

Veterans For Peace 2019 Convention Handbook



**Hosted by
Veterans For Peace Chapter 35
Spokane, Washington**



VETERANS FOR PEACE

Veterans For Peace is an international organization made up of military veterans, military family members, and allies. We accept veteran members from all branches of service. We are dedicated to building a culture of peace, exposing the true costs of war, and healing the wounds of war. Our networks are made up of over 140 chapters across the United States and abroad.

Statement of Purpose

We, as military veterans, do hereby affirm our greater responsibility to serve the cause of world peace. To this end we will work, with others both nationally and internationally:

- To increase public awareness of the causes and costs of war;
- To restrain our governments from intervening, overtly and covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations ;
- To end the arms race and to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons;
- To seek justice for veterans and victims of war;
- To abolish war as an instrument of national policy.

To achieve these goals, members of Veterans For Peace pledge to use non-violent means and to maintain an organization that is both democratic and open with the understanding that all members are trusted to act in the best interests of the group for the larger purpose of world peace.

VETERANS FOR PEACE NATIONAL

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SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14

- 9:00am–5:00pm Board Meeting.....Saranac Learning Center
1:00–3:00pm Assemble Registration Packets (location TBD)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15

- 8:00am–11:00pm Tabling.....Grand Ballroom Foyer
8:00am–6:30pm Registration.....Grand Ballroom Foyer
9:00am–Noon Board Meeting.....Third Level: Board Room
1:30–3:00pm Workshop: Peace PolesGrand Ballroom Salon III
2:30–4:00pm Film: *Boy Soldiers*.....Spokane Falls Ballroom A/B
4:00–5:00pm Film: *Our Island's Treasure*.....Spokane Falls Ballroom A/B
4:00–5:30pm *Waging Peace* Press Conf.....Grand Ballroom Salon V
6:00–7:30pm Welcome Reception.....Grand Ballroom Salon V
7:30–9:30pm Poetry Reading.....Grand Ballroom Salon III
9:30–11:00pm Film: *The Isis Trial*.....Spokane Falls Ballroom A/B

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16

- 7:30–8:30am Yoga.....Third Level: Parkside I
Meditation.....Third Level: Evergreen Room
AA.....Third Level: Parkside II
Walk along the River.....Meet in Hotel Lobby
8:00am–6:00pm Tabling.....Grand Ballroom Foyer
8:00am–6:00pm Registration.....Grand Ballroom Foyer
9:00–10:30am Opening Plenary.....Grant Ballroom Salon V
10:45am–12:15pm Morning Workshops.....See page 34
12:15–1:30pm Lunch Break
1:45–3:15pm Afternoon Workshops.....See page 42
3:30–5:00pm Mini Plenaries.....See page 26

FRIDAY, CONT'D

- 5:00–7:00pm Dinner Break
- 6:30–11:30pm Public Event: *Resistance, Resilience & Reggae*Westminster UCC
Doors open at 6:30—program starts at 7:30
Food & drink available at venue.
11:30pm—doors close / last bus to hotel
- 10:00pm–Midnight Film: *The Beginning of the End of Nuclear Weapons*Spokane Falls Ballroom A/B

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

- 7:30–8:30am YogaThird Level: Parkside I
MeditationThird Level: Evergreen Room
AAThird Level: Parkside II
Walk along the RiverMeet in Hotel Lobby
- 8:00am–6:00pm TablingGrand Ballroom Foyer
- 9:00am–5:00pm Business MeetingSpokane Falls Ballroom A/B
- 12noon–1:00pm MFSO hosts a free lunch for anyone who has had family in the military since 9/11MFSO suite
- 6:00–7:00pm Social HourGrand Ballroom
- 7:00–10:00pm BanquetGrand Ballroom
- 10:15pm–Midnight Dancing to DJGrand Ballroom
- 10:00pm–Midnight Films: *Rhizophora* (short)/
Road to ReconcileSpokane Falls Ballroom A/B

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

- 7:30–8:30am YogaThird Level: Parkside I
MeditationThird Level: Evergreen Room
AAThird Level: Parkside II
Walk along the RiverMeet in Hotel Lobby
- 8:30–9:30am Open Mic SpeakoutGrand Ballroom Salon V
- 10:00am–Noon Closing PlenaryGrand Ballroom Salon V
- Noon–6:00pm Connect the Dots ActionsCommunity Building Lobby

WELCOME!



VFP Executive Director Garrett Reppenhagen

One of the very best attributes of Veterans For Peace is its powerful and passionate community. Experiencing and building this community is the reason we go to the trouble and expense of holding a convention every year. We know that face-to-face strategizing and socializing makes us stronger. Despite the exhaustive work that goes into planning a convention, and the expense, it seems worth it

when you consider that the bonds we form in person have a way of energizing our work throughout the year.

Community is strongest when we care for one another and open ourselves to the experiences and challenges of others. After all, what motivates our struggle for peace on earth more than the love we feel for our fellow humans, our planet, and all living things?

Sacred Lands, Sacred Lives: Peace has No Borders is the perfect title for this year's gathering. It doesn't matter if you served one day in basic training, had to say goodbye to a deploying loved one, or completed hundreds of dismount missions in a foreign war, you understand the burden placed on the heart and on communities by violent conflict. Through our individual trials we have come to the same conclusions: all life is connected; all life is sacred. From there we can begin to break down nationalist barriers that confine our souls and excuse inhumane treatment.

We are all at risk from a warming planet, nuclear destruction, and hateful divisions between growing numbers of people. To combat these dangers, we must band together. What better place to reunite and find strength in our shared values and purpose than in the tribal lands of the Spokane, here along the Spokane River west of the Rocky Mountain foothills?

I attended my first VFP convention in Dallas in 2005, the year I returned home from my combat tour in Iraq. It was VFP's 20th annual convention. This, the 34th, will be my first convention as Executive Director, and that's exciting. But I am also excited and looking forward to the next one, and the one after that, because I know Veterans For Peace is going to grow and become more effective. That work starts right here, right now.

So: Take advantage of the connections you make here in Spokane. Take care of each other while you're here. And, let's all take care to build a community that can last.

—Garrett Reppenhagen

RESISTANCE, RESILIENCE & REGGAE

A COMMUNITY EVENT

*Join us for an evening of discussion of anti-war action,
GI and veteran resistance, and community resilience—
and, of course, music and dance!*

FEATURING

Camilo Mejia and **Deidra Cobb** as Emcees

INTRODUCING

Brittany DeBarros—Drop the MIC Campaign
Danny Sjursen—Writer and Peace Campaigner

WITH

Miles Megaciph



FOLLOWED BY A REGGAE DANCE PARTY WITH THE PLANETARY REFUGEES!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16TH, 2019

WESTMINSTER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

411 S. Washington St. Spokane, WA

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM, PROGRAM BEGINS AT 7:30 PM

Sponsored by
Veterans For Peace &
Spokane Veterans For Peace Chapter #35



PART OF THE
VETERANS FOR PEACE
34TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Learn More: Bit.ly/VFPConvention

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



VFP Board President Gerry Condon

Wow, Veterans For Peace is busy on so many fronts it is hard to keep up with it all. I have been traveling to see as much as I can. In March, I had the opportunity to join a U.S. peace movement delegation to Venezuela, along with my friend and deeply committed Vietnam veteran activist Dan Shea of Portland, Oregon.

On my way home from Venezuela I stopped in Nicaragua to visit S. Brian Willson, who now lives in Granada, Nicaragua. Brian introduced me to several Nicaraguan veterans of the armed struggle to overthrow the U.S.-backed Somoza regime in the '70s, and to resist the CIA-orchestrated "contra" war in the 80's. These veterans—along with some former "contras"—are very interested in forming a chapter of Veterans For Peace. This is what led to our organizing a VFP delegation to Nicaragua in July.

In Nicaragua and Venezuela we found slight variations on the same theme: the U.S. government carrying out "hybrid warfare," using massive social media disinformation campaigns to create confusion and foment violence, while strangling the economy with a vicious array of so-called "sanctions." The goal in both cases is to overthrow socialist-leaning governments that dare to put the needs of their people above the greed of foreign corporations.

Despite the political polarization that hybrid warfare creates and exacerbates, a large majority of poor and working-class Venezuelans and Nicaraguans continue to support their governments. Even many who criticize their governments oppose U.S. regime-change schemes. In Venezuela we witnessed thousands of people enthusiastically defending the presidential palace, and we visited large barrios where there is no support for the U.S.-anointed opposition leader, Juan Guaidó. In Nicaragua, the VFP delegation joined nearly half a million people who streamed into the capital of Managua to joyously celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Sandinista revolution. We will never forget that day.

I was barely back in California when it was time to head to Hawaii. I had a very important date to make. On Wednesday, July 31, after a three-week passage from San Diego, the Golden Rule anti-nuclear sailboat arrived in Hilo Bay on the Big Island of Hawaii. The historic wooden ketch returned to Hawaii 61

years after its captain, a retired WWII Navy Commander, was arrested when he attempted to sail to the Marshall Islands to disrupt U.S. nuclear-bomb testing. Now a project of Veterans For Peace, the Golden Rule is again sailing for a nuclear-free world and a peaceful, sustainable future. On our Pacific voyage, we are “challenging nuclear madness and the militarization of the Pacific Islands.”

And what a time to arrive on the Big Island! Worldwide attention is focused on the native Hawaiian resistance to the desecration of their sacred mountain Mauna Kea with the construction of a huge telescope. Thirteen telescopes are already on the mountain top, as well as a legacy of disrespect and broken promises. Veterans For Peace was honored with an invitation to meet with the Elders who are in the front line of resistance. We presented the Elders with a VFP flag and a letter of solidarity. When I spoke briefly about the need to demilitarize Hawaii and the Pacific Islands, they nodded in knowing agreement. From where they were sitting on the road to Mauna Kea, they had heard bombs falling from U.S. military aircraft. Sometimes it seems as if the U.S. military uses all of Hawaii as one big bombing range. This not only destroys the precious natural environment, but also the native Hawaiian culture with which it is integrally woven.

The theme of this year’s VFP convention is so right: “Sacred Lands, Sacred Lives: Peace Knows No Borders.” These days, it sometimes seems as if war knows no borders and nothing is sacred. Certainly not to those who are driven by greed and racism to occupy lands and lives—to exploit and destroy. If we are to overcome this onslaught, however, we must absolutely hold on to hopeful actions, and there are plenty of those. Hundreds of thousands of brave people are defending independence and socialism in Venezuela and Nicaragua and Cuba. The native Hawaiian Elders are taking a stand on Mauna Kea. They are joined by Indigenous leaders from Standing Rock and around the planet. Deeply rooted in their Indigenous cultures, they are expressing a profound commitment to nonviolent resistance.

We have many friends around the world. We have our own vital roles to play. We can act in solidarity with these frontline struggles. We can educate ourselves and our neighbors. We can work to restrain our own governments from continuing their destructive ways. We can create communities of resistance that know no borders. I am proud and hopeful to be a member of Veterans For Peace.

