that have plagued our species in the Twentieth and Twenty-first Centuries, and

Whereas, there are alternative energy sources, such as wind and solar, that are safe, ecologically sustainable, and economically feasible, that do not cause climate change, and that

do not carry with them the risks of nuclear weapon proliferation and terrorism, nor has the control over such resources been a cause of war between nations;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace opposes any effort to expand nuclear energy and calls for the rapid reduction of existing nuclear power plants, and the complete elimination of nuclear power plants by 2020, and

Be It Further Resolved that Veterans For Peace supports the development of a safe, sustainable, and democratic energy system based on solar, wind, and other sustainable sources.

Approved at the 2011 VFP national convention – Portland, OR

NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY – See “C” - COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY

NUCLEAR WEAPONS, ABOLITION OF BY THE YEAR 2020

(Submitted by Eugene E Ruyle, VFP Chapter 162)

Whereas, President Barack Obama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in large part for his “vision of a world free from nuclear arms,” but until the underlying roots of the nuclear weapons complex are addressed such words remain empty rhetoric, and

Whereas, in 1967, a few months before his assassination, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., another American Nobel laureate, in speaking about the war in Vietnam, noted that the United States government was “the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today,” a sentiment which continues to resonate in light of the continuing wars in the Middle East, and

Whereas, neither Barack Obama nor any other United States President has ever issued a “no first use” policy on nuclear weapons, but instead the United States government has, on at least 25 occasions, threatened to initiate nuclear attacks on other nations, and

Whereas, the Obama Administration’s Nuclear Posture Review, released in April 2010, contains plans for a vital and continuing role of nuclear weapons in US foreign policy with no plans to eliminate nuclear weapons in the foreseeable future, and

Whereas, there are powerful economic interests, often called the “Merchants of Death,” which profit from United States nuclear weapons and the rest of the U.S. war machine and which exert an undue and undemocratic influence on U.S. policy, and

Whereas, Mayors for Peace, an international organization led by the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and representing nearly 5000 cities in 150 nations, has developed Vision 2020, a practical plan for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2020, and

Whereas, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in his “Beyond Vietnam” speech quoted above, stated that the “war in Vietnam is but a symptom of a far deeper malady within the American spirit” and that “we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values,” sentiments which command consideration in light of our continuing wars and continuing reliance on nuclear weapons as an crucial part of our foreign policy;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace endorses the Mayors for Peace Vision 2020 campaign for the complete abolition of nuclear weapons by the year 2020;

Be It further Resolved that Veterans For Peace urge President Barack Obama and other U.S. policymakers, as well as our members and supporters, to read Dr. King's "Beyond Vietnam" speech and reflect on its meaning for the Twenty First Century.

Approved at the 2011 VFP national convention – Portland, OR

NUCLEAR WEAPONS, OPPOSE MINI-NUKES

Whereas: The Bush administration with Pentagon support, proposes to develop a new generation of small, lower-yield nuclear weapons that have popularly been called Mini Nukes and formally known as 'low yield nuclear weapons.

Whereas: Our military and the current administration seemed to think such nuclear weapons would be appropriate to use on the battlefield.

Whereas: Such a development program will require testing that experts agree will, with certainty, add to the radiation contamination of the world's environment and will also send a signal to other nations that this kind of testing is an acceptable thing to do.

Whereas: Development of this new generation of nuclear weapons will certainly be a stimulus for further nuclear proliferation worldwide, thus stimulating the arms race anew, increasing the possibility of full scale nuclear war and correspondingly increasing the danger of obliteration to all living beings on our small and fragile planet.

Whereas: A key element of the Veterans For Peace Statement of Purpose reads, "End the arms race and reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons."

Therefore: We, the members of Veterans For Peace, deplore this dangerous attempt by our government to develop a new generation of nuclear weapons. We invite all people concerned by our government's movement in this direction to contact their elected representatives and voice their unequivocal opposition to this proposed nuclear development program.

Approved at the 2003 VFP Convention, San Francisco, CA

P

Palestine (VFP) Working Group - Palestine Resolution for 2012

(Submitted by Eduardo Cohen - National VFP Working Group On Palestine)

Whereas, the resolution presented last year by the VFP Palestine Working Group at the 2011 VFP National Convention (Resolution 2011-14 entitled Support Of Palestinian Rights Under International Law) and which was passed by an overwhelming majority at that convention, was subsequently misrepresented and mischaracterized by some members of veterans for Peace, and

Whereas, the intention of that motion was to change the policy of VFP relating to the Israeli occupation of Palestine from a position supporting the 'Two State Solution' (the creation of a Palestinian State within the areas captured by Israel during the 1967 war known as Gaza and the West Bank) to a policy of respecting and supporting the self-determination of the Palestinian People and their enjoyment of all human rights pertaining to them as well as implementation of and adherence to all international laws and UN Security Council Resolutions applying generally and specifically to the Palestinian People, and

Whereas, there is currently pending in the United Nations an application for full recognition of a Palestinian state within the land captured by Israel in the 1967 War known as Gaza and the West Bank that enjoys broad support in Palestinian communities inside and outside of Historic Palestine, and

Whereas, the United Nations agency UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) has already expressed its recognition of such statehood, and

Whereas, Veterans for Peace recognizes that because of the continued Israeli confiscation of Palestinian land and water, the demolition of Palestinian homes, the construction and expansion of illegal Jewish settlements, the construction of Jewish only roads that connect Jewish settlements while isolating Palestinian communities, the ethnic cleansing of Palestinian Arabs from important Palestinian urban centers such as East Jerusalem and Nablus, all of which have continued almost completely unabated for more than twenty years since the ostensible beginning of the Palestinian – Israeli Peace Process at the 1991 Madrid Peace Conference, many Palestinians now believe that Israel has knowingly and methodically made the existence of a viable Palestinian state in the Occupied Palestinian Territories a practical impossibility, and

Whereas, VFP recognizes that because of those realities, which Israeli governments cynically refer to as “facts on the ground”, an increasing number of Palestinians have understandably abandoned hope in a Two-State Solution and are now exploring other models of resolution including a “One State Solution” which refers to a single democratic and secular state within the combined territories now known as Israel and the Occupied Territories of the West Bank and Gaza, in which Palestinians and Israelis, Jews, Christians and Muslims as well as those practicing other religions or no religion will all have equal rights under the law;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans for Peace, as a matter of policy, recognizes and respects the diversity of views in the greater Palestinian Community regarding which paths or which models hold the greatest promise for a just resolution of the Israeli occupation of their land referred to as the Palestinian – Israeli “conflict”, and

Be It Finally Resolved that VFP as a matter of policy does not believe it is appropriate or desirable for either VFP or the US government to attempt to limit in any way the options which Palestinians may consider in their pursuit of justice and a Palestinian homeland.

Approved during the 2012 VFP election

PALESTINE, DEMOCRACY IN

(Submitted by Scott Satterwhite, Pensacola Chapter, VFP)

Where as Veterans for Peace is an organization which strives for Peace, Justice, and self-determination throughout the world, including the Middle East and

Where as Veterans for Peace has consistently opposed US intervention in the internal affairs of foreign countries since its inception and

Where as Veterans for Peace is an organization that cherishes democracy

Therefore, let it be resolved that Veterans for Peace, Inc will sign to the petition started by the US Campaign to end the Israeli Occupation opposing the anti-democratic and anti-Palestinian HR4681, The Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006 as soon as possible.

Approved at the 2006 VFP National Convention

PALESTINE, RESOLUTION ON ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE IN

(Submitted by Michelle J. Kinnucan, Chapter 093)

Whereas Veterans For Peace is dedicated to the cause of world peace and to seeking justice for the victims of war; and,

Whereas the longstanding Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a major flashpoint in international affairs; and,

Whereas the people of the region continue to suffer because of the prolonged militarization of the conflict; and,

Whereas the United States is the largest single source of governmental and non-governmental financial assistance to Israel; and

Whereas all forms of international intervention and peace-making have until now failed to bring about compliance on the part of the Israeli government with international law as embodied in countless UN resolutions and world court decisions; and

Whereas such compliance would be in the interest of both the Palestinian and Israeli people, irrespective of the position of the Israeli government, and

Whereas the demand for such compliance underlies the historic VFP support for peace activists within Israel in opposition to their government's policies

Therefore, inspired by the model of the South African struggle against apartheid and the international solidarity which made it effective, and in support for the call by more than 170 Palestinian political parties, unions, associations, coalitions, and organizations for such economic actions,

Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace calls for boycott, divestment, and other actions against economic activities that support Israel's continued occupation and colonization of Palestinian lands and the denial of fundamental human rights to Palestinians both in Israel and in the occupied territories; and

Be It Further Resolved that such actions be continued until such time as the Government of Israel complies with international law and the universal principles of human rights; and

Be It Finally Resolved that Veterans For Peace urges its members and chapters to work actively to support such boycotts, divestment, and economic actions which seem to them best calculated to bring about a change in Israeli government policy for the benefit of both the Israeli and Palestinian people.

