

## Statements from Veterans For Peace members re: Global War On Terror memorial

### Matt Hoh

*Captain USMC/State Dept., Iraq, Afghanistan, Pentagon. VFP Member*

“Any national memorial to the ongoing Global War on Terror (GWOT) must serve as a monument to the great horror the US unleashed upon tens of millions of innocent people worldwide, including its own citizens.

If all of this can be included in the monument, it may be something worthy to erect:

- The millions of dead and wounded
- 40,000,000+ refugees, and the continuing suffering of entire nations throughout Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia.
- The extraordinary folly of the war as terror groups were created and expanded in dozens of countries, entire regions were destabilized, and governments were overthrown as the GWOT produced one counterproductive consequence after another
- The complete betrayal of stated American values and the US Constitution: torture and indefinite detention, civil liberties forever degraded, mass spying on the American people by successive presidential administrations
- The deliberate lies that enabled and sustained the wars
- The \$8 trillion in lost opportunity costs
- The costs incurred physically, mentally and spiritually by millions of American veterans and their families, many of which are forever invisible wounds of war such as systemic suicide, traumatic brain injury, respiratory illnesses and cancers among Afghan and Iraq war combat veterans.

If all of this can be included in the monument, it then may be something worthy to erect.”

*Bio:*

<https://eisenhowermedianetwork.org/staff/matthew-hoh/>

<https://abc11.com/iraq-conflict-matt-hoh-steve-daniels/249300/>

<https://www.facebook.com/matthew.hoh.7>

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Matt Hoh today (l) and in Iraq. Provided by Matt Hoh

## **Will Griffin**

*US Army Paratrooper E5 SGT, 2004-2010, Iraq and Afghanistan. VFP Member*

“Did the US lose the Global War on Terrorism? We must ask: who won and who lost? On the one hand, the US ruling class, the billionaires and state officials who do their bidding, certainly won the war, filling their pockets with blood money. On the other hand, the American working class - along with the masses of Iraqis and Afghans - lost the war; some with their lives, most with betrayal.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGcLGVS7Mew>

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Will Griffin (l) and Mike Hanes, with VFP delegation to Ramallah, 2017

Photo: Ellen Davidson

Send your statement here: <https://www.gwotmemorialfoundation.org/contact/>

## **Jenny Pacanowski**

*U.S. Army Combat Medic, 2004, Iraq. VFP Member*

“As I reflect on my time in the Iraq war as a combat medic, I hope this memorial represents all the losses in the global war on terror which includes civilian casualties of the countries the USA invaded. I would hope there will be special recognition for women who served and also everyone who lost their life at home AFTER war due to the lack of reintegration programs which leads to suicide, homelessness and addiction which still plagues our society.”

<https://www.womenveteranempowered.org/>

[https://www.ted.com/talks/jenny\\_pacanowski\\_heart\\_of\\_the\\_enemy](https://www.ted.com/talks/jenny_pacanowski_heart_of_the_enemy)

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Photos provided by Jenny Pacanowski

## **Matt Southworth**

*US Army, E3, 2002-2004, Iraq Mosul/Tallafar. National Board Member VFP*

“The Global War on Terror could be better described as the Global War of Terror. Trillions have been spent, millions have been killed or displaced, and entire generations were given legitimate grievances where perceived grievances existed before. The spoils of war can be visibly seen all across Northern Virginia and Washington, DC, where skyscrapers and mansions derived from war profits adorn the wealthiest zip codes in the country. These overt and covert wars – in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Libya, Yemen, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, and far beyond—would be better memorialized with a bronze statue of stacked cash than with another out-of-touch war memorial. If the Vietnam War can be memorialized with a deep black gouge in the earth, perhaps the GWOT can be memorialized by a giant pit for passers-by to throw their hopes and dreams – not like a wishing well, but more like a passageway to hell. War is a racket.”

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*Matt Southworth, Iraq 2004*



*Matt Southworth, Basic Training*

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## **Mike Hanes**

*USMC 1994-2004 SSgt, Force Recon, Iraq invasion. VFP Member*

“I wish people could empathize with the struggles of those living in destitution and oppression, then maybe we could get to the root causes of violence and the response to violence with violence and that whole never ending path of chaos. It saddens me to see this never ending process in our society and the psychological manipulation of our youth to fight these wars for profit while sold a worthy ideological viewpoint. Having a memorial for the global War on terror shows how we desperately need to look within and take some responsibility associated with the laws of cause and effect.”