PEACE AT HOME, PEACE ABROAD! —Gerry Condon

CONVENTION NOTES

REGISTRATION & ASSISTANCE

Thursday, 8:00am–6:30pm. • Friday, 8:00am–6:00pm

Grand Ballroom Foyer

OFF-SITE VENUE LOCATIONS

SARANAC LEARNING CENTER

25 W. Main Ave., Spokane, WA 99201

WESTMINISTER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

411 S. Washington St., Spokane, WA 99201

COMMUNITY BUILDING

35 W. Main Ave., Spokane, WA 99201

(Main & Browne, 1 block SE of Doubletree Hotel)

WOMEN'S RETREAT SPACE

Friday, All Day • Riverview Room (15th floor)

Saturday, All Day • 3rd Level: Parkside I

Set aside for women veterans to use as a gathering space or resting place.

CHILDCARE

Friday & Saturday, 9:00am–5:00pm

Third Level: Evergreen Room

Licensed childcare workers are available all day during daytime hours on both Friday and Saturday. Lunch is provided, but no breakfast or dinner.

TABLING

Thursday, 8:00am–11:00pm • Friday–Saturday, 8:00am–6:00pm

Grand Ballroom Foyer

VFP gear, t-shirts, books, postcards, and information on actions, causes, and future events—find it all in the Minnesota Court. The room opens for setup on Thursday at 8:00am, and will be open to tablers for pickup on Sunday morning between the hours of 8:00am and 1:00pm.

POETRY READING

Thursday, 7:30–9:30pm • Grand Ballroom Salon III

*Poets, please come prepared to read aloud one of your poems.
Check in with poetry reading coordinator John Spitzberg to sign up.
There should be enough time for everyone to read at least one poem.*

MORNING YOGA

Friday–Sunday, 7:30–8:30am • Third Level: Parkside I

Morning yoga sessions are a gift from the Veterans Yoga Project.

MORNING MEDITATION

Friday–Sunday, 7:30–8:30am • Third Level: Evergreen Room

Morning meditation sessions are a gift from Sravasti Abby.

FRIENDS OF BILL W.

Friday–Sunday, 7:30–8:30am • Third Level: Parkside II

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings for early risers.

MORNING CONSTITUTIONAL

Friday–Sunday, 7:30–8:30am • Meet in Hotel Lobby

*Take an early morning walk along the river with a guide
from Spokane Riverkeeper, a vigilant guardian and advocate
for the Spokane River and its watershed.*

OPEN MIC / SPEAKOUT

Sunday, 8:30–9:30am • Grand Ballroom Salon V

*Bring your chapter reports, your desires or plans for VFP, your
observations of world events, a pitch for your favorite project, or a song!
Everyone who shows up to speak will get a few minutes with the mic!*

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

Shades Gallery

IN THE DOUBLETREE HOTEL

Thursday, August 15 • 12noon–9:30pm

Friday, August 16 • 9:00am–10:00pm

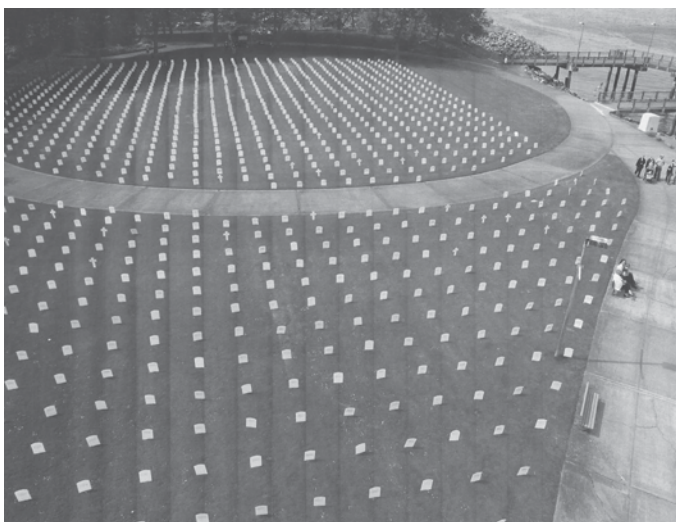
Saturday, August 17 • 9:00am–6:00pm

Sunday, August 18 • 9:00am–12noon

The 2019 National VFP Convention Committee invited delegates to bring an artistic work for display in the Shades Conference Room at the Doubletree. Among the works you will find there are:

- A photo essay by Mike Hastie titled “Hiroshame-a” will feature photos taken on his trip to Japan in October of 2018, with commentary. Images will include those taken at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- A second submission from Mike Hastie is 20 portraits of Vietnamese, to be set up in a circle so viewers may sit with them.
- Sixty portraits of veterans by photojournalist Nancy Hill, an associate member of Portland Chapter 72, along with handwritten statements beneath each photo answering the question, “What should people know about war?” Six of these will be displayed as 8x10 prints on easels and the rest will be in an oversized portfolio on a table for guests to leaf through. A duplicate display of Nancy’s work is at the Community Building Lobby gallery along with Jim Lommasson’s work. Nancy will be actively interviewing additional vets to add to her project during the convention.
- Leah Bolger’s friends delivered four of the Drone Quilt Project quilts from Ellensburg, Oregon, along with display racks made by Larry Kulesza that enable the quilts to be moved around if desired.
- John Heiss from Eugene has two works in the Shades Gallery.

ARLINGTON NORTHWEST



*Drone Photo from the Arlington Northwest memorial installation
at Cummings Park in Tacoma, Washington, May 31, 2015*

A MEMORIAL REPLICA HONORING THE
FALLEN U.S. MILITARY MEMBERS FROM IRAQ & AFGHANISTAN

LILAC MEADOW • RIVERFRONT PARK
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

INSTALLATION OPEN TO VISITORS AUGUST 16–18, 2019

CLOSING CEREMONY SUNDAY, AUGUST 18 AT 3:30 PM



SPONSORED BY

VETERANS FOR PEACE CHAPTER 134
TACOMA, WASHINGTON

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE VFP NATIONAL CONVENTION

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS



Sandbox Silence: Memories of Sand In Platinum

Platinum and Palladium Photographic Print Exhibition

45 Prints

August 2nd - 31st

Gallery Open

**Saranac Art Projects
25 W Main St.
Spokane WA 99201**

**Thursdays: 12-6
Fridays: 12-8
Saturdays: 12-6**



Otis Beller Studio



**SARANAC
ART PROJECTS**



Waging Peace in Vietnam

US Soldiers and Veterans Who Opposed the War

**Veterans for Peace
And the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane Present
A New Exhibit**



Exhibit Opening Reception and Book Launch:

Thurs. Aug. 15, 4 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.

Exhibit Only: Sat. Aug. 17, 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Doubletree Hotel, Salon 5

322 N. Spokane Falls Court, Spokane, WA

"An extraordinary collection of first-hand accounts and unforgettable photos from the rank-and-file soldiers and GI organizers who spearheaded one of the most important yet often overlooked peace movements in U.S. history. Finally, the amazing story is told of how resistance to the Vietnam War from inside the military helped force an end to that tragic imperial conflict."

Juan González, Richard D. Heffner Professor of Communications and Public Policy, Rutgers University, and co-host of *Democracy Now*. From his advance praise of the companion book *Waging Peace: U.S. Soldiers and Veterans Who Opposed the War*.

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

VETERANS FOR PEACE PRESENTS A LIMITED ENGAGEMENT

Exit Wounds

Soldiers' Stories—Life after Iraq and Afghanistan



AUGUST 15–18, 2019

DOUBLETREE HOTEL SPOKANE FALLS BALLROOM

*Made Possible In Part by Gifts from Bart Haggin, Chris Currie,
Maeve Aeolis, Albert Penta, and Jack Talcott*

In *Exit Wounds*, Jim Lommasson has composed evocative environmental portraits of American veterans who have recently returned home from military service. Excerpts from the artist's interviews with each soldier, as well as smaller snapshots that he or she took while overseas, help to form a more complete picture of each veteran's experience abroad and subsequent reintegration into everyday life. Lommasson's dedication to this project comes from his staunch belief that "the soldiers need to tell their stories, and we need to hear them. We must know the true consequences of their—of our—actions." The 2015 book and traveling exhibition, *Exit Wounds: Soldiers' Stories—Life after Iraq and Afghanistan*, led to Lommasson being awarded an Oregon Humanities Conversation Project Grant for his public discussion, "Life after War."

JIM LOMMASSON is an art photographer based in Portland, Oregon. Lommasson's work is in permanent collections at The Library of Congress, San Francisco Museum of Art, The Portland Art Museum, Yale University, Reed College, The New Orleans Museum of Art, The Hallie Ford Museum and The University of Washington. Contact him at jim@lommassonpictures.com.

What We Carried

Fragments & Memories from the Cradle of Civilization

Jim Lommasson's *What We Carried: Fragments and Memories from the Cradle of Civilization*, awarded a Regional Arts and Culture Council Project Grant, reveals the stories of refugees fleeing the Iraq War through the objects they brought with them to the United States. Lommasson photographs these precious items—family snapshots, an archaeology book, heirloom china dishes, the Quran—on a white background, asking their owners to write directly within the open space left in the prints and elaborate upon each object's significance. The resulting images are as beautiful as they are heartbreaking, providing viewers with only a small glimpse of what each person has lost as a poignant reminder that, as Jim



asserts, "I hope we understand the consequences of foreign policy and the price people pay and the fact that people have to flee their homes. My mission is to put the viewer in the shoes of the participants. So when viewing these photographs they ask themselves a two-part question: what would I take? and what am I leaving behind?"

What We Carried is now on view at The Ellis Island National Immigration Museum in NYC through September 2, 2019, as well as here in Spokane through the end of August:

AUGUST 2–31, 2019

COMMUNITY BUILDING LOBBY

35 W. MAIN AVE., SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

*A collaborative storytelling project with Jim Lommasson & Refugees from Iraq & Syria.
Made possible in part by:*



SMITH-BARBIERI
PROGRESSIVE FUND



COMMUNITY BUILDING
FOUNDATION



*“A nation that continues
year after year to spend more
money on military defense than
on programs of social uplift is
approaching spiritual doom.”*

—MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

SUNDAY ACTION NOTES



CONNECT THE DOTS

12:00–12:30 ASSEMBLE AT COMMUNITY BUILDING LOBBY—35 W. MAIN

DOT ONE

12:30–1:00 BANNERS & SIGNS PARADE TO INTERMODAL CENTER

1:00–2:00 PRESS CONFERENCE & RALLY: PROTEST ICE, REFUGEE DETENTION
AND DEPORTATION

Speakers: David Brookbank, George Taylor, Rusty Nelson +

2:00–2:30 RETURN TO COMMUNITY BUILDING

DOT TWO

12:30–1:00 MOTORCADE TO MANN-GRANDSTAFF VA MEDICAL CENTER

1:00–2:00 PRESS CONFERENCE & RALLY: PROTEST PRIVATIZATION OF
OUR VA HOSPITAL SYSTEM

Speakers: Skip Delany, John Spitzberg +

2:00–2:30 RETURN TO COMMUNITY BUILDING VIA DOUBLETREE HOTEL

DOT THREE

2:30–3:15 MOTORCADE TO FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE [FRONT ENTRANCE]

3:30–4:30 PRESS CONFERENCE & RALLY: PROTEST BOMBING OF YEMEN, WATER
POLLUTION, PROMOTING A WAR CULTURE TO CHILDREN, OPERATION
MOBILITY GUARDIAN [landing Colombian troops in Spokane County],
ECONOMIC UNDERMINING OF COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND
RESOURCES, MILITARIZATION OF POLICE, ETC.