Approved at the 2005 national convention, Dallas, TX

PALESTINIAN RIGHTS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW, SUPPORT OF

(Submitted by Eduardo Cohen – Chair: VFP Palestine Working Group)

Whereas, the indigenous Arab population of Palestine, representing two-thirds the population and owning over 90% of the land in 1948, were denied their right of self-determination specified in Article 55 of the United Nations Charter, and

Whereas, almost one million Palestinian Arabs were deprived of their property between 1948 and 1950 and hundreds of thousands more between 1967 and 2011 in violation of Article 17 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, who along with their descendants have been denied

their right of return in violation of Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UN Resolution 194, and Israel's pledge as a condition of its 1949 admission to the UN, and

Whereas, the United States has continued to arm Israel in violation of our Arms Export Control Act, Foreign Assistance Act and Foreign Operations Appropriation Act and has on 43 occasions protected Israel from sanctions by the international community through UN Security Council vetoes, thereby acting in complicity with the above Israeli violations of human rights and international law, and has failed to act as an honest broker in the so-called "peace process" negotiations, and

Whereas, Israel has made no serious efforts towards a just and peaceful resolution of the conflict in the nearly twenty years since the "peace process" negotiations began in Madrid, has instead continued its illegal seizure of Palestinian property, and deserves no U.S. support, and

Whereas, the ongoing construction and expansion of illegal Jewish settlements, the segregation wall, and Jewish-use-only roads in the West Bank have made any just and equitable two-state solution increasingly impossible, and

Whereas, the recently released Palestine Papers exposed the failure of the Palestinian Authority to negotiate honestly on behalf of the population it represents and its failure to include the refugees outside occupied Palestine, the international diaspora, Hamas and the Palestinians of Gaza without whom no legally valid solution can be concluded, and

Whereas, despite U.S. claims to support democracy, our government refused to recognize the democratic election of Hamas in a 2006 parliamentary election observed as free and fair by international monitors including the Carter Center, and

Whereas, VFP remembers the observation by President John F. Kennedy that "Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable" and recognizes that peace cannot be achieved under conditions of injustice; and

Whereas, in their stated objectives for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions by international civil society, which VFP supports, Palestinians have claimed their right for self-determination under international law to include ending Israeli occupation and colonization of all Palestinian land, recognizing the rights of Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality, and respecting, protecting and promoting the right of return for dispossessed Palestinians as stipulated in UN Resolution 194, and

Whereas, the only two-state model under long and detailed discussion has been the "Geneva Initiative" which fails to satisfy the requirements of international law, abrogates the right of return for Palestinian refugees, fails to provide Palestinian sovereignty including the right of self-defense, and fails to address the apartheid system within Israel that severely discriminates against its 20% Palestinian minority, and

Whereas, Palestinians have consequently discussed alternative models including that of a single, democratic, secular state including all of historic Palestine that would secure the right of return, the complete end of occupation, and equal rights for all citizens irrespective of religion or ethnicity;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace urges...

1. The U.S. government to recognize and support the right of self-determination for Palestinians and discontinue imposition of pre-conceived projections of what Palestinians may choose for their future.

2. The U.S. government to only adopt policies that conform with international law including the UN Charter, the Fourth Geneva Convention, and UN resolutions.

3. The U.S. government to discontinue commitment to the “two-state solution” known as the Geneva Initiative and support the consideration of other alternatives for peace and justice acceptable to Palestinians including creation of a single, secular, democratic state with equal rights for all ethnic and religious populations.

4. U.S. confirmation of all rights of Palestinian refugees under international law, which cannot be negotiated away by others, and establishment of mechanisms for all Palestinian populations to participate in crafting a solution for the future of Palestine.

5. The U.S. government to acknowledge the majority representation won by Hamas in the Palestinian parliamentary election of January 2006 and to accept Hamas within the unity government of occupied Palestine .

6. The U.S. government to recuse itself from "peace process" negotiations due to its reflexive, unconditional support for Israel and allow more objective international mediators approved by all negotiating parties.

Be It Further Resolved that this resolution shall supersede any previous VFP resolutions endorsing a “two-state solution.”

Approved at the 2011 VFP national convention – Portland, OR

PATRIOT ACT – See under “I”, RESOLUTION IRAQ, BRING THE TROOPS HOME NOW - END THE OCCUPATION OF IRAQ- MONEY FOR HUMAN NEEDS, NOT WAR- REPEAL THE PATRIOT ACT

PEACE, DEPARTMENT OF – See “D”, Department of Peace

PINON CANYON LAND PRESERVATION

(Submitted by Charles Butler, Chapter 129)

Whereas on June 2nd 2009 Chapter 129 as part of Veterans For Peace Mission ... to seek justice for all ... victims of war ... and to point out the ... cost of war ... in support of the Pinon Canyon Expansion Opposition Coalition (PCEOC) Chapter 129 arranged for members of PCEOC to put on public presentation in Pueblo, Colorado; and, members of VFP 129 decided to support PCEOC’s opposition to Army’s expansion and decided to submit a resolution to VFP’s 24th National VFP Convention in Washington D.C; ranching in Southeastern Colorado, and

Whereas, the Army in 1984 obtained for a maneuver site some 240,000 acres in Southeastern Colorado and now the Army’s proposes to expand the maneuver site by some 450 million acres which would destroy ranch land grazing for 400,000 cattle and ranching, and

Whereas PCEOC is a coalition of ranchers, archaeologists, paleontologists, environmentalist, artists, business people and owners who oppose the Army’s taking of said Pinon Canyon land; have obtained help of Colorado Governor Bill Ritter, Senator Sal Pace, and US Congressman John Salazar in stalling appropriations needed and have limited the Army to the 245,000 acres it has, and

Whereas, the Army's proposed take over will eliminate tax revenues from land and property including improvements to land, thereby the economies of local communities, towns, and cities will be seriously affected in not eliminated; and, the Army's taking of additional ranch land will require substantial taxpayer dollars to pay for condemnation and eminent domain, and

Whereas the Pinon Canyon lands have great historic value; they contain: early pioneer wagon tracks and dinosaur tracks; thousands of Native American sites; early Hispanic Placitas; Santa Fe Train encampments, pioneer ranching operations, remains of dinosaurs (Allosaurus & Brontosaurus); habitat for thousands of plant and animal species, including the only mammal to survive Cretaceous Extinction, the pronghorn.

Therefore Be It Resolved the national organization of Veterans for Peace supports PCEOC and agrees to limit the Army to 245, 000 acres it has obtained and opposes and objects to using any further federal funds to expand the PCMS in Southeastern Colorado.

Approved at the 2009 VFP national convention

POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD)

(Submitted by Michael Hoffman)

There is a well-established body of knowledge and treatment methodologies associated with the psychologically damaging effects of violence and killing (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) upon individuals, especially those exposed to intense combat.

Despite US military claims that they learned an important lesson about PTSD from Vietnam, they have been deliberately overlooking and downplaying symptoms of PTSD. Even when they have diagnosed soldiers with PTSD, many have been re-deployed into combat by superiors who are saying that doing so is good for their mental health because it will allow them to "face their fear". This is contrary to every non-military professional opinion ever given on the proper treatment of PTSD.

The US military is also discharging men and women obviously suffering from PTSD without diagnosis, proper treatment and proper follow-up. Also, since it is well known that symptoms often don't appear for sometimes months and years after discharge, there is little or no provision for monitoring, evaluation and care subsequent to discharge.

Even when evaluations are given and treatment indicated, people are being made to wait six months or longer to obtain help.

There is current testimony that Marines, suffering from and seeking treatment for PTSD, have been manipulated, intimidated, threatened with discipline, rather than offered treatment. Some are even beaten to force them into actions that would permit the Corps to give them something other than honorable discharges and relieve the Corps of any responsibility for their subsequent mental condition. There is evidence that this practice extends to other services as well.

Resolved:

We call for a congressionally-appointed watchdog commission with broad powers to investigate and report on the treatment of military personnel suffering from PTSD and other psychological disorders or conditions.

Further, we call on congress to establish and fully fund military physical and mental healthcare that will be available to both active duty military, reserves, National Guard and veterans. We

insist that is not be controlled by the military itself and funded separately from the military budget.

We demand that any system set up to these criteria be accountable to the people the system is designed to serve; all military men and women past and present and future

Approved at the July 2004 VFP convention, Boston, MA

PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE FUND, ESTABLISH A PRIVATELY FUNDED

Proposed that the VFP Board of Directors, with the consent of the membership, establish a Veterans For Peace Prisoner of Conscience fund (VFP/POC) to provide financial assistance to those who suffer jail time and/or a fine for their act of conscience, if it is sought.

The VFP/POC fund, generated by private, not membership funds, will be governed by guidelines that a committee, appointed by the president, will submit to the VFP Board for final approval.

Rationale: This resolution is an outgrowth of my recent desire to give support to the SOA prisoners of conscience. It has always been my concern that those who risk jail and fines deserve support, if they seek it.

In addition to the fine, there is often a loss of income from their altered economic status.

Passed 2002

PRISONER ABUSE RESOLUTION

(Submitted by VFP Chapters 69 and 101)

The members of Veterans for Peace National Convention 2004 propose an in-depth and scrupulous investigation into abuse and mistreatment of prisoners in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Guantanamo.

Allegations of torture and abuse in other parts of Iraq lead us to believe that crimes against Iraqi citizens reach far beyond the ominous walls of Abu Ghraib Prison. The abuse appears to have been directed and coordinated by someone very high in the chain of command. An investigation must be conducted to expose ALL involved, whether they be in the chain of command, military advisors to the prisons, contract personnel, or U. S. government interrogators.

We believe that the enlisted personnel charged were following unlawful orders. Their actions appear to have been directed by their superiors, who were possibly directed by others even higher. Private interviews should be given to all personnel willing to come forward to report prisoner abuse anywhere.

In the interest of justice, the prisoner abuse investigation should go beyond the scope of atrocities committed at Abu Ghraib. All persons in the chain of command who participated in these crimes should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Approved at the July 2004 VFP convention, Boston, MA

PRISONER TORTURE

(Submitted by VFP Chapter 27)

Whereas the Geneva Convention details the treatment of prisoners of war and other detainees; and

Whereas as a co-author of said convention on August 12, 1949 the United States of America expects it's soldiers and other personnel to be treated in accordance with the provisions of the convention; and

Whereas the Defense Department in cooperation with the Justice Department of the United States of on March 6, 2003 determined per "Working Group Report" that the United States is not required to abide by said convention with regard to Al Qaida, Taliban or other "detainees" currently in custody throughout the world

Therefore be it resolved that Veterans for Peace requests the immediate dismissals or resignations of Attorney General John Ashcroft and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld

Be it further resolved that all parties who bear responsibility for the torture of "detainees" be prosecuted to the fullest extent under the laws of the United States of America and International Laws including War Crime Statutes.