*Bio:  
I was in the initial invasion of Iraq in 2003, pushing into Baghdad conducting numerous direct-action raids. It was there I learned the realities of war.*

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Mike Hanes, VFP Okinawa Delegation 2017 Blocking Camp Schwab Gate Photos:Ellen Davidson



Mike Hanes

## **Jackson Shepherd**

*US Army, E4, Military Police, Afghanistan 2009-2010. VFP Member*

"As a veteran of the global war on terrorism, I would rather see something built for the untold number of innocent lives we extinguished. But if something has to be built I would rather see the Pentagon papers set into stone so that everyone can see the ineptitude of our leaders and the pointlessness of war. If not that, then I would like there to be a large burn pit placed where the memorial would go, with live ammunition sprinkled in there, so that the American people can get a small taste of what it was like to fight in these wars! Let us stop glorifying war and perpetuating the American exceptionalism myth!"

*Bio:  
I am from Fresno area CA. Joined the Air National Guard in Fresno 2 weeks after my 18th birthday. After two years I got bored so I joined the Army, sent to Baumholder Germany in November 2007 and Afghanistan in June 2009*

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Jackson Shepherd, Afghanistan 2009  
Photos provided by Jackson Shepherd



Jackson Shepherd with son, Liam

Send your statement here: <https://www.gwotmemorialfoundation.org/contact/>

## **Ben Griffin**

*British Army Special Forces, 1997-2005, Afghanistan and Iraq. Member VFP*

"I'm at a loss for words that there would be a memorial to the Global War Of Terror."

<https://www.veteransforpeace.org/who-we-are/member-highlights/2015/10/29/making-modern-british-soldier-ben-griffin>  
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Ben Griffin, 2017 VFP convention

Photos: Ellen Davidson

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## **Ray McGovern**

*Former CIA Intelligence Analyst 1963-80, Founder, Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity. Member VFP*

(Missing statement, but he's a great interview)

*Bio:*

*Raymond McGovern is a former [Central Intelligence Agency](#) (CIA) officer turned political [activist](#). McGovern was a CIA analyst from 1963 to 1990, and in the 1980s chaired [National Intelligence Estimates](#) and prepared the [President's Daily Brief](#). He received the [Intelligence Commendation Medal](#) at his retirement, returning it in 2006 to protest the CIA's involvement in torture. McGovern's post-retirement work includes commenting for [Consortium News](#), [RT](#), and [Sputnik News](#), among other outlets, on intelligence and foreign policy issues. In 2003 he co-founded [Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity](#) (VIPS). His website is <https://raymcgovern.com/>*

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[Conversation with a CIA analyst](#)



Ray McGovern (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) VFP delegation in Hebron, 2017

Photo Ellen Davidson

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## Kathy Kelly

*Nobel Peace Prize Nominee*

“Following the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center, family members whose loved ones had been killed that day joined in a walk from Arlington Cemetery to the World Trade Center carrying a banner: ‘Our Grief Is Not a Cry for War.’ They befriended bereaved families in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other places where civilians suffered consequences of the Global War on Terror.

Numerous unarmed delegations have visited people who cannot escape ravages caused by the U.S. wars of choice waged since 9/11. Many have been guided by Howard Zinn’s wise words: ‘There is no flag large enough to cover the shame of killing innocent people.’

Installed in a field, in Pakistan, is a huge depiction of an orphaned Afghan girl, a refugee in Pakistan. holding the shrapnel of a U.S. bomb which killed her parents.

The monument should replicate this visual representation, flanked by the banners mentioned above. A caption could ask: ‘Is she the terrorist? Who are the terrorists?’”

### *Bio:*

*Kathy Kelly made over two dozen trips to Afghanistan from 2010 – 2019, living with young Afghan Peace Volunteers in a working-class neighborhood in Kabul.*

*With Voices in the Wilderness companions, from 1996 - 2003, she traveled 27 times to Iraq, defying the economic sanctions and remaining in Iraq throughout the Shock and Awe bombing and the initial weeks of the invasion. She joined subsequent delegations to the West Bank's Jenin Camp in 2002 during and after Israeli attacks, to Lebanon during the 2006 summer war between Israel and Hezbollah and to Gaza, in 2009, during Operation Cast Lead and following the 2013 Operation Pillar of Defense.*

*Kathy has been an educator for most of her life, but she believes children of war and those who are victims of violence have been her most important teachers.*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kathy\\_Kelly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kathy_Kelly)

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Photos provided by Kathy Kelly