Speakers: David Brookbank, Danny Sjursen, Rusty Nelson, Ann Wright +

4:30–5:15 RETURN TO COMMUNITY BUILDING VIA SPOKANE INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT AND DOUBLETREE HOTEL.

DOT FOUR

3:00–3:30 WALK TO LILAC MEADOW IN RIVERFRONT PARK

3:30–4:00 CLOSING CEREMONY: ARLINGTON NORTHWEST

Speakers: Dave Dittmore, George Taylor

NOTE: Accessible bus transportation is available for Intermodal Center action, VA Hospital action, and Fairchild Air Force Base action. Bus transportation to Fairchild AFB. Shuttle is available from supermarket parking area for those driving to staging area.

NOTE: Luggage can be stored at the Community Building lobby after checkout from hotel. You can load luggage onto Fairchild AFB Action Bus if you want to be dropped off at the Spokane International Airport after the action there ends at 4:30 (for flights leaving at 6:00pm or later).

OUR NEW POET LAUREATE



Jan Barry is a poet, author and journalist. Appointed to the U.S. Military Academy after a war tour in Vietnam, he resigned from West Point to become a writer and peace activist. A co-founder of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, his poems and essays on the war appeared in diverse publications, from the *Chicago Tribune* and *New York Times* to *A People and A Nation: A History of the United States*. His poetry first appeared in *Winning Hearts and Minds: War Poems by Vietnam*

Veterans, published by 1st Casualty Press, founded by Jan Barry, Larry Rottmann, and Basil T. Paquet. With W.D. Ehrhart, he compiled a sequel, *Demilitarized Zones: Veterans After Vietnam*. Marshaling writers and artists confronting the threat of nuclear war, he also edited *Peace Is Our Profession: Poems and Passages of War Protest*.

Three decades after dropping out of school to become a teenage soldier, Jan graduated from Ramapo College of New Jersey with a degree in political science. In subsequent years, he's taught journalism and communications courses at Ramapo College, Rutgers University, New York University, and St. Thomas Aquinas College. In recent years, he's been the New Jersey coordinator for Warrior Writers, a nonprofit group that provides writing workshops, readings, art exhibitions and publishes anthologies of poetry, prose and artwork by military veterans and family members.

Jan was not able to be here with us in Spokane, but we will honor him as our new VFP Poet Laureate at our convention banquet.

THE LONGEST WAR

**The longest war is over
Or so they say
Again**

**But I can still hear the gunfire
Every night
From
My bed.**

**The longest nightmare
Never seems to
Ever
Quite come
To
An end.**

One of Jan's first published poems, written in the winter of 1971, "The Longest War" appeared in *Winning Hearts & Minds*, *The New York Times*, and many other places. Jan was especially delighted when it appeared in *A People and a Nation: A History of the United States*, because "when I was growing up, poems in history books were by long-dead poets."

Saturday Night Banquet

in the GRAND BALLROOM

6:00 SOCIAL HOUR

7:00 BUFFET DINNER

8:00 PROGRAM

- Welcome ~ Garrett Reppenhagen & Jessie Medvan
- Awards & Recognitions
- *Presente!*
- International Reports
- About Face ~ Brittany DeBarros
- Poet Laureate ~ Jan Barry
- Keynote ~ Ruth Aloua
- Lifetime Members ~ Recognition & Recruiting

10:00 DJ DANCING 'til Midnight

**HONOR
OUR WAR
RESISTERS**

www.vietnamfulldisclosure.org

FEATURED SPEAKERS

SATURDAY BANQUET KEYNOTE • SUNDAY CLOSING PLENARY PANEL

Ruth Aloua is a Kanaka Maoli from the Kona District. Her grandmothers lineage binds her to the island Hawai'i and her grandfathers to Maui. She is a mahi'ai (farmer) and a kia'i loko (fishpond guardian) whose work extends to the peaks of Mauna a Wākea to the plains of Pōhaku'loa into the deepest depths of the ocean to the realm of Kanaloa. She is an advocate for peace and justice fostering nonviolent interaction between people, land, water, ocean and air. Follow Ruth on Instagram @lovelikeaina.



RESISTANCE RESILIENCE REGGAE • SATURDAY BANQUET



Brittany Ramos DeBarros is an “Operation Enduring Freedom” combat veteran who has served in the Army Reserve for over 8 years as a Logistics Officer and Psychological Operations Officer. In July of 2018 she made headlines and was placed under investigation for her vocal opposition to war profiteering and U.S. militarism. She’s on the New York Coordinating Committee for the Poor People’s Campaign and #DropTheMIC Campaign Co-Director at About Face: Veterans Against the War. Follow on Twitter @BrittDeBarros.

RESISTANCE RESILIENCE REGGAE

Danny Sjursen is a retired U.S. Army Major and regular contributor to The American Conservative. His work has also appeared in Harper’s, the LA Times, The Nation, Tom Dispatch, The Huffington Post, Truthdig, and The Hill. He served combat tours with reconnaissance units in Iraq and Afghanistan and later taught history at his alma mater, West Point. He is the author of a memoir and critical analysis of the Iraq War, *Ghostriders of Baghdad: Soldiers, Civilians, and the Myth of the Surge*. He co-hosts the progressive veterans’ podcast “Fortress on a Hill.” Follow on Twitter @SkepticalVet.



RESISTANCE RESILIENCE REGGAE EMCEE

Diedra Cobb “a queer mother, who left my job in the United States Army after becoming clear that the military does not help people around the world, but much like the police in the U.S., it exists to secure corporate interests and the interests of the empire, to include white supremacy worldwide. I was sexually assaulted during my deployment. That violent experience, which is not an isolated case, is a direct reflection of how this empire operates worldwide, especially when it comes to people of color. I am not free until we are all free, and so I fight for our freedom.”



RESISTANCE RESILIENCE REGGAE EMCEE



Camilo Mejia was born in Nicaragua, eventually moving with his family to Miami, Florida, via Costa Rica. Before graduating from college, U.S. Military service took him to Iraq. In 2003, after five months in active combat, including in the Al Asad detention center where detainees were routinely tortured, he was sent home on leave and never returned. He recognized the Iraq war as an immoral and criminal war of aggression, and subsequently became a prisoner of conscience at Ft. Sill in Oklahoma. Active with Miami Veterans For Peace, he continues to speak out against U.S. imperialism.

SATURDAY BANQUET EMCEE • SUNDAY CLOSING PLENARY PANEL



Garrett Reppenhagen is the Executive Director at Veterans For Peace. The son of a Viet Nam Veteran and grandson of two World War II Veterans, Garrett served in the U.S. Army as a Cavalry/Scout Sniper in the 1st Infantry Division. He completed a deployment in Kosovo on a nine-month peacekeeping mission and a combat tour in Baquba, Iraq. After honorable discharge in May of 2005, Garrett began working as a veterans advocate and a dedicated activist. He served as the Chairman of the Board of Iraq Veterans Against the War, worked in Washington, D.C., as a lobbyist and as V.P. of Public Relations for the Nobel Prize-winning Veterans For America, as a Program Director for Veterans Green Jobs, and as the Rocky Mountain Director for Vet Voice Foundation. Garrett lives in Colorado.

FEATURED SPEAKERS cont.

SATURDAY BANQUET EMCEE



Jessie Medvan serves on Veterans For Peace Board of Directors. Jessie joined the Pennsylvania Army National Guard in 2000 at the age of 17 to fulfill a sense of duty to country. After training for five months in the States and in Kuwait, her communications company deployed to Iraq in April 2004. Seeing war first hand made her question everything she thought she knew about America and its relations with the rest of the world. Upon return from deployment, Jessie faced

an uphill battle of coming to grips with the war that she'd participated in, suffering severe mental and health issues and family problems. Due to injuries sustained in Kuwait, she was able to attend college under the Vocational Rehabilitation program and earned a BA in Sociology. Jessie is now a stay-at-home mom for two young ones, and says her kids are a daily reminder of why she works to make the world a war-free place. She joined Veterans For Peace in 2013 and has been the lead organizer for Chapter 47 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the past two years.

FRIDAY OPENING PLENARY

Councilwoman **Kate Burke**, Spokane City District One. Kate first realized the importance of policy through her work as an AmericaCorps VISTA volunteer when she saw the gaps in food availability. To help combat this, she started her own non-profit, the Spokane Edible Tree Project to harvest the unused fruit and nut trees for local food banks. Her interest in policy led her to work in State Senator Andy Billig's office for four legislative sessions. She saw the positive change that could happen through policy and decided to run for City Council. Kate became Councilwoman Burke at the beginning of 2018 and has been an outspoken progressive voice on Council ever since. During that time, Kate started a consultation business that finds and trains diverse leaders in how to run for office. She is invested in making change through policy and works tirelessly to get others elected and to help push progressive values in her community.



FRIDAY OPENING PLENARY



Liz Moore is the director of the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, where she began her activism in PJALS' youth group as a Deer Park high school student after looking up "peace" in the phone book. She worked as an organizer and educator in unions and community

groups on issues including marriage equality, racial justice, and worker rights before returning to the organization that helped shape and define her work as a young activist. She is passionate about grassroots leadership development and supporting youth as leaders. In all that she does, Liz holds fast to the belief that everyday people have the power to build a just and nonviolent world. Follow on Twitter @pjals.

SUNDAY CLOSING PLENARY PANEL

Michael T. McPhearson, originally from Fayetteville, N.C., served in the U.S. Army 1981–1992 and was a field artillery officer in the 24th Mechanized Infantry Division during the 1991 Gulf War. His son joined the Army in 2004 and served one tour in Iraq in 2005–2006, separating from the military in 2007. As a representative of VFP and Military Families Speak Out, Michael has traveled widely in the cause of peace. Other organizations he has worked with include United for Peace and Justice (serving as National Coordinator, 2010–2013), the Newark-based People's Organization



for Progress, and St. Louis–centered Organization for Black Struggle. Michael served as Veterans For Peace Executive Director from October 2013 to June 2019, and previously from 2005 to 2010. Recently relocated to Seattle, Washington, Michael is learning about the city and looking forward to participating in local positive change efforts for peace and justice.

FEATURED ENTERTAINERS

RESISTANCE RESILIENCE REGGAE COMMUNITY EVENT



Planetary Refugees is a popular, rockin' reggae band from northeast Washington known for danceable beats and spontaneous, outspoken performances by band leader Richard Taylor, a disabled Viet Nam veteran and peace activist. The lively seven-piece ensemble rocks to a positive vibration.

Planetary Refugees evolved out of Planetary People, the steady crew for a jam night hosted by Taylor at the Big Dipper in Spokane that became known as a forum for political and social discussion. In 1991, the Planetary Refugees came together to do a benefit at the Big Dipper to promote peace in the Middle East.

Richard Taylor regularly inserts humor, adlib, social commentary, political satire, and '50s-'60s riffs into his songs. One never sees the same performance twice, and the Refugees are known to get into a groove and keep it rolling.

Besides the creative energy that musical flexibility inspires, the Refugees are motivated by their philosophy and desire for a simple, peaceful life where solutions and positive vibrations are the plan of the day. The members are concerned about their environment and motivated toward a simple lifestyle that rates high in creativity.