Approved at the July 2004 VFP convention, Boston, MA

R

RESOLUTION – 2005 NATIONAL CONVENTION MASTER

Veterans For Peace, at their 2005 National Conference, hereby reaffirm all relevant resolutions adopted at their previous conventions. A comprehensive listing of these resolutions, in their complete text, appears on the VFP Website. The following is a summary of the salient items:

1. Resolved that Veterans For Peace supports fair and free elections and, in that interest, encourages its members to avail themselves of opportunities to participate in the monitoring of elections.
2. Resolved that Veterans For Peace declares its ongoing solidarity with the people of El Salvador.
3. Resolved that Veterans For Peace oppose any attempt to amend the United States Constitution for the purpose of outlawing "desecration" of the United States Flag. Be it further resolved that we condemn attacks, negative publicity and boycotts aimed at silencing citizens, and in particular entertainers and public figures who express opinions in opposition to government policy. We consider such actions as violations of the freedom of expression guaranteed in the Bill of Rights, which we pledged to defend.
4. Resolved that Veterans For Peace demands that all persons throughout the chain of command who may be directly or indirectly responsible in any way for administering or countenancing torture and inhumane treatment of prisoners or detainees be prosecuted to the full extent of the US law and of international protocols.
5. Resolved that Veterans For Peace calls upon the United States Government to desist from the use of all weapons a component of which consists of toxic chemicals, biological agents or

radioactive material, including so-called depleted uranium. We further call upon the government to enter into SERIOUS international negotiations aimed at outlawing and ultimately eliminating all such weapons. We further call upon the government to provide screening for genetic anomalies of all personnel who have been exposed to any of these agents. Be it further resolved that we support all efforts both to outlaw the use of landmines and to clean up areas which have been infested with these mines.

6. Resolved that Veterans For Peace call upon the Government of the United States to lift the embargo on Cuba and take meaningful steps aimed at normalizing relations with that nation.

7. Resolved that Veterans For Peace supports a ban on assault weapons and urges the congress to restore the legislation imposing such a ban.

8. Resolved that Veterans For Peace urges the United States negotiate a meaningful peace treaty with North Korea and to encourage the Korean People in the peaceful reunification of their nation.

9. Resolved that Veterans For Peace calls upon the armed forces of the United States to cease recruiting youths under the age of twenty, to eliminate recruitment activities in high schools and, particularly, to abolish the JROTC.

10. Resolved that Veterans For Peace calls for an end to involuntary extensions of military service such as the so-called "stop loss" procedure.

11. Resolved that Veterans For Peace insists that the United States not only maintain a peaceful relationship with Viet Nam and the Vietnamese people, but that humanitarian assistance for the damage caused to that country by toxic chemicals be continued.

12. Resolved that Veterans For Peace insists that the United States adhere conscientiously to the provisions of all treaties and international agreements which have been ratified by the senate. Such treaties are identified by the United States Constitution as the law of the land and therefore cannot be abrogated by executive decree. We further resolve that the United States Government should become a party to the International Criminal Court. Be it further resolved that the United States Government cease its unilateralist policies and commence behaving as a member of the community of nations.

13. Resolved that Veterans For Peace calls upon the nation of Israel to dismantle all settlements illegally erected in Gaza and the West Bank, and to cooperate with the Palestinian People in the establishment of an independent Palestinian State. Be it further resolved that we call upon the people of both Israel and Palestine to recognize each other's right to exist within secure borders.

14. Resolved that Veterans For Peace calls upon the United States Government to return all lands on the island of Vieques to their rightful owners, provide for an adequate cleanup of the island and compensate those residents of Vieques whose health has been affected as a consequence of government activity there.

15. Resolved that Veterans For Peace proclaims its support for Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, which renounces war as an instrument of national policy and holds it as a model for other nations, including our own.

16. Resolved that Veterans For Peace reaffirms its opposition to the war against Iraq and calls upon the United States Government to bring the troops home now. It is further resolved that necessary funding for the country's infrastructure, which has been seriously undermined by the Iraq War, be re-established.

17. Resolved that Veterans For Peace calls upon the government to provide all possible assistance to veterans returning from combat. This includes medical care and psychological counseling.

18. Resolved that Veterans For Peace supports the concept of a cabinet level department of peace

19. Resolved that Veterans For Peace calls for the abolition of the US Army's Western Hemisphere Institute for Security and Cooperation, formerly known as the School of the Americas. Resolved also that the United States Government should desist from interfering in the internal affairs of Latin American nations and should not provide support to repressive governments.

20. Resolved that Veterans For Peace states its opposition to state-imposed executions (death penalty) as well as to the imposition of life sentences without any possibility of parole.

21. Resolved that Veterans For Peace declares its opposition to the government's current efforts to develop an anti-missile shield and declares emphatically that space should be kept free and unarmed.

22. Resolved that United States pay in full all its dues to the United Nations and participate cooperatively in the deliberations of that body.

Approved at the 2005 national convention, Dallas, TX

S

SCHOOLS, CURTAIL MILITARISM IN, AND PROTECT STUDENT PRIVACY RIGHTS

(Submitted by Chapter #62, AJ Muste Chapter)

Whereas Section 9528 of the No Child Left Behind Act mandates schools to provide military recruiters with the name, address, and phone numbers of secondary students and mandates that military recruiters have open access to public schools at all times; and

Whereas, student privacy rights are ignored and they are disenfranchised by Section 9528; and

Whereas military recruitment does not belong in any federal statute on public education; and

Whereas military recruiters are often deceitful to students and use high-pressure sales tactics; and

Whereas the Iraq war and the war budget have diverted huge amounts of resources from funding for continued education by children of working families;

Therefore, be it resolved that Veterans for Peace seeks to eliminate Section 9528 from any reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act and will publicize the destruction of student privacy caused by Section 9528, and

Be it further resolved that each chapter of Veterans for Peace is encouraged to inform their state's congressional delegation of its opposition to Section 9528 of the No Child Left Behind Act, and to take action to combat militarism within the public schools in their localities.

Approved by the Board 8/16/07
Approved by the VFP Annual Meeting 8/18/07

SELECTIVE SERVICE REGISTRATION, ENDING
(Submitted by Tim Keenan – VFP Chapter 50)

Whereas, the Selective Service Act requires male U.S. citizens between 18 and 25 years to register with the U.S. government for potential military service, aids the government in its instrumentation of war;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace calls on the government of the United States to immediately revoke the Selective Service Act.

Approved during the 2012 VFP election

SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF WOMEN IN THE MILITARY
(Submitted by Sara Rich and Cecily Light - Chapter 118)

Whereas, over 202,000 women are currently serving in the military service.

Whereas, over 155,000 have served on active duty in the combat zones of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Whereas, nearly 600 reported sexual assaults against women have occurred in these combat zones.

Whereas, in a Defense Department study done in 1995 found that 72% of women had experienced “sexist behavior” and 47% had received “ unwanted sexual attention.”

Whereas, a Veterans Administration study done in 1992 estimates between 60,000 and 200,000 women veterans were sexually assaulted while on active duty.

Whereas, the Department of Defense Memorandum explicitly states: Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination that involves unwelcome sexual advances, request for sexual favors, and other verbal and physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

1. Submission to or rejection of such conduct is either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a persons job, pay or career.
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by a person is used as a basis for career employment decisions affecting that person.
3. Such conduct interferes with an individuals performance, or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.
4. Any person in a supervisory or command position uses or condones these behaviors...is engaging in sexual harassment.

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans for Peace calls for the the President, Congressional Armed Forces Committees, Department of Justice, Department of Defense, Court of Military Appeals and the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Military, to add a punitive article to the Uniform Code of Military Justice on Sexual Harassment. (Add a section A to the current Article 120 on Rape and Carnal Knowledge.)

Approved by the Board 8/16/07
Approved by the VFP Annual Meeting 8/18/07

SHADOW PROJECT, RECOGNITION OF THE
(Submitted by Eric Bagai)

Whereas, the bombing of Hiroshima is one of the many atrocities of WWII, and

Whereas those other atrocities -- the Holocaust, the Tokyo and Dresden, fire-bombings, the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, the Rape of Nanking, the Bataan Death March, the loss of 27 million military and civilian lives in the USSR, and many other events -- are no less worthy of recognition and remembrance, and

Whereas the bombing of Hiroshima was unique among atrocities only in that it was the first use of atomic weapons in war;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace hereby recognizes and endorses The International Shadow Project, a memorial to the dead of Hiroshima, observed each year by replicating in chalk on the streets of the world, the nuclear shadows of vaporized humans first seen on August 6, 1945. Be it further noted that, with Veterans For Peace, the Shadow Project honors the lessons of history and calls for the abandonment of all nuclear weapons and all weapons and actions of mass destruction, and an end to all wars between nations.

Approved at the 2005 national convention, Dallas, TX

SOA/WHISC RESOLUTION
(Submitted by Wayne Whitman)

Whereas the School of Americas Watch (SOAW) has effectively portrayed the US Army's School of the Americas/ Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation as a US terrorist training camp both directly and indirectly responsible for the death and oppression of hundreds of thousands of the Latin American people through its operation at Ft. Benning, GA, and

Whereas SOAW has persevered in monitoring the actions of SOA/WHISC graduates and determined that their behavior remains criminal and oppressive, and

Whereas the United States government, through the SOA/WHISC remains intent on dominating the governments of Latin America, as witnessed by the recent coup attempt in Venezuela which involved SOA/WHISC graduates, thus demonstrating that SOA/WHISC remains a terrorist training camp still needing to be closed

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace endorses the September 23 - 25 drop of "The New Patriots" video and "Warriors to Resisters" booklet at all Congressional offices in Washington DC in our continued support for House Resolution 1810 - a bill to cut funding for the SOA/WHISC, and appeals to its members to urge our representatives to co-sponsor.