Some call it "music of conscience." Inspired by its political and spiritual message and danceable beat, reggae music offers Planetary Refugees the opportunity to be a voice for positive change and peaceful resolution in this fast-paced world.

SUNDAY CLOSING PLENARY PANEL

Spectrum Singers is an all-inclusive and intergenerational SATB (all vocal ranges) chorus based out of Spokane, Washington. Through the power of song, they empower and unite the community, amplify diverse voices and serve as a catalyst for positive social change.

As a chorus, the Spectrum Singers create unity in the community by using their voices to raise awareness and support for social justice issues and through community outreach and engagement.



In their performances, the Spectrum Singers strive for musical excellence to entertain and connect with audiences and to advocate and unite through music.

The Spectrum Singers are committed to diversity, specifically inviting and affirming people from

all sexual orientations and gender identities and their allies. The chorus celebrates all other areas of diversity including (but not limited to): race, color, national origin, ability, age, and religion. This is a space where people from all walks of life can find validation, solidarity and celebration.

RESISTANCE RESILIENCE REGGAE COMMUNITY EVENT

Miles “Megaciph” is a Hip-hop lyricist influenced by Chuck D, Ice Cube and others who continues to grow as a human and evolve as an activist. MEGACIPH—pronounced *Mega-psy-ph*, an acronym for “Mental Energies Gather And Circulate In

Positive Harmony”— uses words and music to address social issues and advance global thinking. His first solo album, *The Graduate Program*, was self-published in 2006, the same year he graduated from Georgia State University with a BA in Composition and Rhetoric. While completing his Master’s in Nonprofit Management with a focus on Arts and Culture at The New School, he self-published his sophomore album, *Migration of the Soul’d Kind* (2011). *CIVILiAM*, Megaciph’s 2014 album, was inspired by the four years he served in the Marines. The lyrics stem directly from his tours in Okinawa, Cuba, and his service here in the states. All of the proceeds from this album went to Veterans For Peace. His most recent release, *CodeSwitching* (Sept 2017), is a collaboration with Queens native producer James Data.



MINI PLENARIES

MINI PLENARY OVERVIEW

Sacred Lands & Lives: Weaving Our Visions

GRAND BALLROOM SALON III

Woke & Empowered for Life: A Long Haul View of GI Resistance

GRAND BALLROOM SALON V

Opposing U.S. intervention Around the Globe

GRAND BALLROOM SALON I



Sacred Lands & Lives: Weaving Our Visions

GRAND BALLROOM SALON III

Civil Society must seek a vision of the way forward for its community members.

Of the plenary sessions today, one explores past and present resistance to war, one investigates the present military interventions around the world. Ours asks the question: What do we envision for the future of our Humanity and our Earth?

Forming circles, we will face each other. Together we call for conscious wisdom to guide our visioning. Our intention is to weave our stories together, define the situation in which we find ourselves, discover values that will lead us to care for our humanity, and develop an awareness that immediately impacts our reality.

— INVITED GUESTS —

Speakers invited to inspire us and surround us with their vision of the way:

- Ruth Aloua, Oceania Rising!/Women's Voices Women Speak
- Ven Samten, Nun from Sravasti Abby, Newport, Washington
- Rebecca Kemnitz MacMullan, Organizer/Activist with 350 Spokane
- Mattie Hartman, Climate Activist with Student Climate Strike
- Jerry White, Spokane Riverkeeper
- Kate Burke, Spokane City Council member
- Liz Moore, Director, Peace & Justice Action League
- Andrew Finley, Standing Rock Speaker, Singer
- Shawl Society, invited
- Marshall Islanders, invited

Join this plenary to contemplate a future of cooperation, caring, compassion and empathy.

Woke and Empowered for Life: A Long Haul View of GI Resistance

GRAND BALLROOM SALON V

Soldiers' resistance to war is as old as war itself. This plenary highlights the immense power of simple, courageous acts of conscience performed both in and out of uniform, with real-life GI resisters, past and present, telling their stories. An act of resistance initiated from a place of love, truth, or passion for justice can be transformative, and often alters the course of one's life, for better or worse. In this plenary, resisters from a variety of service eras will tell a little bit about the impetus for their original active-duty resistance and how their life as an activist unfolded from there. Panelists will share info about projects they are involved in right now, who they are working with, and what they have found to be effective action. This plenary is hosted by VFP's Viet Nam Full Disclosure Campaign, celebrating 2019 as the Year of the Resister as part of its ongoing 50-year Viet Nam war commemoration activities.

continued next page...

MINI PLENARIES

Woke and Empowered for Life *cont'd*

— PANELISTS —

BRITTANY RAMOS DEBARROS is an “Operation Enduring Freedom” combat veteran who has served in the Army Reserve for over eight years as a Logistics Officer and Psychological Operations Officer. In July of 2018 she made headlines and was placed under investigation for her vocal opposition to war profiteering and U.S. militarism. She’s on the New York Coordinating Committee for the Poor People’s Campaign and #DropTheMIC Campaign Co-Director at About Face: Veterans Against the War.

CAMILO MEJIA was born in 1975 in Managua, Nicaragua, and eventually moved with his family to Costa Rica and then to the United States. As a young man, he joined the U.S. military after two semesters of college. When returned to school, after three years of active service, his studies were interrupted by a military assignment to Iraq. In 2003, after five months in active combat, including in the Al Asad detention center where detainees were routinely tortured, he was sent home on leave, from which he never returned, eventually denouncing the Iraq war as “immoral and criminal, a war of aggression, a war of imperial domination.” He subsequently became a prisoner of conscience, and was jailed for desertion at Fort Sill military prison in Oklahoma. Mejia lives in Miami and continues to actively speak out against U.S. imperialist wars and meddling in the affairs of other countries, including his native Nicaragua.

In August 1990, U.S. Marine artilleryman Corporal **JEFF PATERSON** became the first of many U.S. military personnel to refuse to fight in Iraq. Jeff is a co-founder of Courage to Resist, an Oakland-based organization dedicated to supporting GI war resisters and conscientious objectors, and has served as its Project Director since 2007. Jeff has co-founded grassroots efforts in support of high-profile truth tellers, such as Reality Winner and Ehren Watada. He directed and managed the successful 2010–2017 international campaign to free whistleblower and political prisoner Chelsea Manning. Jeff is currently the Executive Producer of a yearlong podcast series of GI resistance to the U.S. war in Viet Nam.



JEFF PATERSON

After a year in the U.S. Army and upon receiving orders to Viet Nam, in 1969 **MICHAEL WONG** turned himself in to the Army's Presidio stockade, refused orders for Viet Nam, and tried to press a limited Conscientious Objector case (objection to an illegal and immoral war, not all wars). The Army rejected his refusal, dropped three felony charges worth 15 years in prison, and released



MIKE WONG

him back on Viet Nam orders, so Mike deserted to Canada. He returned after the war, pleaded guilty to long-term AWOL, and got an undesirable discharge. Mike went on to earn an MSW and become a social worker, retiring in 2013. Mike is a member of VFP San Francisco Chapter 69, the Veterans Writers Group, Asian Americans for Peace and Justice, and serves on the executive committee of

the "Comfort Women" Justice Coalition. He is featured in the movie, *Sir! No Sir!* and in the *Veterans of War, Veterans of Peace* anthology edited by Maxine Hong Kingston.

During his last few months in Vietnam, **PAUL COX** finally figured out that the war not only sucked, but was evil. Upon returning to the states with two years left in the Marines, he met up with other angry troops and veterans also stuck at the Marine base at Camp Lejeune, NC, and together they started the underground newspaper, RAGE, which published for the next three years. "We thought that if we printed the truth, the Marine Cult would collapse; that didn't quite happen, but the paper did cause the brass's brass to tarnish, voices to crack, and veins to pop." Managing to get out with an "honorable" discharge, Paul worked for the next couple of years with another underground newspaper, Up Against the Bulkhead, published in the much more pleasant venue of San Francisco.

— MODERATOR —

In 1968, while on active duty in the Navy, **SUSAN SCHNALL** protested the American war in Viet Nam by speaking out in uniform, dropping antiwar flyers on military bases, and leading the GI and Veterans March for Peace that October. She was tried by general court martial, sentenced to six months at hard labor, and dismissed from service. Today she is a coordinator of the Viet Nam Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility Campaign, president of VFP New York Chapter 34, and chair of the Science/Public Health Committee on Agent Orange/Dioxin.

MINI PLENARIES

Opposing U.S. Intervention Around the Globe

The far-flung U.S. empire requires simultaneous interventions—military and otherwise—all around the globe. In this mini plenary, we will hear from experts on U.S. intervention in Korea, Iran, Latin America and Africa. By better understanding how the U.S. is intervening in each of these regions, we can be more effective in our vital peace and solidarity work.

— PANELISTS —



CAMILO MEJIA was born in Nicaragua and eventually moved with his family to Miami, Florida, via Costa Rica. Before graduating from college, U.S. Military service took him to Iraq. In 2003, after five months in active combat, including in the Al Asad detention center where detainees were routinely tortured, he was sent home on leave, and never returned. He recognized the Iraq war as an immoral and criminal war of aggression, and subsequently became a prisoner of conscience at Ft. Sill in Oklahoma. Active with Miami VFP, he continues to speak out against U.S. imperialism. Camilo will speak about U.S. intervention in Latin America.

DR. ASSAL RAD graduated with a PhD in Middle Eastern History from the University of California, Irvine in 2018. Her PhD research focused on Modern Iran, with an emphasis on national identity formation and identity in post-revolutionary Iran. With this background, Assal works with the policy team on research and writing related to Iran policy issues and U.S.-Iran relations. Assal joined the National Iranian American Council as a Policy Analyst and Regional Organizer for the Western U.S. in January 2019. After working with



NIAC in California as a volunteer on election and voting campaigns in 2018, Assal joined the team in order to further this work and embolden the voices of Iranian Americans. In this role, Assal works to organize Iranian Americans around issues that affect the community. Assal will speak about intervention in Iran.

A SPEAKER FROM BLACK ALLIANCE FOR PEACE to be announced, will speak about Africa.

WORKSHOPS AT A GLANCE

FRIDAY MORNING

August 16 • 10:45–12:15pm

The Pentagon's Militarized Response to Climate Crisis

SPOKANE FALLS BALLROOM SUITE A.....page 34

War Comes Home: Supporting Veterans (and Society) in the Transition from Violence to Nonviolence

SPOKANE FALLS BALLROOM SUITE B.....page 36

Building a Movement through Chapter Building and Campaigns

SPOKANE FALLS BALLROOM SUITE C..... page 37

Veteran Homelessness Challenges to Solutions

SPOKANE FALLS BALLROOM SUITE Dpage 38

Nuclear Madness: Past Present and Future

GRAND BALLROOM SALON II.....page 39

Gaza Freedom Flotilla

GRAND BALLROOM SALON III..... page 40

How Can Veterans Unite Our Campaign to Stop Privatization of VA Healthcare with Progressives' Fight for Universal Health Care for All Americans in 2020?

GRAND BALLROOM SALON V..... page 40

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

August 16 • 1:45–3:15pm

Global Reach: From the Battle of Four Lakes to Genocide in Yemen—Placing Spokane and Fairchild in Context

SPOKANE FALLS BALLROOM SUITE A.....page 42

Militarism-Cost of War: Lasting Legacy of Agent Orange

SPOKANE FALLS BALLROOM SUITE B.....page 43

Divesting from the War Machine

SPOKANE FALLS BALLROOM SUITE C.....page 44

How to File for VA Benefits

SPOKANE FALLS BALLROOM SUITE Dpage 45

Deported Veterans Issues & Advocacy Project: Legislative Initiatives, Legislative Outreach Team Building, Unified Lobbying, and Fundraising

GRAND BALLROOM SALON I..... page 46

1. Unspoken Borders: Knowing and Healing PTSD and Moral Injury / 2. A Path Beyond Post Traumatic Stress to Recovery and Resilience

GRAND BALLROOM SALON II.....page 47

Effective Strategy and Messaging—National Office

GRAND BALLROOM SALON III..... page 50

Veterans For Peace Global Diplomacy (3 workshops combined): 1. Climbers for Peace in Iran / 2. Veterans Report Back from Nicaragua and Venezuela / 3. The Iraq War Project— 20 Years On!

GRAND BALLROOM SALON V..... page 51

WORKSHOPS

EARLY BIRD WORKSHOP THURSDAY 1:30–3:30PM

A Tangible Peace on Every School Campus

GRAND BALLROOM SALON III

Ms. Marie will open her presentation by showing a short Movie about serving as a Volunteer Peace Representative <https://youtu.be/EeScoZjVyPc>. Participants are invited to join in creating an “Art Peace Pole” during this presentation (materials provided), which will be gifted on the last day of the conference.

As Peace-Builders, we know how disconnection, violence and ALL wars are evidence of our failure to communicate. As a single mother, combat command veteran and public school employee, Ms. Marie is profoundly aware of interpersonal, bureaucratic and global challenges with conflict management. She will share how placing a 7’ Peace Pole on every school campus, along with a peace-building curriculum can help end the scourge of school violence. Our future leaders must be equipped to recognize conflict early and to approach resolution as confident, compassionate, and competent Peace-Builders.

Participants will open www.worldpeace.org and navigate around this site to learn how easy it is to order a Peace Pole for their school of choice and to take the next step in the Call To Action - co-creating A Tangible Peace On Every School Campus.

— PRESENTER —

MAJOR RENÉE MARIE is a Speech-Language Pathologist and Retired Army Medical Service Corps Major. During her deployment, she gifted five Peace Poles to the Afghani people and Coalition Force Com-manders. Major Marie resigned her commission in 2017 due to irreconcilable differences. As a World Peace Representative with May Peace Prevail On Earth – International, she has dedicated Peace Poles on campuses in Connecticut, Vermont, California and Kabul. Ms. Marie also holds a Professional Certi-fication in Conflict Resolution.

FRIDAY MORNING WORKSHOPS 10:45AM–12:15PM

FRIDAY MORNING WORKSHOPS 10:45AM–12:15PM

The Pentagon's Militarized Response to Climate Crisis

SPOKANE FALLS BALLROOM, SUITE A

Since the 2016 convention plenary, Climate Change, Human Security and War, there has been a massive growth in the U.S. military's response to climate change. The Pentagon's approach to extreme weather events is to expand the domestic role for the military in disaster response and planning, including a rise in military support for civilian agencies and diverting troops and equipment normally used in major overseas combat operations. We saw an increase in the scale of operations in Texas, Florida, and Louisiana, where mobilizations of the armed services appeared as preparations for war. Responding to Arctic melting, the Navy announced it is increasing the number of armed ships and troops to the region. The Pentagon's dystopian picture of climate causing conflicts, migration, and wars has led to the militarized response of turning the victims of climate change into potential threats. Workshop participants will be led in a discussion of non-military strategies the U.S. should be prioritizing to deal with climate crisis.

— PRESENTER —

JACKIE BARSHAK is a climate organizer with Codepink, Democratic Socialists of America and Extinction Rebellion, and received a M.A. degree from San Francisco State University. Jackie is a Know Your Rights trainer at the ACLU and an immigration court and legal observer for the National Lawyers Guild. In March 2019 Jackie and a group from Codepink and Veterans For Peace Chapter 69 pleaded for the release of Tarak Kauff and Ken Mayers in Ireland before the vice-counsel of the Irish Embassy in San Francisco.

Workshop listings continued next page...

WORKSHOPS

War Comes Home: Supporting Veterans (and Society) in the Transition from Violence to Nonviolence

SPOKANE FALLS BALLROOM, SUITE B

The problems of veterans are the problems of society. Suicide, mass incarceration, homelessness, addiction, and deportation aren't unique to the veteran community. What is unique is that veterans have been trained to commit, support or direct extreme violence in order to achieve a political objective. Military veterans thus have a higher propensity for violence, elevating them to a higher level of risk for entanglement with the criminal justice system. Panelists will explore those dynamics, share stories and statistics about incarcerated veterans from the Viet Nam era on, and look at the ways in which military culture echoes civilian culture and vice versa. Can OIF/EOF veterans truly come home, or is home where endless wars originate in the first place? Panelists will outline the kind of support veterans need to transition from war to home, from violence to nonviolence, and share some of the work they do to support veterans, including those who are or have been incarcerated or deported. How can the individual struggles of "discarded" veterans inform our efforts to move society away from the militarism that breeds violence at home and abroad?

— PRESENTERS —

REV. KELLY WADSWORTH is an Iraq War veteran and an activist-pastor in Seattle, Washington. In 2018, she completed her PhD at Saybrook University, focusing on the intersection of psychology and spirituality. Kelly is a frequent guest speaker in the Pacific Northwest and is a member of VFP Chapter 92.

KYLE RODGERS served with an infantry Marine unit for four years, beginning in 2002. He deployed to Fallujah and Ramadi, Iraq. Kyle is now in the second year of his PhD in sociology, focusing on military and veteran culture, at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He completed an MA in Criminal Justice at UNLV in 2018. He also serves as the President of a 501c3 nonprofit organization, the Bunker Project, supporting student military veterans.

DANIEL "NANE" ALEJANDREZ is a Chicano/Apache Viet Nam veteran community activist for social change. He is the founder and executive director of Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos, a longstanding grassroots organization that takes both preventative and restorative measures against violence and rising incarceration rates, such as talks with youth susceptible to violence and programs for previously incarcerated individuals. He also works with veterans who are still in prison.

FRIDAY MORNING WORKSHOPS 10:45AM–12:15PM

BRANDEE DUDZIC completed an MA in Conflict Resolution at Portland State University. She is a bystander intervention expert who specializes in teen bullying. She served as a combat medic in the Oregon Army National Guard, and is the founder and executive director of Repatriate Our Patriots, a nonprofit devoted to repatriating U.S. Veterans who have been deported. In her work at a public defender's office, Brandee sees firsthand the patterns of criminality and types of offenses most commonly committed by veterans.

— MODERATOR —

BECKY LUENING is an associate member of VFP Chapter 72 and a board member of the Viet Nam Friendship Village Project's U.S. Committee since 1996.

Building a Movement through Chapter Building and Campaigns

SPOKANE FALLS BALLROOM, SUITE C

This workshop intends to present ideas for successful chapter building and campaigns to end wars. Veterans for Peace Chapter 27 and Military Families Speak Out will facilitate a participatory discussion and invite ideas on what works and hasn't worked in your area. Discussion and overview include the elements of using a simple strategy sheet, leafleting, and a creating a press release. Free handout packets for each participant will be provided.

— PRESENTERS —

JEFF MERRICK, member of VFP (Orange County Chap. 110) and member of Military Families Speak Out

PAT ALVISO, National Coordinator for Military Families Speak Out, member and leader

DIANE PICOTTE-HABEDANK, Military Families Speak Out

DAVE LOGSDON, former president of Twin Cities VFP Chapter 27 and current VFP National board member.

BARRY RIESCH, former National VFP president and of Twin Cities Chapter 27.

Workshop listings continued next page...

WORKSHOPS

Veteran Homelessness: Challenges to Solutions

SPOKANE FALLS BALLROOM, SUITE D

Making peace possible is more than simply ending war. It needs to take into account the true total cost of war such as the alarming increase in veteran homelessness.

The number of homeless veterans across America increased by 17% in 2018 for the first time in seven years.

Our Homeless Veteran Working Group (HWWG) has been sounding the alarm that there is a crisis ahead. The face of veteran homelessness is changing, from single male veterans to single women veterans, and entire veteran families.

Our workgroup has created a proven “Best Practices” list related to solving some of the problems expressed above. They are proven short- and long-term strategies that directly involve collaboration with local government and community organizations.

The overriding purpose of our workshop is to discuss our “Best Practices” with the ultimate goal of ending veteran homelessness and to encourage fellow members to share this information with their local chapters.

— PRESENTERS —

MAURICE MARTIN is a U.S. Army Veteran and lifetime member of Veterans For Peace (member of East Bay Chapter 162, Berkeley, Calif., since 2007). He has served in a number of leadership capacities at both the local and national level, for VFP as well as other veteran initiatives, recently serving as a National VFP Board member. He is Co-Chair of VFP’s Homeless Veteran Working Group. He is also co-founder and V.P. of Amikas House, which provides housing for homeless veteran women and their children. Maurice helped facilitate VFP’s first international chapter and housing program for Deported Veterans in Tijuana, Mexico.

DAVE DITTEMORE is President of Chapter 134, Tacoma, Washington, a former Naval Reservist with active duty at the Navy Supply Depot in DaNang, Viet Nam (1969-1970), and as Storekeeper on USS O’Callahan—DE 1051 in the Pacific (1970-1971). Former chair of PTSD working group, he attends a PTSD support group. Interested in all Invisible wounds of war—PTSD, TBI, Military Sexual Trauma, Suicide. Dave participated in a divorce recovery/support group for ten years.

FRIDAY MORNING WORKSHOPS 10:45AM–12:15PM

JOHN SPITZBERG belongs to Chapters 99 (Asheville, No. Carolina) and 160 (Hanoi, Viet Nam). He served in the Army and Air Force for a total of 14 years, starting as an E-1 and leaving an O-4. He has worked with homeless veterans programs as president of Chapter 99 and president of the Asheville Homeless Network. Rural veteran homelessness is important to Spitzberg because in Alaska, where he currently lives, many homeless veterans live off the grid. He serves on the Sunshine Transit Board of Directors and is dedicated to making transportation available to homeless veterans who must travel many miles for medical appointments, purchasing of food, necessities, and mental health groups. He is interested in developing the means to find, communicate with, and help integrate rural homeless veterans.

Nuclear Madness: Past Present and Future.

GRAND BALLROOM SALON II

This panel tells two parallel stories. The first is the history, development, and impacts of nuclear weapons. The second is the formation and growth of environmental and peace resistance movements opposing nuclear madness. The discussion will focus geographically on nuclear weapons in the western hemisphere, from the Pacific, to the Nevada Desert, to the Arctic. Since their inception, nuclear weapons have wreaked environmental injustice against the most oppressed people, especially indigenous peoples. But just as the effects of nuclear weapons know no borders, neither does peace. Our panel will conclude with a discussion on current projects and tools to combat contemporary nuclear proliferation and modernization.