Be It Further Resolved that Veterans For Peace endorses the annual SOAW demonstration at the gate of Fort Benning on November 15 to 17, 2002 calling for the School to be closed and encourages its members to attend in mass.

Passed 2002

SOA - CONTINUE SUPPORT TO CLOSE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS/WHISC

(Submitted by John Amidon, Tom Paine Chapter 10, Albany, NY)

Whereas since the U.S. Army School of the Americas currently called the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, has a proven and well documented record of being a terrorist organization and since the closure, name change and reopening has proven to be a deceptive and disingenuous attempt to deceive the American people and elected representatives while continuing its terrorist activities in Colombia and countries within the Western Hemisphere,

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace will continue its strong support to close the U.S. Army School of Americas terrorist training camp under its present name of Westerns Hemisphere Institute For Security Cooperation or any subsequent name change, and

Be It Further Resolved that Veterans For Peace will encourage strong participation in the November Vigil at Fort Benning sponsored by the School of the Americas Watch to continue our educational efforts to close the School of the Americas.

Approved at the 2003 VFP Convention, San Francisco, CA

SOUTH KOREA, U.S. DUMPING OF TOXIC CHEMICALS IN

(Submitted by John Kim, VFP Chapter 34 and VFP-Korea Peace Campaign Project)

Whereas, on May 13, a Phoenix-based TV station KPHO aired an investigation report, based on the testimony of three U.S. veterans, regarding a secret burial of hundreds of 55-gallon toxic chemical drums, including Agent Orange, at a U.S. military base, Camp Carroll, South Korea in 1978, and

Whereas, ever since this news broke out, Korean media have reported similar stories of reckless U.S. dumping of various toxic chemicals at other U.S. military bases as well as onto road sides and into rivers in South Korea, and

Whereas, it is now known that the U.S. military sprayed Agent Orange and other toxic chemicals in the DMZ and the nearby Civilian Control Zone below the DMZ from 1955 to early 1970s, in violation of the international customary law prohibiting the use of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases, and

Whereas, tens of thousands of U.S. and South Korean veterans, as well as South Korean civilians, have lost their lives or are currently sick due to their exposure to the Agent Orange in South Korea;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace (VFP), meeting at its national convention in Portland, Oregon, August 6, 2011...

- 1) Applauds the courageous declarations of conscience on the Agent Orange scandal by Stephen House and other U.S. veterans who had been directly involved in the secret burial of the Agent Orange drums in South Korea, and calls upon other veterans who have further information on this issue to come forward with their accounts;
- 2) Calls upon the Congress to hold its own independent and full investigation and hearing on this dangerous scandal, and provide a free Agent Orange medical check-up to all U.S. veterans who served in South Korea in the past;
- 3) Calls upon the Obama administration to disclose all information and documents regarding the past use and abuse of toxic chemicals in South Korea, conduct a full

investigation into the possible burial of toxic chemicals at all U.S. military bases in South Korea, clean up the polluted land, offer a full apology and remedy, including just compensation, to all the victims—both U.S. and Korean veterans as well as South Korean civilians—of the reckless use or dumping of toxic chemicals in South Korea by the U.S. military; and

- 4) Urges all VFP members and local chapters, as an expression of our concern on this issue, to send a copy of this resolution to our Representatives and Senators in Congress.

Approved at the 2011 VFP national convention – Portland, OR

SPACE, PRESERVING SPACE FOR PEACEFUL USE

(Submitted by Chapter 61, Bi-State IL/MO)

Whereas international treaties to which the United States is a party forbid the deployment of weapons in space and declare that outer space should be freely accessible for peaceful purposes by all nations, and

Whereas the military establishment of the United States has indicated an intention to place in orbit certain craft or platforms which will have a capacity to house destructive weapons as well as to deny the use of space to others without American agreement, and

Whereas even if such space-based facilities were in the hands of the most friendly and peaceful regime the possibility would always exist that they could ultimately pass into less ethical and benign hands, and

Whereas the very potential of such a weapons system would constitute a destabilizing force in world affairs, and

Whereas such exclusive control of space constitutes a serious breach of the peace and places the nation with such control in a position to rain destruction on any part of the globe

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans for Peace hereby urges the government of the United States to desist from military oriented development of space and to cooperate with other nations and the United Nations in all reasonable efforts to preserve space for peaceful uses.

Approved at the 2003 VFP Convention, San Francisco, CA

SPACE, AGAINST WEAPONS AND NUCLEAR POWER IN SPACE...

That VFP supports the global network against weapons and nuclear weapons and nuclear power in space. And further, VFP urges its members to work with global network in any way feasible to prevent the U.S. from deploying weapons and nuclear weapons in outer space.

The Board approved. Members concurred.
2000 Convention

SPACE, OPPOSITION TO "STAR WARS"

...That VFP supports the Anti Ballistic Missile Treaty and opposes plans for a missile defense program.

Board approved. Members concurred.
2000 Convention

SPACE, NO WEAPONS IN...

(Submitted by VFP South Florida Chapter and Broward Citizens for Peace and Justice)

“...VFP opposes Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) System and (urges that the U.S.) Continue to abide by the provisions of the ABM Treaty, which outlaws the development of weapons systems like the BMD. Our resolution is in accordance with (the understanding that) while BMD is supposedly to be used for defense, its dual use for offensive purposes is quite clear.”

Approved at the 1999 VFP Convention, Philadelphia, PA

SPACE PRESERVATION AND DEPARTMENT OF PEACE

(Submitted by Tom Gale - VFP Samantha Smith Chapter)

Whereas, the community of nations voted in 1967 to keep space free of weapons, and

Whereas, the Bush Administration has terminated the 1972 Anti Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia (USSR) and has shaped a new Nuclear Treaty with Russia so as not to destroy nuclear weapons but to store them in stockpile, and

Whereas, the Bush Administration is actively moving forward to create the Master of Space military program called the National Missile Defense (NMD),

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace urges its members to support actively HR2459, The Department of Peace, sponsored by Representative Dennis Kucinich (D, OH). This bill, submitted in July 2001 with forty-three co-sponsors was sent to and still sits in committee. It can be found on www.thomas.gov

Passed 2002

I

TEEN AGE RECRUITS

(Submitted by Ben Sherman and Cliff Wells)

Whereas the Selective Service has chosen individuals age 20 and older to potentially be called up in a military draft, and

Whereas military recruiters are continuing to recruit those 17 through 19 years old

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans for Peace calls for military recruiters to cease recruiting individuals under the age of 20 consistent with Selective Service guidelines (<http://www.sss.gov/seq.htm>)

Approved at the July 2004 VFP convention, Boston, MA

TOXIC AND INCENDIARY WEAPONS, AGAINST THE USE OF

(Submitted by Chapter #62, AJ Muste Chapter)

Whereas, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Implementation Act mandates that American military personnel are prohibited, under any circumstance, from using any toxic chemical to kill human beings, and

Whereas, the tactic "Shake n' Bake": the flushing out of enemy fighters with White Phosphorus from enclosed spaces so they can be killed with conventional means; constitutes a prohibited use of White Phosphorus under the Chemical Weapons Convention and The Chemical Weapons Implementation Act since it involves a method of killing human beings that is dependent on the chemical's toxic properties, and

Whereas, the use of White Phosphorous directly against enemy troops violates the principle of unnecessary suffering under the Law of Land Warfare, and

Whereas, the use of White Phosphorus, Napalm (MK-77) and other incendiaries in any civilian area is unlawful under the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons and must be binding on the United States despite this government's objection to this provision, and

Whereas President Bush has authorized the use of Riot Control Agents ("non-lethal agents" including but not limited to CS, CN, calmatives, sedatives, etc) in Iraq and Afghanistan, and

Whereas the use of such chemicals is unlawful when used to attack human beings or in conjunction with military force and is prohibited by the Geneva Gas Protocol, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Chemical Weapons Implementation Act,

Therefore, be it resolved that Veterans for Peace seeks to uphold the principles and obligations of International Humanitarian Law as codified under the Law of the Land Warfare, the Geneva Gas Protocol, the Geneva Conventions, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons, the War Crimes Act, and the Chemical Weapon Implementation Act and will publicize and condemn the prohibited uses of these weapons, and

Be it further resolved that each chapter of Veterans for Peace be encouraged to inform their state's congressional delegation of its opposition to the use of any toxic chemical in any form against human beings and demand condemnation, investigation and accountability, and

Be it finally resolved that the President and Executive Director of Veterans for Peace inform each chapter of Veterans for Peace of this resolution and encourage them to take peaceful and just action to preserve these standards of International Humanitarian Law.

Approved as amended by Board 8/16/07

Approved by the VFP Annual Meeting 8/18/07

TOXICS. BATTLEFIELD

(Submitted by Woody Powell)

Battlefield toxics have been a well-documented source of injury to civilian and military populations at least since World War II, (atomic weapons use and testing and radiation poisoning) and the war in Vietnam, Agent Orange (dioxin). Most recently, exposure to munitions and armor plate using Depleted Uranium, chemical cocktails from exploded chemical weapons

dumps, un-tested vaccines given in un-tested combinations, all have contributed to large numbers of disabled veterans and untold numbers of disabled civilians.

Some of these toxics have proven to have effects that transcend generations, resulting in deformed fetuses and, in those that survive, deformed children.

Veterans For Peace calls upon the U. S. Government to fully examine the existing data pertaining to these toxics and make it public.

We further call upon the government to do systematic testing, using the latest, most sensitive, fully accredited methods, of all surviving veterans of all wars since WWII and establish to the public's satisfaction the full degree to which these veterans have been exposed and damaged by their exposure, and that compensation to these veterans and their families, commensurate with the destruction of life quality be made.

We insist that the government stop using toxic materials in their weaponry.

Approved at the July 2004 VFP convention, Boston, MA

TOXIC EFFECTS, WEAPONS WITH

(Submitted by David Honish, Chapter 106 North Texas)

Whereas the Geneva Conventions outlaw poisonous weapons with lasting toxic effects that affect civilian or military personnel. and whereas such description applies to radioactive depleted uranium warheads on armor piercing cannon rounds;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace will work on public education and government lobbying efforts to ban all such warheads from U.S. military use immediately.

This resolution supplements a resolution adopted by the 2003 convention

Approved at the July 2004 VFP convention, Boston, MA

TREATIES, HONORING OF

(Submitted by Dana Briggs, Chapter 92)

Whereas the U.S. Constitution, Article 6, Clause 2, states in part, "...and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land;" and

Whereas the U.S. Senate has over the last six decades ratified numerous international humanitarian and human rights treaties such as the Geneva Conventions; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and

Whereas the U.S. Senate has a history of ratifying treaties with numerous reservations, declarations, and objections which effectively undermine or dilute both the letter and the spirit of treaty provisions, and

Whereas the Bush administration, and 107th and 108th Congresses have ignored or violated the letter, if not the spirit, of ratified treaties

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans for Peace calls for:

- (1) The U.S. Senate to unconditionally ratify all international humanitarian and human rights treaties and optional protocols which have been signed by the current and past Presidents, and
- (2) The U.S. Senate to withdraw past reservations, declarations, and objections to all ratified treaties, and
- (3) The U.S. Congress to immediately implement the provisions of all ratified treaties.

Approved at the July 2004 VFP convention, Boston, MA

TREATMENT OF SOLDIERS RETURNING FROM IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN, PROPER
(Submitted by George C. Marshall VFP Chapter 63)

Whereas, recent studies indicate up to 50% of military members serving in-country, suffer from mental distress upon returning home; and

Whereas, soldiers requesting mental health assistance at locations like Fort Carson in Colorado are subject to punishment including beatings, isolation, humiliation, ridicule, charges of cowardice, and discharge without benefits; and

Whereas, commanding officers, senior officers, and junior officers choose to ignore and dismiss requests for mental support from their veteran soldiers; and

Whereas, brave individual soldiers such as Staff Sergeant Andrew Pogany were abused by their superior officers at Fort Carson for seeking mental health care but have courageously fought back and protected many other soldiers from similar abuse, and

Whereas, Congress was very concerned about these abuse reports and passed a bill forcing the Military to convene a "Task Force on Mental Health" in June 2006, to study this systemic abuse; and

Whereas, the task force released its report in June 2007, and concluded:

- 1 - The stigma associated with seeking mental health care remains invasive
- 2 - Mental health professionals are not adequately available to military individuals and their families
- 3 - The military does not dedicate sufficient financial resources to the mental care of its members;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans for Peace applauds and supports efforts of veterans like Andrew Pogany; and

Be It Further Resolved Veterans for Peace demand the Military establishment 1) provide the needed mental health support for returning service members and families, and 2) to hold accountable and punish senior as well as junior military officers who abuse these returning soldiers; and

Be It Further Resolved Veterans for Peace supports the reallocation of sufficient resources from the procurement of expensive weapon systems (like the F-22 Raptor fully costed at ~\$339 million per plane) to the home front in support of its returning service members.

Approved by the Board 8/16/07

Approved by the VFP Annual Meeting 8/18/07

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

(Submitted by Chuck Hyde, VFP Chapter 67. Endorsed by VFP Chapter 67)

Whereas there have been many calls for retribution and legal accountability for actions taken in connection with the Iraq war and events before, during and after, and

Whereas the VFP Statement of Purpose states in part that we will work "(d) to seek justice for veterans and victims of war", and

Whereas the Czech Republic and Union of South Africa have successfully conducted Truth and Reconciliation commissions, and

Whereas it is essential for the psychological and emotional healing of a veteran to be able to get off his chest whatever is eating him and to do so without fear of retribution, legal accountability etc., and

Whereas Congressman Dennis Kucinich has proposed a truth and reconciliation commission for our country which have valid benefits that are too numerous and lengthy to be included here, and

Whereas it is essential for the health of our nation that the true facts of the Iraq War including events leading to it and from it become a matter of record so that they cannot be denied in the future like the Holocaust deniers have tried to do as to the Holocaust, and

Whereas the long Beach Chapter of the Veterans For Peace Chapter 67 has unanimously passed a resolution calling for the national organization to call for a Truth and Reconciliation Commission that will afford veterans an opportunity for full amnesty for any acts they reveal in the process of participating in such a process.

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace urges it's Chapters, and individual members, to call upon the Congress of the United States to pass enabling legislation such that a Truth and Reconciliation process can begin which includes but is not limited to granting full amnesty to veterans and others who participate in that process without fear of retribution, legal accountability or any other such like impediment to full and open disclosure.

Approved at the 2008 VFP national convention

U

UNILATERAL ACTION, REFRAINING FROM...

(Submitted by Chapter 61- Bi-State MO-IL)

Whereas peoples today have become so interconnected economically and culturally that hardship and suffering anywhere is felt throughout the world, and

Whereas the technology of killing has become almost unthinkable powerful and efficient, and

Whereas the current administration in Washington has shown a tendency to impose its will upon the entire world through the threat of force which comes close to the kind of despotism we have fought against when it originated elsewhere

Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of Veterans For Peace, having experienced first hand the trauma of war, implore the United States Government to adopt a foreign policy based upon diplomacy and negotiation and to refrain from heavy-handed unilateral actions, including military, economic and propaganda activity, and we resolve to do whatever we can to promote such a policy.

Approved at the 2003 VFP Convention, San Francisco, CA

UNION-MADE MATERIAL (PEACEFUL AND JUST SOCIETY RESOLUTION)

(Submitted by Gene Glazer, VFP Chapter 21)

"...(1) the VFP logo and name shall be affixed only to those commercially-produced goods which are union made and so labeled; (2) VFP members and chapters shall make every effort to use union printers, or labor-donated (services) for all print materials; (3) VFP conventions shall be held at union hotels and convention centers whenever feasible."

Approved at the 1999 VFP Convention, Philadelphia, PA. MSA, 46-7.

UNITED NATIONS FUNDING

...That VFP urges that the U.S. obligations to the United Nations be paid in full, promptly, and without conditions.

Board approved. Members concurred.
2000 Convention

UNITED NATIONS DUES, PAYMENT OF...

(Submitted by Eugene Schwarz and, Frank Ackles)

Whereas the United States has been in arrears in payment of its assessed contributions to the United Nations, and

Whereas the United States General Accounting Office has as early as June 1998 in its report "United Nations Financial Issues and U.S. Arrears" (GAO/Nsias-98-201BR) showed that such payment arrears has been a primary cause for losing seats on important Committees of the United Nations, caused a loss of Assembly votes, has caused administrative initiatives diverted, has undermined the United Nation's valuable work, soured relations with other nations, and reduced respect for the rule of law in international affairs,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Veterans For Peace urge the Congress to immediately take action to pay all debts in arrears to the United Nations.

Passed 2002

UNITED NATIONS DUES, PAYMENT OF...

(Submitted by Eugene Schwarz and Frank Ackles)

Whereas, the United States has long been in arrears in payment of its assessed contributions to the United Nations, and

Whereas, the United States General Accounting Office has as early as June 1998 shown (see "United Nations Financial Issues and U.S. Arrears" [GAO/NSIAS-98-201BR]) that such payment arrears has been a primary cause for losing seats on important committees of the United Nations, caused a loss of Assembly votes, caused administrative initiatives to be diverted, undermined the United Nation's valuable work, soured relations with other nations and reduced respect for the rule of law in international affairs,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Veterans For Peace urge the Congress of the United States to take action immediately to pay all debts in arrears to the United Nations.

Passed 2002

UNITED NATIONS, SUPPORT OF...

(Submitted by John A. Evans, Santa Fe Chapter VFP)

Under the banner Veterans for Peace, be it resolved that Veterans for Peace chapters throughout the country shall make every effort to educate the citizens of the United States about the history and purposes and goals of the United Nations and to promote a major rededication on the part of the United States citizens and government to the United Nations organization, its goals and its efforts.

Approved at the 2003 VFP convention, San Francisco, CA

UNITED NATIONS POLICE FORCE

...That VFP urges prompt and favorable action by Congress on HR4453 or similar legislation. (Note: Regarding HR 4453, the second "whereas clause" describes this "McGovern-Porter bill", as calling for the U.S. to support creation of an interim volunteer U.N. Police and Security Force that could be deployed anywhere in the world within 15 days of a Security Council resolution authorizing such deployment; and could remain for up to six months or until replaced by contingents of national armed forces.) And further, that VFP urges prompt and favorable action by Congress on HR4453 or similar legislation.

Board approved. Members concurred.
2000 Convention

UNITED NATIONS YEAR 2000 CULTURE OF PEACE AND 2001-2010 DECADE OF THE CULTURE OF PEACE FOR CHILDREN

"...VFP endorses this creative challenge of the UN and will participate as feasible."

Approved at the 1999 VFP Convention, Philadelphia, PA. MSA, majority vote.

URANIUM MUNITIONS

(Submitted by John Lewallen, Sonoma County and Garberville, CA chapters)

Resolved that Veterans for Peace endorses the Uranium Munitions Pledge of Resistance: "I will not use, nor order the use of, uranium munitions."

Approved at the July 2004 VFP convention

V

VACCINATIONS, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ANTHRAX PROGRAM

"...we urge (Congressional members) to support H.R. 2548, a bill to suspend implementation of the Department of Defense (DOD) anthrax vaccination program until it is determined to be safe and effective and to provide for a study by the National Institutes of Health of the DoD anthrax vaccination program. "We also further urge (Congress), upon approval of the DoD anthrax vaccine program by the National Institutes of Health and after appropriate hearings on this approval, to direct that the DoD anthrax vaccinations be made voluntary rather than mandatory for U.S. service members."