— PRESENTERS —

HELEN JACCARD is the Project Manager for the Veterans For Peace nuclear abolition sailboat, Golden Rule.

SHELBY SURDYK is an affiliate member of VFP (Chapter 100, Southeast Alaska). She grew up in Southeast Alaska, and is currently the project manager of “Point Hope: Alaska’s Youth Congress for the Global Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.”

JAKOB WHITSON is the Outreach Director for Nevada Desert Experience, a non-profit organization aimed at abolishing nuclear weapons and armed military drones through education, spirituality, and nonviolent civil disobedience.

Workshop listings continued next page...

WORKSHOPS

Gaza Freedom Flotilla

GRAND BALLROOM SALON III

The workshop will encourage VFP members to support Palestinian solidarity groups in their communities by using the history of the 35 boats that have sailed to break the illegal Israeli blockade of Gaza as an educational tool. The workshop will use powerpoint to show the 12 years of boats to Gaza and will provide educational materials for workshop participants to use in their communities. Some of the materials will be used to have a mini-Gaza flotilla in the nearby Spokane river during the VFP conference.

— PRESENTERS —

ANN WRIGHT, longtime VFP member (Chapter 113, Honolulu, Hawai'i), has been on five Gaza Flotillas and into Gaza six times.

KIT KITTREDGE is an associate member of VFP from Washington State and has been on four Gaza flotillas and into Gaza six times.

BARBARA BRIGGS-LETSON is an associate member of VFP and has been ground crew on the 2011, 2016, and 2018 flotillas and into Gaza one time.

KEITH MAYER is an associate member of VFP and has been ground crew for the 2016 and 2018 flotillas.

LESLIE HARRIS is an associate member from Dallas, Texas, and was ground crew on the 2018 flotilla.

How Can Veterans Unite Our Campaign to Stop Privatization of VA Healthcare with Progressives Fighting for Universal Health Care for All Americans in 2020?

GRAND BALLROOM SALON V

The campaign to privatize and discredit VA healthcare has been led by Concerned Veterans of America (CVA), a front-group for the right-wing Koch Brothers since 2014, and fully embraced by Donald Trump. The passage of the 2018 VA MISSION Act was intended to accelerate privatization by encouraging millions of veterans to seek care outside the VHA by private-sector doctors and Urgent Care Centers. VFP's SAVE OUR VA Working Group has been actively

FRIDAY MORNING WORKSHOPS 10:45AM–12:15PM

campaigning at the chapter level to stop privatization for several years, and we are the only national veterans' organization fighting this battle. But where do we go from here? The 2020 elections, already among the most watched of our lifetimes, offer an opportunity for veterans to turn the SAVE OUR VA campaign into a relevant issue in both local and national campaigns. Potential allies include the 9 million veterans who use VA healthcare and overwhelmingly support its survival but also include VA workers, many of whom are veterans, and their unions. Other largely untapped allies are the tens of thousands of Americans, young and old, active in state and national campaigns fighting for universal healthcare for all Americans. Workshop panelists will address how veterans can make SAVE OUR VA a campaign issue in all elections by uniting veterans and working with our allies for healthcare reform at the VHA and in America.

— MODERATOR —

SKIP DELANO, member of Veterans For Peace Chapter 34 (New York, NY) and coordinator of the Save Our VA Action Team.

— PRESENTERS —

DAN SHEA, president of VFP Chapter 72 (Portland, Ore.) and activist for Healthcare for All Oregon.

SUZANNE GORDON, journalist and author of *Wounds of War: How the VA Delivers Health, Healing, and Hope to the Nation's Veterans* (2018).

REPRESENTATIVE FROM NATIONAL NURSES UNITED, VHA union representing nurses and leading a national campaign advocating for Medicare for All.

HUGH FOY, a surgeon at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, Washington, is Professor of Surgery at U. of Washington and a founding member of Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP), Western Washington.

Workshop listings continued next page...

WORKSHOPS

FRIDAY AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS **12:15–1:30PM**

Global Reach: From the Battle of Four Lakes to Genocide in Yemen; Putting Spokane and Fairchild in Context

SPOKANE FALLS BALLROOM, SUITE A

In 2011, VFP's Ann Wright challenged Spokaneites to reckon with Fairchild AFB. That requires placing it in historical context as a fort town at the end of the brutal march of white settlers and U.S. Army across a continent of indigenous peoples. It requires understanding Col. George Wright, whose brutal, scorched-earth, "kill 'em all" approach impacted subsequent criminal U.S. military campaigns overseas. It also requires understanding Fairchild AFB's origins in a land acquisition financed by city leaders and businesses in competition with other Washington cities. The passive acceptance by Spokane residents of distant violence originating from Fairchild as well as the silent complicity of business, media, and community leaders in the perpetuation of "War Base Fairchild" go hand in hand with the acceptance of whatever Fairchild brings: war crimes and genocide in Vietnam (B-52s) and Yemen (KC-135s); reverse-engineered SERE program torture used at Bagram, Abu Ghraib, and Guantanamo; contamination of land, air and water; a corrupted civic and journalistic culture; moral and legal complicity; and an effectively neutralized and silenced anti-war and peace movement.

— PRESENTER —

DAVID BROOKBANK, JR., is the anti-imperialist son of a B-52 pilot and and social worker mother. His meltdown en route to the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1976 eventually led him to Nicaragua with Witness for Peace. He worked briefly as a U.S. vice consul in Latin America. He has been arrested three times opposing U.S. policies on Central America and on immigration. Recent trips have taken him to Nicaragua, Honduras, and Venezuela. Currently he is a bilingual social service worker.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS 12:15–1:30PM

Militarism and the Cost of War: Lasting Legacy of Agent Orange

SPOKANE FALLS BALLROOM, SUITE B

This workshop is organized by the Children of Vietnam Veterans Health Alliance (COVVHA) to discuss the organization and current studies and work. Heather and Val will discuss the concerns of children of Vietnam veterans and Vietnamese with birth defects. Susan, Paul, and Dan will update information regarding re-introduced legislation on Agent Orange, HR 326, current scientific studies, the cleanup of Bien Hoa Airport, and other current work.

From 1961–1971, 3.4 million Vietnamese and hundreds of thousands of American troops were sprayed directly by herbicides to destroy 7 million acres of farmland and forests. Studies show a correlation between exposure to dioxin in herbicides and 18 illnesses for which the VA provides benefits and compensation, including children of female American veterans, but only one birth defect of children of American male veterans, and nothing for the Vietnamese victims.

— PRESENTERS —

HEATHER BOWSER, founder and president of Children of Vietnam Veterans Health Alliance (COVVHA) and a licensed professional clinical counselor, was born with multiple birth defects following father's service in Viet Nam, ten miles from Bien Hoa. COVVHA works to help children of Vietnam War veterans connect and understand the impact of Agent Orange on people and land. Heather has made multiple visits to Viet Nam to meet with Agent Orange survivors.

VALERIE OUILLETTE, a member of COVVHA, has been an activist for over three decades with gay community and on women's reproductive rights. Her father was exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam. Val was born with a hereditary connective disorder, affected by her autonomic nervous system and mast cell stabilization, otherwise known as Ehlers-Danlos syndrome with crossover from Stickler syndrome. She is working with a geneticist on a study on this illness in the children of Agent Orange-exposed Vietnam veterans.

PAUL COX is an anti-war Vietnam war veteran, co-founder of VFP Chapter 69 (San Francisco, Calif.), co-coordinator of Vietnam Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility Campaign (VAORRC), president of the Veterans Healthcare Policy Institute, and board member of Swords to Plowshares Veterans Rights Organization in the Bay Area.

continued next page...

WORKSHOPS

Lasting Legacy of Agent Orange *cont.*

SUSAN SCHNALL is President of VFP Chapter 34 (New York City) and co-coordinator of VAORRC. A Navy veteran, she was courtmartialed for anti war activities in 1969. She was awarded the Viet Nam Medal of Friendship in 2006 by the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations. She has led scientific groups to Vietnam and presented a paper to an international conference on Agent Orange in Hanoi in 2016.

DAN SHEA is president VFP Chapter 72 (Portland, Ore.), a former member VFP Board of Directors, and host of VFP Forum cable television hour, and co-coordinator VAORRC.

Divesting from the War Machine

SPOKANE FALLS BALLROOM, SUITE C

This panel seeks to inform and inspire participants to action through financial pressure on our institutions. Divesting from the war machine is an incipient strategy of the anti-war movement that has support from a broad and growing national coalition. Participants will learn about the multitude of pressure points the divestment campaign is targeting, ranging from municipal funds to university endowments to banks and financial institutions and beyond. We will also explore the need for any Green New Deal to address the extreme pollution (CO2 and others) of the military industrial complex, and the connections between border security and U.S. imperialism and the companies reaping profits behind it all.

— PRESENTERS —

ANN WRIGHT spent thirteen years in the U.S. Army and sixteen additional years in the Army Reserves, retiring as a Colonel. Wright joined the U.S. Diplomatic Corps and served as U.S. Deputy Ambassador in Sierra Leone, Micronesia, Afghanistan, and Mongolia. She was on the first State Department team to go to Afghanistan and helped reopen the Embassy there in December 2001. Her other overseas assignments included Somalia, Kyrgyzstan, Grenada, Micronesia, and Nicaragua.

NANCY MANCIAS has a B.A. degree in Drama from San Francisco State University and is now in the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program at Dominican University of California. She has worked over 15 years in the non-profit sector, focusing on social services, social justice, and theater. She

FRIDAY AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS 12:15–1:30PM

has volunteered and visited the refugee camps in Greece and Kurdistan, Iraq, and provided migrant support on the U.S.-Mexico border. As an anti-war advocate, Mancias has been actively trying to bring the troops home from their overseas misadventures. She has also been part of the movement against torture and a proponent of closing the prison in Guantanamo.

MAYA ROMMWATT Is the National Organizer on CODEPINK's Divest from the War Machine campaign. She's organized for climate justice, wildlife conservation, and public lands in the West. Maya is based in Portland, Oregon.

How to File for VA Benefits

SPOKANE FALLS BALLROOM, SUITE D

This workshop will focus on how veterans can take charge of claiming their VA benefits. Presenters will talk about the process and procedure of filing a claim, emphasizing things the veteran can do to ensure a successful claim, whether they file on their own or with the assistance of an advocate.

— PRESENTERS —

MARK FLEMING, member and current secretary of VFP Chapter 109 (Olympia, Wash.), is a Viet Nam combat veteran, accredited independent VA claims agent, and co-producer of the “Veterans Hour” television show.

DENNIS MILLS, member and current treasurer of VFP Chapter 109 (Olympia, Wash.), is a Viet Nam Era veteran, accredited independent VA claims agent, and co-producer of the “Veterans Hour” television show.

Workshop listings continued next page...

WORKSHOPS

Deported Veterans Issues & Advocacy Project

GRAND BALLROOM SALON I

We will utilize this workshop to further our current expansion and human resources efforts. Topics covered will include: Legislative Initiatives, Legislative Outreach Team Building, Unified Lobbying, and Fundraising.

— PRESENTERS —

MARTHA GARCIA is the mother of Jose Roberto Segovia Benitez, a USMC Iraq war veteran currently in ICE detention, facing deportation.