Approved at the 1999 VFP convention, Philadelphia, PA

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION (VA) BENEFITS AND LEGAL STATUS IN THE CASES OF OTHER THAN HONORABLE DISCHARGES

(Submitted by Rick Staggenborg – VFP Chapter 72)

Whereas, Veterans for Peace holds that any citizen who volunteers or is drafted to serve his or her country is entitled to treatment for injuries sustained from combat, military sexual trauma or other serious trauma as the result of their service, and

Whereas, it is estimated that tens of thousands of veterans of the US military are being denied VA services due to Other Than Honorable discharges, and

Whereas, the former Chief of Mental Health Services and other VA mental health providers have observed that a common cause of behavior that leads to OTH discharges is PTSD incurred as a result of trauma incurred in the military, and

Whereas, the process of determining condition of discharge is ultimately controlled by the individual's command and is subject to capricious treatment in some cases, and

Whereas, PTSD is often undiagnosed or not manifested until after discharge, and

Whereas, Public Law 95-126 does not provide for a VA evaluation of veterans with OTH discharges, and

Whereas, veterans who cannot comport (i.e. behave) themselves in a manner consistent with the UCMJ or civil law due to PTSD are arguably those in most need of treatment, and

Whereas, Veterans for Peace holds that foreign nationals who serve in the US military are entitled to the same VA benefits and treatment under the law as US nationals, and

Whereas, under Public Law 104-208 foreign nationals who have served in the US military are subjected to deportation based on a different standard of aggravated felony than that applied to US citizens;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans for Peace requests that a bill be introduced in Congress to remedy these injustices that will substantially include the following:

1. All veterans at their request shall be evaluated by employees of the Veterans Health Administration to determine the extent of any existing disability, and
2. All veterans who served in combat or who were otherwise traumatized during their service, regardless of national origin or condition of discharge shall be deemed eligible for all benefits provided for other veterans, and
3. Such veterans as are determined by the VA to have a service-connected disability shall automatically be eligible to be considered for back pay of payments owed for a period not to exceed ten (10) years prior to the date of application for said benefits, and
4. Any veteran of the United States military deported from the United States for a legal offense shall be notified of their right to return to the United States and of their eligibility for VA benefits upon completion of any prison sentence that may be imposed as a result of their conviction, and
5. These foreign nationals will be granted citizenship after fulfilling all other terms of naturalization and afforded all the benefits of citizenship accorded naturalized citizens under the terms of the Fourteenth amendment to the United States constitution. The same conditions will be offered to their immediate family members.

Approved during the 2012 VFP election

VETERANS OUT-REACH (VETERANS REPRESENTATIVE)

(Submitted by Aaron M. Davis, Chapter 118)

Whereas Veterans for Peace campaigns have stated: Support the troops, Bring Them Home Now and Take Care of Them When They Get Here, and

Whereas nearly 1.6 million troops have served in Afghanistan and Iraq since 9/11, and

Whereas over 33,000 troops have major combat wounds, and

Whereas 1 in 5 veterans have post- traumatic stress disorder, and

Whereas nearly 300,000 have traumatic brain injuries, and

Whereas Iraq Veterans Against The War co-founder Tim Goodrich said, "The largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of out-reach to the troops."

Therefore, Be It Resolved, Veterans for Peace supports, and urges that each Chapter create a veterans out-reach counselor (vet-rep), who would be willing to help veterans access all benefits to which they are entitled, and help those injured to file for compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Approved at the 2009 VFP national convention

VETERANS DAY

(Submitted by Bob Heberle, VFP Chapter 27, Endorsed by VFP Chapter 27)

Whereas bells worldwide were rung on November 11, 1918 to celebrate and recognize the ending of WWI, "The war to end all wars" and

Whereas to commemorate that peaceful pledge, bells were rung November 11 for over 35 years, and

Whereas, legislation making November 11 a holiday passed in 1938, " Shall be a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be hereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." and

Whereas the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars, and

Whereas the substitution of the word "Armistice" to "Veterans" changes the focus from peace to war by celebrating and honoring warriors and war, and

Whereas that November date symbolized the nation's desire to hold to a peaceful future and away from war, and

Whereas, too often rhetoric and patriotic symbols are used instead of genuine compensation for the extraordinary sacrifices and services of military personnel, and

Whereas 90% of victims of wars are now civilians and by honoring only veterans, the public is distracted from the awful price paid by those other than military members, and

Whereas Chapter #27 has for over 17 years promoted the ringing of a bell eleven times at its ceremonies on November 11 and at other solemn occasions such as funerals to remind the public of that Armistice Day peace pledge, and

Whereas the ringing of bells is so much more fitting and peaceful than the often practiced gun salutes and fighter plane flyovers.

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace, Inc. urges its memberships to adopt the procedure of honoring peace by focusing on bell ringing on Armistice Day, November 11 and other solemn occasions.

Approved at the 2008 VFP national convention

VETERANS FOR PEACE, INCREASING DEMOCRACY AND OPENNESS IN

(Submitted by Mike Kearney - Chapter 92, and Michelle J. Kinnucan -Chapter 92)

Whereas, Veterans for Peace is "an organization that is both democratic and open", and,

Whereas, the democracy and openness of Veterans for Peace would be enhanced by increased member participation in the deliberations and decisions of the Annual Convention;

Therefore Be It Resolved it is requested that the Board of Directors appoint, within sixty days, a committee to study and make recommendations on how to enhance and facilitate participation

in the deliberations and decisions of the Annual Convention by members who are unable to personally attend the convention; and be it

Be It Further Resolved that the aforesaid committee shall issue a report of its recommendations to the Board of Directors and to the membership no later than May 1, 2011.

Approved at the 2010 VFP national convention

VETERANS HEALTHCARE AND READJUSTMENT

(Submitted by Todd Boyle)

Whereas, the men and women of the armed forces have made extreme sacrifices in the defense of the United States, and

Whereas, their experiences in training and military action often leave them at a disadvantage in civilian life and in the competitive business environment, and

Whereas, the educational, medical, rehabilitation and financial needs of military veterans have been so well studied and documented over the past century,

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans for Peace calls the resources needed for the support of Veterans programs, especially medical, rehabilitation, educational and financial assistance to veterans re-entering society.

Approved at the 2003 VFP Convention, San Francisco, CA

VIEQUES

(Submitted by William Nemcik, Puerto Rico and- David Cline)

Whereas, the island of Vieques has been used for naval target practices and joint military exercises for more than 60 years, and

Whereas, these constant practices of shelling and bombardment have permanently damaged the east coast topography of Vieques, where mountains have been leveled, the vegetation has been scorched and burned and thousands of craters have been hammered into the landscape affecting and destroying the natural habitat of countless of species of flora and fauna, thus transforming this rich tropical Caribbean island paradise into an ecological disaster of catastrophic proportions, and

Whereas, these constant practices have also become a threat to the people of Vieques due to the closeness of the populated areas to the target zone, where lethal substances and toxic heavy metals contained in the ordnance exploded are constantly released into the wind, the soil, the subsoil and the underground system of aquifers that run across and underneath the surface of the island feeding its water deposits and natural wells, therefore polluting the air, the land, the water and eventually the food chain, and

Whereas, these practices have included the illegal use of napalm and depleted uranium shells, and

Whereas, it is a known fact that the population of Vieques suffers from a series of health problems, disorders and children's diseases significantly different than the other municipalities of the Puerto Rican nation, including an alarming cancer rate of more than 27 percent over the rest of the population of the archipelago of Puerto Rico and

Whereas, it is also a known fact that the only difference between the people of Vieques and the rest of the population of the archipelago of Puerto Rico is the U.S. naval presence with its shelling practices and joint military interventions where literally, if not with a sense of irony, the material evidence of the “smoking gun” as the disease propagator is flagrantly palpable and visible in the Navy’s own hands, and

Whereas, even though the civilian population of Vieques is economically strangled due to the fact that the Navy on its own imperial arrogance has usurped and expropriated two thirds of their land thus preventing economic development opportunities, provoking an unemployment rate of over 60 percent and forcing a massive diaspora of Viequenses to the rest of the Puerto Rican archipelago and to the neighboring Virgin Islands, and

Whereas, even though this economic stagnation has created a symbiotic relationship between the Navy and some of the people of Vieques very similar to a “hostage syndrome” situation, where a few have found economic relief for themselves and their families through finding jobs on the naval base as security guards, handy men and other servile labor, thus generating an artificial sympathy for their “only source of employment” which the Navy distorts and exploits towards its own interests as good public relations and

Whereas, even though economic dependence on Federal Government funding such as HUD financial aid, DA food stamps, Social Security payments or even Veterans acquired benefits have been manipulated by the naval authorities, using local corrupt politicians to issue warnings such as “if the Navy leaves you will loose your benefits”, the people of Vieques have responded, through the democratic mechanism of an electoral plebiscite that took place during the summer of 2001, by an overwhelming majority of 70 percent, against the Navy’s presence and its war games, asking for the immediate cessation of such practices, the total withdrawal from the island of the military forces and the cleaning, decontamination and devolution of the usurped land and territory, and

Whereas, the vast majority of the Puerto Rican people living in the rest of the archipelago and in the U.S. have also expressed their will by demanding an end to U.S. military intervention in Vieques as has been evidenced by massive demonstrations and civil disobedience campaigns resulting in the arrest and prosecution by the U.S. Federal Court in Puerto Rico of over fifteen hundred activists including prominent members of the Puerto Rican community such as the presidents of both legislative chambers, various senators and legislators representing all political parties, many religious, labor and civil rights leaders, several mayors from towns and cities across the archipelago of Puerto Rico including Dámaso Serrano, who, besides being the mayor of Vieques is also a Vietnam veteran himself, and

Whereas, the president of the US, Mr. George W. Bush, who has personally stated that “they don’t want us there”, has verbally pronounced and promised the total withdrawal of the Navy from Vieques by the month of May of the year 2003,

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace will...

(A) Write a letter to Mr. George W. Bush respectfully demanding a Presidential Executive Order for the immediate cessation of all Naval and joint military exercises in Vieques; the cleaning, decontamination and devolution of all the expropriated land to the people of Vieques and the total withdrawal of all naval forces from Vieques by and not later than May, 2003 and

(B) Urge all its members to request their particular congressmen or congresswomen to write to the President respectfully demanding such Executive Order and

(C) Endorse and urge all its members to participate on September 23rd in the “International Day

of Solidarity with Vieques" as proposed by the organization *War Resister International*, where there will be demonstrations and acts of civil disobedience in front of U.S. Embassies and consulates all over the world demanding the immediate cessation of military exercises in Vieques and

(D) Organize a delegation of Veterans to visit Vieques during the month of May in 2003, to serve as observers to the process of the Navy's departure.

Passed 2002

VIEQUES, RESOLUTION ON

(Submitted by Gene Glazer and Gideon Rosenbluth – VFP Puerto Rico and New Jersey Chapters)

Whereas, the US Navy has bombed and shelled the Puerto Rican island of Vieques for 60 years and uses 2/3 of the island for military exercises, and

Whereas military toxic contamination caused by these war games has had extremely negative effects on the residents that include cancer, asthma, heart disease and other illnesses at a rate much higher than the rest of Puerto Rico, and

Whereas, continued military exercises have adversely affected the people of Vieques's ability to make a living to support themselves and their families, and

Whereas, since the bombing death of David Sanes Rodriguez on April 19, 1999, the people of Vieques have initiated a new movement to end the bombing and for the Navy to clean up and leave, and

Whereas, the struggle for Peace for Vieques has become the paramount unifying movement of all of Puerto Rico in defense of civil and human rights and their dignity as a people, and

Whereas, veterans of US military service have and continue to play an important role in this struggle including Veteranos Por La Paz de Puerto Rico, and

Whereas, the people of Vieques have voted overwhelmingly in a recent referendum for an immediate cessation of the bombing and the withdrawal of the Navy, and

Whereas, this demand is supported by the Governor and other elected representatives of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and

Whereas, the President of the United States has instructed the Navy to find an alternate site and leave Vieques in 2003 but has allowed the Navy to continue bombing and shelling until then, in arrogant disregard for the democratically expressed will of the people there, and

Whereas, over 1700 people have been arrested for conducting non-violent direct action to stop the bombing, with many subjected to excessive force by military security forces and hundreds have been receiving excessive jail sentences for "trespassing",

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace reaffirms its demands for an immediate end to the bombing, environmental cleanup and withdrawal of the US Navy and stands in solidarity with the people of Puerto Rico, and that all Veterans For Peace members and chapters are urged to participate in the movement for Peace for Vieques and make this cause a major issue

of VFP focus, and that Veterans For Peace will participate in the September 25, 2001 demonstration in Washington, DC demanding Peace for Vieques and Amnesty for Immigrants, and that this Convention urges members from throughout the country to join the November Veterans Delegation to Vieques.

Approved at the 2001 VFP convention

VIEQUES

(Submitted by William Nemcik - Chapter 70 and David Cline – Chapter 21)

Whereas the People of Vieques, after more than 60 years of suffering the burden of the US Navy presence in their island, with all the harmful consequences that resulted from this continuous bombardment to their environment, its life forms and the food chain, thus bringing sickness and death to the population and

Whereas the People of Vieques, after having endured for so many years the collective humiliation that imperial arrogance brings upon a nation through military occupation, including land expropriations, restricted zoning, economic stagnation and the patronizing stranglehold exhibited by condescending Naval Admirals towards the legitimate and democratically elected local officials, as well as the xenophobic hatred exhibited by drunken troops towards the population resulting in abuses including beatings, rape and murder and

Whereas the People of Vieques, after so many years of perseverance and determination in conducting a struggle of resistance against the most formidable military force in the world that in the long run would evolve in a collective effort engulfing the whole island of Puerto Rico and eventually expanding into an international campaign of civil disobedience, unstoppable even though more than 1,500 activists were arrested, convicted and imprisoned and

Whereas the People of Vieques, through the firmness of their convictions and continuous non-violent actions finally persuaded the US Government officials into understanding that the Naval forces represented an embarrassment by encroaching itself in a no-win situation and that it was time to pack up and leave as thus expressed by the Clinton Administration with two Executive Orders in the year 2000 and confirmed later in June 2001 by the Bush regime in proclaiming that the Navy would leave Vieques by May, 2003 and

Whereas the People of Vieques, on May 1st, at last celebrated the first day of freedom in over 60 years without a US Navy presence with its military maneuvers gone and its war drums finally silenced.

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace does hereby extend our admiration and applauds the People of Vieques for their historic Victory;

And that Veterans For Peace calls for the US government to fund the immediate cleanup of the military toxins that continue to contaminate the Land and People of Vieques and for the Return of the Land to the People of Puerto Rico;

And that Veterans For Peace condemns the recent arrests of eight Vieques community members and civic leaders on groundless federal charges to intimidate and repress the continuing popular movement and urges all members to support their defense efforts.

Approved at the 2003 VFP convention, San Francisco, CA

VIEQUES

(Submitted by William Nemcik Chapter 81 - David Cline Chapter 21 - Jaime Vazquez Chapter 21 - Gene Glazer Chapter 21)

Whereas the people of Vieques, Puerto Rico were subjected to over 60 years of bombing and shelling when over half of their island was used as a US Navy training site, and

Whereas the resulting buildup of military toxins have resulted in major health problems for the residents of Vieques including elevated levels of cancer, and

Whereas the US Navy left Vieques on May 1, 2003 after a massive campaign of civil disobedience by the people of Puerto Rico, supported by people throughout the United States and the world, and

Whereas the Navy has failed to clean up the former military zone, leaving the land unusable for community development and still dangerous to the peoples health and welfare, and

Whereas the former military zone remains under the control of the US Department of Fish and Wildlife

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace calls on the US government to fully fund the cleanup of the contaminated areas and designate Vieques as an Environmental Protection Agency Superfund site,

Be It Further Resolved that we call on the US government to return the lands formerly occupied by the Navy to the people of Vieques,

And Be It Further Resolved that we call for the US government to compensate those residents of Vieques whose health has been damaged by the Navy's environmental contamination

Approved at the July 2004 VFP convention, Boston, MA

VIETNAM FRIENDSHIP VILLAGE PROJECT

(Submitted by Sandy Kelson Chapter 47, a renewal of a 1997 resolution by Miles, Tucson, AZ Chapter)

"...Veterans for Peace officially endorses the Viet Nam Friendship Village Project, encourages VFP chapters to support this project in their local communities, and encourages VFP members to lend their economic and emotional support to the U.S. Committee of the Viet Nam Friendship Village Project."

Approved at the 1999 VFP Convention, Philadelphia, PA

VIETNAM

(Submitted by (David Cline, Ben Chitty, Mike Woloshin, Joe Attamante, George Johnson, Fredy Champagne, and Barry Riesch)

Whereas, the United States conducted an illegal, undeclared war in Vietnam from 1954-1975 which cost the lives of over 58,000 Americans and 3 million Vietnamese along with millions more injured and crippled and much of that country left in ruins, and

Whereas that the United States government never fulfilled the commitments it made in the Paris Peace Agreement to provide economic aid to Vietnam for post war reconstruction and to heal the wounds of war, and

Whereas that after the war ended, the US government pursued a hostile policy aimed at isolating and punishing Vietnam until 1994 when the trade embargo was lifted and 1995 when normal diplomatic relations were established between our two countries, and

Whereas that the government of Vietnam has shown a continuing desire for friendly relations and has cooperated with and assisted in the search for US servicemen still listed as missing in action, and

Whereas that during that war, the US military used chemical defoliants (Agents Orange, Blue, Green, Pink, Purple and White) which contained dioxin, an extremely toxic substance that causes serious long term damage to the environment and severe health problems, including cancers and birth defects, in human beings, and

Whereas that many landmines and unexploded bombs still litter the countryside and regularly kill or maim Vietnamese citizens, and

Whereas that some political forces in the United States continue to demand national policies hostile to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and

Whereas that many members of our organization are Vietnam veterans who strongly feel it is our duty to help heal the wounds of the war and build bonds of friendship between our two countries and peoples

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Veterans For Peace, assembled at our 2002 National Convention, do reaffirm our belief that it is right and just and in our best interest as a country to pursue a policy of peace, reconciliation and friendship between the people and governments of the United States and Vietnam, and

That we call on the US government to increase assistance for programs to locate and disarm unexploded ordinance so as to put an end to this deadly legacy of the US military intervention there, and

That we support and encourage further joint scientific study of the effects of chemical defoliants on people and the earth, the results of which could benefit both Americans and Vietnamese who are sick from Agent Orange related diseases, and

That we demand that our government and its citizens accept responsibility for the use of these chemical weapons and provide medical treatment and compensation to those Vietnamese citizens as well as the American veterans who suffer from the negative health effects of their exposure to Agent Orange/dioxin, and

That we call on our elected representatives in Congress to reject the so-called "Vietnam Human Rights Act" (HR 2833) which is an affront to the Vietnamese people's right of self determination and is contrary to a genuine policy of peace, reconciliation and friendship, and

That we extend our greetings and solidarity to the veterans and all the people of Vietnam in their efforts to rebuild their country as a free and just society for the benefit of all.

Passed 2002 in memory of George Mizo.