MARIO MARTINEZ was born in Mexico 1963 and came to the U.S. in 1967 at 4 years old. He enlisted in the U.S. Army and after three years of active duty (1980–1983) and three more years in the reserve (total 6 years military service), he was honorably discharged, but is now facing deportation. His case is currently under adjudication. [Joining via teleconference.]

JAN RUHMAN is Operations Coordinator of the Deported Veterans Advocacy Project and a founding member of VFP Sgt. Barrios Chapter 182 (Tijuana, Baja Calif., Mexico).

MAURICE MARTIN is a member of VFP Chapter 162 (East Bay, Calif.) and NoCal Operations Coordinator of the Deported Veterans Advocacy Project.

GEORGE JOHNSON, a VFP National Board member, is SoCal Coordinator of the Deported Veterans Advocacy Project, and a founding member of VFP Sgt. Barrios Chapter 182 (Tijuana, Baja Calif., Mexico).

WILLIE HAGER, a VFP Board Member, is Administrative Coordinator of the Deported Veterans Project, Coordinator of VFP Jacob George Chapter 174 (Jacksonville, Fl.), and a founding member of VFP Sgt. Barrios Chapter 182 (Tijuana, Baja Calif., Mexico).

FRIDAY AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS 12:15–1:30PM

Post Traumatic Stress, Moral Injury: Paths to Healing (2 separate workshops)

GRAND BALLROOM SALON II

1. Unspoken Borders: Knowing and Healing PTSD and Moral Injury

We can understand and treat military PTSD and moral injury despite pro-military assumptions that distort how we view veterans' psychological trauma. In the U.S., veterans must reject a manly warrior ethic of stoic silence. In Israel, popular sentiment actually exalts stories of emotional trauma because they fit into a broader narrative of national victimhood. Both these situations affect veterans' need to heal and live an authentic life among civilians. After reviewing the actual extent of veterans' psychological suffering cross-culturally, we will discuss the universal healing power of empathy, reconciliation, and vigorous public advocacy for peace. We will invite audience participants to share their own observations and experiences regarding militarism-friendly thinking concerning veterans' psychological trauma and how to overcome it, especially regarding gender-based barriers to effective communication.

— PRESENTERS —

SAM COLEMAN, PhD, MSW, is coordinator of VFP's Military Trauma Working Group. Coleman studies veterans' mental health issues. As coordinator of the VFP Military Trauma Working Group since 2014, he created the Concerned Clinicians and Researchers' Network web page (concernedcrn.org) to advance cooperation among specialists studying PTSD. Coleman holds a PhD in Anthropology from Columbia University and a Masters in Social Work from California State University Long Beach, and is a lecturer in Asian Studies at the latter. His current efforts include collaborating with VFP Japan on veterans' mental health issues. An associate member of Chapter 110 since 2005, he served two years of alternate service at the VA Hospital in Palo Alto, California (1969–1971).

continued next page...

WORKSHOPS

PTSD and Moral Injury *cont.*

Yael Findler, MA, PhD Candidate, University of Southern California Department of Sociology. Findler specializes in the study of trauma and collective action, therapeutic culture, and gender issues. For her doctoral dissertation she is conducting an on-the-ground study of civic organizations in the U.S. and Israel that advocate for veterans' mental health resources. Before joining USC's PhD program, Findler completed her Master's degree in Sociology and Anthropology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 2015, receiving the Rector's Award for Outstanding Achievement and the Shaine Fellowship for Outstanding Thesis Proposals in Sociology and Anthropology.

Michael A. Messner, Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies, University of Southern California. Messner teaches and conducts research with a focus on men and feminism, gender and sports, gender-based violence, and war and peace. He is the author of several books, *King of the Wild Suburb: A Memoir of Fathers, Sons and Guns* (Plain View Press, 2011), *Some Men: Feminist Allies and the Movement to End Violence Against Women* (Oxford University Press, 2015), and most recently, *Guys Like Me: Five Wars, Five Veterans for Peace* (Rutgers University Press, 2019). His honors include the Pursuit of Justice Award from the California Women's Law Center, the Feminist Mentoring Award from the Sociologists for Women in Society, and the Jessie Bernard Award, presented by the American Sociological Association in recognition of contributions to the understanding of women's lives.

2. A Path Beyond Post Traumatic Stress to Recovery and Resilience

In this chaotic time of world unrest, continuous wars, mass shootings and natural disasters due to climate change, all of us need to be fully aware what not only veterans and their families, but also many humans such as refugees and also animals suffer around the world. We need urgent solutions. The presenters will explore the following issues: What are Post Traumatic Stress and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder? What are the symptoms? What happens in the brain and body? How do third world countries define PTSD? Presenters will also go over some steps to becoming resilient and to recover.

We know that the world is a system and what we do affects others emotionally, physically, and environmentally. What can we do to help

FRIDAY AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS 12:15–1:30PM

children, families and communities at home and worldwide who suffer the consequences of continuous war? And what can we do to stop wars, stop climate change and transform our world into a harmonious and peaceful planet?

— PRESENTERS —

ANNA GOODWIN, MS, NCC, is a former psychotherapist and lecturer turned writer at the end of her career. She has been in the field of psychotherapy for over 30 years starting in Maryland and has worked in private practice for many years, then as an assistant professor at Montana State University and as an adjunct professor at the University of Idaho. In her private practice, well over half of her clients were dealing with PTSD. She wrote and received both regional and national grants for her work. She also started the Montana statewide program, “Prevent Child Abuse,” and was the state representative for the national program developed on Sexual Abuse. Anna has conducted many national and state workshops and has lectured at psychological conferences, as well as local seminars. She is the author of three nonfiction books: *How to Cope with Stress after Trauma: Especially for Veterans, their Families and Friends*, *A Path beyond Post Traumatic Stress: Steps to Recovery and Resilience*, and is co-author of *Sandplay Therapy: A Step by Step Manual for Psychotherapists of Diverse Orientations*.

G. MAEVE AEOLUS, RN, C, is a retired nurse, counselor and clinical educator. She retired in 2014 after 40 years of nursing and counseling. Maeve was a sergeant in the USAF during the Vietnam War (1965-1970), serving stateside and overseas. During service Maeve was subjected to military sexual trauma and is a service-connected veteran with PTSD. She is a member of VFP Chapter 35 (Spokane, Wash.). Maeve has an ongoing commitment to educating veterans and the general public regarding what she considers a worldwide PTS/PTSD epidemic.

GEORGE TAYLOR, a retired Navy veteran, still suffers from PTSD. His military unit was involved in the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. After service George attended theological seminary and became a Presbyterian minister for 36 years. Since then he has been actively involved in many service areas including speaker for Veterans For Peace. Currently he serves as Vice President of VFP Chapter 35 (Spokane, Wash.). George believes that all veterans (100%) suffer from some degree of PTS, whether they have been in combat or not.

Workshop listings continued next page...

WORKSHOPS

Effective Strategy and Messaging—National Office

GRAND BALLROOM SALON III

Our organizing and our ability to communicate our vision is central to the work we do at Veterans For Peace. One of the best ways to illustrate our vision of ending war is to organize campaigns that allow us to build momentum and power. Building campaigns allows us to model what can happen when we work together and create avenues and concrete steps for people to join in the work. And creating opportunities for success helps us to organize from a hope-filled perspective and encourages others to want to believe their time and commitment could affect change.

Building campaigns also involves creative story-telling about why we accomplish our goals. Having good messaging brings in new people and helps strategically with gaining public opinion through press.

Join National VFP office staff as we go over some helpful tips on developing better tools for developing campaigns and tips for reaching media.

— PRESENTERS —

GARETT REPPENHAGEN is the Executive Director at Veterans For Peace. The son of a Viet Nam Veteran and grandson of two World War II Veterans, Garrett served in the U.S. Army as a Cavalry/Scout Sniper in the 1st Infantry Division. Garrett completed a deployment in Kosovo on a 9-month peace-keeping mission and a combat tour in Baquba, Iraq. Garrett gained an Honorable Discharge in May of 2005 and began working as a veterans advocate and a dedicated activist. He served as the Chairman of the Board of Iraq Veterans Against the War, worked in Washington, DC, as a lobbyist and as Vice President of Public Relations for the Nobel Prize winning Veterans For America, as a Program Director for Veterans Green Jobs and was the Rocky Mountain Director for Vet Voice Foundation. Garrett lives in Colorado.

COLLEEN KELLY is a community organizer and activist raised in St. Louis, Missouri. Currently, she is the Communications Coordinator for National Veterans For Peace. She was part of the Catholic Worker community, and cooperatively ran a house of hospitality for homeless women and children from 2008-2017. Kelly has been a community organizer with the St. Louis Instead of War Coalition since 2005, and in 2009, she helped form the St. Louis Palestine Solidarity Committee, (PSC). She also was on the leadership team of the Anti-Racist Collective in St. Louis. She has actively worked on a number of issues ranging from police brutality and militarization, to privatization of resources, gentrification and anti-oppression.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS 12:15–1:30PM

Veterans For Peace Global Diplomacy: Climbers for Peace in Iran / Veterans Report Back from Nicaragua and Venezuela / Iraq Water Project

GRAND BALLROOM SALON V

1. Climbers for Peace in Iran

See a slideshow about the CFP expedition to Iran in July 2018 where U.S. climbers joined with Iranians and summited Damavand, an 18,605 foot volcano that is sacred to the Persian people. At 75, Fred Ptucha was the oldest American to ever summit Damavand. After the climb, he and others visited five cities and had meetings with hundreds of Iranians and found them amazingly warm and friendly. In most cases we were the first Americans they had ever met.

— PRESENTER —

FRED PTUCHA did four tours in Viet Nam (1965-70) and is founding president and current president of VFP Chapter 71 (Sonoma/Santa Rosa, Calif.). He made two humanitarian trips to Viet Nam with Veterans Vietnam Restoration Project (VVRP). Since founding Climbers for Peace in 1997, he has led 11 expeditions that summited iconic mountains around the world.

continued next page...

Veterans For Peace Global Diplomacy *cont.*

2. Veterans Report Back from Nicaragua and Venezuela

VFP members will report back from recent delegations to Nicaragua and Venezuela, with an emphasis on opposing U.S. intervention in those countries. National Security Adviser John Bolton has labeled Venezuela and Nicaragua, along with Cuba, the “Troika of Tyranny” that has finally “met its match” in a Trump administration committed to overthrowing all three governments. Why? How? What can we do to stop U.S. intervention? Veterans will share what they learned while visiting the people of Nicaragua and Venezuela.

— PRESENTERS —

GERRY CONDON is a Viet Nam-era veteran and war resister who spent six years in Sweden and Canada after refusing orders to Vietnam. Gerry has a long history in the veterans peace movement. In 1983–84, he organized the first two veterans delegations to revolutionary Nicaragua, and in 1987, he was a co-coordinator of the Veterans Peace Convoy to Nicaragua. From 1993-96, Gerry worked for IFCO/Pastors For Peace, organizing humanitarian aid and political solidarity caravans to Cuba. Since 2004, Gerry has been on the front lines of supporting Iraq and Afghanistan war resisters in Canada, Germany and elsewhere. For the last two years, Gerry has served as National Board Vice President of Veterans For Peace.