VIETNAM NORMALIZATION - OPPOSING SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 17 IN THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

(Sponsored by Chapter 69, San Francisco)

Whereas the war in Vietnam ended in April 1975, and

Whereas from 1975 to the present, the United States Government has accepted over a million of refugees and immigrants from Vietnam, and now with their children, the Vietnamese-American community is approaching two million people, the majority of whom are now citizens, and

Whereas the United States Government formally recognized and normalized diplomatic relations with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in 1995, ending post-war acrimony and opening up legal channels for family visits and support, student and academic exchanges, commercial and business ventures, tourism and philanthropic activities, the search for the missing remains of combatants and civilians from both sides, and all other normal relations between friendly nations, and

Whereas the majority of the Vietnamese-Americans have made peace with themselves and with their former homeland, and have moved on with their lives as American citizens, and

Whereas the majority of Vietnam war veterans support normalized diplomatic relations with Vietnam, and

Whereas a small number of Vietnamese-Americans, generally older and in most cases involved with the defeated former regime of South Vietnam, is still trying to resurrect their pre-1975 war and to impose their agenda on the entirety of the Vietnamese-American community, in part by asking various legislative bodies to recognize the flag of the defeated South Vietnam as the symbol of the Vietnamese-American community, and

Whereas in California, this faction has succeeded in getting the State Senate to approve Senate Concurrent Resolution 17 (SCR 17) for that purpose, and the resolution is now pending in the State Assembly

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace, opposes California SCR 17, and urges the California Assembly to reject SCR 17 and encourages other organizations and citizens in California and around the country to voice their opposition to this misguided action, and

That Veterans For Peace urges the California Legislature to follow established diplomatic protocol and continue to recognize only the flag of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam as representing Vietnam in all of their public and civic functions, and

That Veterans For Peace urges all chapters to be alert to such misguided attempts in their localities and take action to oppose them

Approved at the 2005 national convention, Dallas, TX

VIETNAM

(Submitted by Suel Jones, Becky Luening and David Cline)

Whereas, the United States government never fulfilled the commitments it made in the Paris Peace Agreement to provide economic aid to Vietnam for post-war reconstruction and to heal the wounds of war; and

Whereas, the US government in fact pursued a hostile post-war policy aimed at isolating and punishing Vietnam, including a trade embargo that lasted from 1979 until 1994, and

Whereas, the US government has been very reluctant to admit responsibility and provide aid to Vietnam in response to the serious consequences of the spraying of chemical defoliants (Agent Orange) during the war, which severe and long-lasting effects have existed for over 30 years and have been well documented during that time, and

Whereas, that many other countries and international organizations have supported and assisted Vietnam while certain US government representatives, as well as certain state and municipal governments, have continued to fight a war that ended 30 years ago, through punitive and hypocritical economic measures and bogus and disrespectful flag display ordinances, and

Whereas, that many members of our organization are Vietnam veterans who strongly feel it is our duty to help heal the wounds of the Vietnam war and build bonds of friendship between our two countries and peoples, and

Whereas, that we feel it is important to nurture a mature relationship built on trust, mutual respect of each other's sovereignty, and fair trade practices, and that such relationship will further enhance the security and well-being of both Vietnamese and American people,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Veterans For Peace, assembled at our 2003 National Convention, does reaffirm our belief that it is right and just, and in our best interest as a country, to pursue a policy of peace, reconciliation and friendship between the people and governments of the United States and Vietnam, and

That we call on the US government to fulfill its responsibilities in respect to addressing the long-lasting effects of the Vietnam war, especially those caused by Agent Orange, and

That we call on our elected representatives in Congress to reject any and all legislation that denies the Vietnamese people's right of self determination and is contrary to a genuine policy of peace, reconciliation and friendship, and

That we extend our greetings and solidarity to the Veterans Association of Viet Nam and support them in their efforts to rebuild their country as a free and just society for the benefit of all.

Approved at the 2003 VFP convention, San Francisco, CA

VIETNAM

(Submitted by Suel Jones, Becky Luening, Michael Cull, David Cline, Jaime Vazquez, and William Kelly)

Whereas the United States government failed to fulfill commitments made in the Paris Peace Agreement to provide economic aid for post-war reconstruction and to heal the wounds of the Vietnam conflict, and

Whereas the US government pursued a hostile post-war policy aimed at isolating Vietnam that includes a punitive trade embargo which lasted until 1994, and

Whereas the US government has been reluctant to admit responsibility and has failed to provide humanitarian assistance for the serious health, economic and environmental devastation caused by the chemical defoliant Agent Orange/dioxin that continues through the present day, and

Whereas many of our members are Vietnam veterans who strongly feel it is our duty is to aid the Vietnamese people in their efforts to rebuild and to provide humanitarian assistance, and

Whereas it is imperative to nurture a relationship built on mutual trust and respect of national sovereignty, and to create fair trade practices that enhance the economic well-being of both countries,

Whereas that Veterans For Peace calls on the US Congress to reject the so-called "Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2004" (HR-1587) or any other legislation that is contrary to friendly and normal relations between our two countries

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace endorses the creation of a Vietnam Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility fund that advocates for and assists the Vietnamese victims of these toxic chemicals, and

Be It Further Resolved that Veterans For Peace confirms our desire to develop a formal relationship with the Veterans Association of Viet Nam, in the belief that it is in our best interest to pursue a policy of peace, reconciliation and friendship and for the U.S. government to fulfill its responsibility to the Vietnamese people.

Approved at the July 2004 VFP convention, Boston, MA

W

WAR CRIMES - RESOLUTION ON PROSECUTING GEORGE W. BUSH, DICK CHENEY AND OTHER BUSH ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS FOR WAR CRIMES, CRIMES AGAINST PEACE AND CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

(Submitted by Mike Ferner, VFP Board member. Co-sponsored by Bill Collins, VFP Board Member; Tarak Kauff, VFP Chapter 58; Wayne Wittman, VFP Chapter 27; Bob Heberle; Anthony Teolis, VFP Chapter 16)

Whereas the March 2003 invasion of Iraq was not only immoral but illegal, violating numerous U.S. and international laws, including but not limited to USC 2441 (War Crimes Act of 1996), the Geneva Conventions, the Nuremberg Tribunal Charter, the U.N. Charter, the Laws and Customs of War on Land, and

Whereas, the Veterans For Peace "Case for Impeachment" details six pages of violations of the above laws and is still but a partial listing, and

Whereas, the spineless dereliction of duty of the U.S. Congress may well allow Bush, Cheney and other administration officials to avoid impeachment before they leave office in January of 2009, and

Whereas, U.S. Supreme Court Justice, Robert Jackson, appointed by President Truman to be the Chief Prosecutor at the Nuremberg Tribunals following World War II, stated so prophetically, "...let me make clear that while this law is first applied against German aggressors, the law includes, and if it is to serve a useful purpose it must condemn aggression by any other nations, including those which sit here now in judgment." and

Whereas, the anguished cry of a village sheik in Iraq must be answered when he implored, "You say you live in a democracy. How can this be happening to us?" and

Whereas, as citizens of the United States we are complicit in the crimes of the Bush administration in Iraq because we cannot claim ignorance of these crimes, and

Whereas, for the sake of humanity, for the sake of history, and to absolve even a small measure of the complicity we each share as U.S. citizens, we must do everything in our power to hold our leaders accountable and bring them to justice.

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace will take every appropriate measure on our own and in coalition with others to insure that George W. Bush, Dick Cheney, and responsible members of their administration are prosecuted for war crimes, crimes against peace and crimes against humanity before any court claiming jurisdiction in this country or abroad, for as long as they shall live.

Approved at the 2008 VFP national convention

WAR PREVENTION, FUTURE

(Submitted by R. Lane Anderson, Chapter 54)

Whereas:Veterans For Peace are currently struggling to end a war for oil in Iraq; and.

Whereas the United States continues to be addicted to the oil in the middle east and a lifestyle that requires our leadership to get the oil. With less than 4% of the world's population the US uses more than 24% of the world's oil; and

Whereas: Most experts believe the world has reached peak oil production and that the struggle for what remains will lead to more wars in the future; and

Whereas global warming is caused by the burning of fossil fuels and will likely lead to wars as well. The US is the world's largest contributor to global warming; and

Whereas veterans need to take the lead in preventing future wars;

Therefore be it resolved that VFP work with others to reduce US addiction to oil and so limit future wars

Approved by the Board 8/16/07

Approved by the VFP Annual Meeting 8/18/07

WHISC – Under “S”, see SOA

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF...

(Submitted by Donald Thompson – Chapter 63)

Whereas, the possession of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) by Iraq prior to Gulf War II would have been a violation of international law, and

Whereas, President George Bush, Vice-President Cheney, Defense Secretary Rumsfeld, Secretary of State Collin Powell and advisors, Paul Wolfowitz and Condaleeza Rice have said that possession of WMD by Iraq was the "core reason" justifying the war and that "we know where the WMD are", and

Whereas, several months since the occupation of Iraq by British and American forces and their continual search for WMD, none have been found

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans for Peace calls upon the U.S. Congress to conduct a thorough investigation of the Bush Administration's justification for its war against Iraq.

Approved at the 2003 VFP convention, San Francisco, CA

Y

YOUTH PROMISE ACT

(Submitted by James Ramelis, Chapter 925 - Michigan Chapter in formation)

Whereas Veterans for Peace affirms its responsibility to serve the cause of world peace in its "Statement of Purpose", and

Whereas a bill known as "The Youth Promise Act " has been introduced in the legislature as House of Representatives Bill 1064 and Senate Bill 435 that proposes to reduce violence among our youth in targeted neighborhoods and areas. Violence will be reduced through prevention in positive ways such as after school programs, sports and community activities, by implementing the best policy recommendations from crime policy makers, researchers, practitioners, analysts, and law enforcement officials from across the political spectrum concerning evidence- and research-based strategies to reduce gang violence and crime, and

Whereas many of the neighborhoods where violence is rampant are the same neighborhoods that have Junior R.O.T.C. programs in the schools and are heavily targeted by recruiters, and

Whereas many at-risk youth turn to military service because they have limited options for productive citizenship, and

Whereas the Youth Promise Act seeks to provide at-risk youth with alternative life skills,

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans for Peace hereby endorses the Youth Promise Act and strongly encourages chapters and individual members to lobby Congress to request co-sponsor the Youth Promise act (currently H.R.1064 and S.435 in the 111th Congress)

Approved at the 2009 VFP national convention