PATRICK McCANN is a lifetime member of VFP, first joining during the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003. He has been a member of Vietnam Veterans Against the War for four-plus decades. He has served on VFP’s Board of Directors for 10 years, and was Board President in 2013–14), as well as president of the South Florida and DC Metro area chapters at different times, working hard to bring forward veterans of color, female veterans, and post-9/11 veterans. He has been involved in hosting two national VFP conventions (U-MD in 2009, Miami in 2012), and has participated in a number of VFP delegations, including to Haiti and, most recently, to Venezuela. Patrick retired from teaching high school in June, 2015.

OTHERS TO BE ANNOUNCED.

3. The Iraq Water Project—20 years on!

The Iraq Water Project (IWP) is one of VFP's most successful projects. Conceived in 1999 during the sanctions, IWP has evolved from major water plant rebuilding, into helping those in need at schools, orphanages, and medical clinics with small water purification units. People-to-people contact is important to us, and with a constant need of humanitarian help, there is no shortage of projects, only funds. Our workshop will present a powerpoint of video and slides of Thaer Alhumaiden's recent fact-finding trip to Iraq in May, 2019, showing current levels of need and assistance still desperately needed in Iraq. Find more information and donate to the Iraq Water Project at iraqwaterproject.com.

— PRESENTER —

LEE VAN DE LAAN is a Long-time committed VFP member since 1989 (Samantha Smith Chapter 45, North Shore, Mass.). He helped end the Viet Nam embargo (project in Hanoi, 1993–94), staffed VFP national office in D.C. (1999), co-chaired the Boston VFP convention committee (2004), and is the new chair of the Iraq Water Project with Art Dorland, Chairman Emeritus. M. Unfortunately, Lee could not make it to Spokane, but his slideshow is here.

FILM SCREENINGS

THURSDAY AFTERNOON (pre-conference double feature)

AUGUST 15 • 2:30 PM

Boy Soldiers: The Secret War in Okinawa

2018 | 114 mins | Directed by Hanayo Oya & Chie Mikami



Okinawa, the chain of islands at the southernmost tip of Japan, became the bulwark to protect the Japanese mainland toward the end of World War II. After the U.S. troops landed and a violent battle ensued, over 200,000 lives were lost, including many civilians. While the bloody war depicted in films such as *Hacksaw Ridge* ensued on the surface, there was another secret war developing in its shadow that not even Japanese people are aware of. For over 70 years after the war, survivors have been afraid to share the tragic details. Guerrilla units composed of boy soldiers, malaria epidemics, allied troops and civilians killing other civilians...and a conspiracy plotted by young elite generals who had just graduated from the Japanese Army's enigmatic "Nakano school." This documentary uncovers Japan's greatest taboos concerning the Battle of Okinawa, and also sounds alarms concerning modern Japan's recent steps toward remilitarization. The film has been shown at theaters in Japan, South Korea, Switzerland, and Germany, having received eight awards including the Award for Best Documentary Film from the Kinema Junpo, the most prestigious film award in Japan. The screening at the VFP convention will be the U.S. premiere.

TRAILER: <https://youtu.be/AjBJHr223Pk>

FILMS LOCATION: Spokane Falls Ballroom A/B

AUGUST 15 • 4:00 PM

Our Island's Treasure

2019 | 30 mins | Directed by Kaiya Yonamine

My name is Kaiya, and I am a 17-year old Okinawan American high school student from Portland, Oregon. I recently went back to Henoko because I was frustrated with the silence of the media around this crisis. I wanted to make a documentary to show the world what's happening. This documentary focuses on the current destruction of the beautiful Okinawan ocean in Henoko and the fight by native Uchinanchu people to protect it. This is an emergency!

VIMEO LINK: vimeo.com/340517922

THURSDAY NIGHT

AUGUST 15 • 9:45 PM

The Isis Trial

2019 | 87mins | Directed by Ellie Bernstein & Tracy Nicole Cring



The Isis Trial takes a look at the sensational trial of three young Somali boys in Minneapolis-accused and convicted of terrorism in 2016. It includes the history of the police and FBI in Minneapolis, the use of an informant and the general targeting of Muslims-specifically Somali-Muslims in the twin cities. The film correlates the million-dollar investment from the Countering Violent Extremism program (CVE) in Minneapolis with the investigation of 10 Somali boys and the ultimate trial of 3 of them, sentenced to a combined 95 years, who had no history of violence.

FILM SCREENINGS

FRIDAY NIGHT

AUGUST 16 • 10:00 PM

The Beginning of the End of Nuclear Weapons

2019 | 59mins | Álvaro Orús



This documentary film tells the story of how the United Nations came to approve a new treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons, despite the fact that the majority of the world's population neither know about the treaty nor understand the threat that nuclear weapons pose to the world today. It takes the viewer through a brief history of nuclear bombs and the anti-nuclear activism that has pushed to eliminate them ever since their invention, including moving testimony from Hiroshima bomb survivor, Setsuko Thurlow. It moves into a consideration of the humanitarian initiative that successfully challenged the dominant security discourse and the historic steps taken since 2010 to turn the treaty from a dream into a reality. The key roles of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, who won the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts, and the International Committee of the Red Cross are highlighted. The story is told through interviews with 14 experts in their fields. Finally, the film shows what can be done by anyone to help bring the treaty into force and to stigmatize nuclear weapons until they are finally eradicated.

TRAILER: https://youtu.be/l3_bKtdtqRM

FILMS LOCATION: Spokane Falls Ballroom A/B

SATURDAY NIGHT

AUGUST 17 • 10:00 PM

Rhizophora

2015 | 16 mins | Directed by Julia Metzger-Traber & Davide DeLillis

A surreal dance video based on a day in the life of 11 residents at the Friendship Village in Van Canh, Hanoi, Viet Nam, this film demonstrates the empowerment of young people living with significant disabilities caused by their parents' exposure to Agent Orange/dioxin. Established in 1998 through the partnership of veterans from five countries including George Mizo, a VFP member from Massachusetts, the village is a residential facility for young people living with various physical and mental challenges coming from the genetically inherited effects of Agent Orange.

Road to Reconcile

2017 / 53mins | Joel Woodman



Road To Reconcile is the story of a small group of unlikely heroes who have returned to Vietnam and partnered with the country and the people they once fought against. Filmed throughout the former demilitarized zone (DMZ) along what the Vietnamese call the “The Road of No Joy,” this film explores the intimate and often complicated process of healing that has taken place between former enemies (U.S.- Vietnam) and how that history offers a hopeful example for future conflicts in a post-war era.

WEBSITE: <https://www.roadtoreconcile.com/>

THANK YOU!

OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION

*to each and every individual, chapter,
allied organization, and business who
has supported this year's convention
by placing an ad in this handbook.*

—2019 VFP Convention Crew



Tom Sturtevant Chapter 1

is collaborating with VFP member

Rob Shetterly

to provide his calendar to high school teachers
around the country.

If you are interested in joining us in that effort,
please contact Doug Rawlings at
rawlings@maine.edu



Samantha Smith Chapter 45 sends warm greetings for a successful convention in Spokane! Wage Peace!

❖ THANK YOU ❖

... to VFP Chapter 35 for hosting our convention, and
... to all VFP chapters who continually work throughout the year to spread a message of peace.

We acknowledge that the bigger war is on our environment; if we lose that, we all perish.

It is a critical time to be alert and focused, as AWOL—the American Way of Life—encourages us to keep consuming, keep wasting energy, keep eating lots of bad food, and to be living separate lives.

We, however, are of the new consciousness; we're waking up and establishing new communities in order to live sustainable lives.

In brother and sisterhood,

VFP Chapter 7
Los Angeles, California



*All the Best, Spokane, for
another great convention.*



Smedley D. Butler Chapter 9, Boston, Massachusetts
is proud to be a part of an organization working for peace in our times.



Raytheon Anti-War Campaign; Save Our VA; U.S. Out of
Venezuela; No War in Iran; Renew Armistice Day; Golden Rule

SAVE OUR VA

**Vets Say
NO to
Privatization**



**vfpgainesville.org
veteransforpeace.org**



ARTWORK BY GEORGIA CONROY

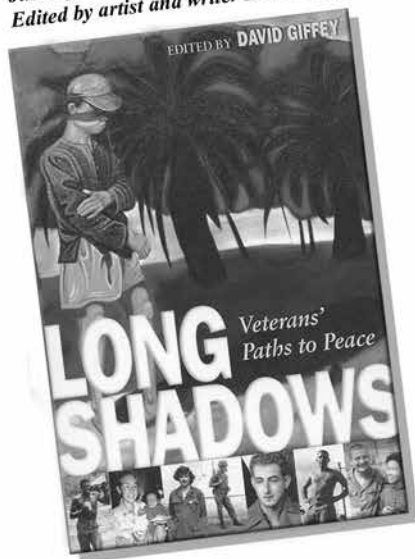
Greetings to Spokane!
from Clarence Kailin
Chapter 25, Madison
Veterans for Peace



photo by Terry Talbot

Long Shadows

Just reprinted, available for purchase
Edited by artist and writer David Giffey



Originally published in 2006;
a collection of 19 interviews with
veterans who candidly discuss
their paths from military involve-
ment to peace activism. Their
experiences range from the Spanish
Civil War (Kailin) to the Iraq war.

A Foreword by eminent historian
Howard Zinn observes that this
is a volume about the many
different paths taken by
these veterans -- in every case
leading to an abhorrence of war.

50 % off for VFP members
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For purchase information
email: jhfour@gmail.com

“End the Korean War Now!”

(Watch our video on YouTube with above title)



—69 Years of War is Too Long—

—Time to Sign a Peace Treaty—

VFP-Korea Peace Campaign

veteransforpeace.org/our-work/vfp-national-projects

kpc@veteransforpeace.org

Tom Paine Chapter #10 — Albany, NY



www.usmagnetix.com

***Stop by Chapter #27 booth for free Veterans Crisis Line magnet
courtesy of US Magnetix***

**THANK YOU,
Michael T. McPhearson!
All the best to you!**



Twin Cities, Minnesota VFP Chapter 27

Speaking truth to power for over 30 years!

**WELCOME,
Garrett Reppenhagen!
Thank you for jumping on board to
serve as VFP Executive Director!**

NYC Chapter 34 congratulates Veterans For Peace

**On 34 Years of Waging Peace
Sacred Lands, Sacred Lives:
Peace Knows No Borders!**



**facebook.com/
veteransforpeacenyc034**



ALL LANDS AND ALL LIVES ARE SACRED

PEACE PLEASE

Peace, please, oh noble Warrior, please,
please Stand Down, and see the flowers blooming in the meadows,
and bluebirds chirping melodies, and clouds scribing
messages of serenity in turquoise skies.



PEACE OR PERISH

It's a shame we didn't learn . . . that wars can no longer be won,
that all sides lose, that military solutions are problems,
that military victory is a quaint concept
that can hardly be validated. . . .

—Rusty Nelson, President, VFP Chapter 35

SPOKANE WASHINGTON CHAPTER #35

VETERANS FOR PEACE

www.spokaneveteransforpeace.org

Larsen J. Prip... *Presente!*

"Some people wonder all their lives if they've made a difference. The Marines don't have that problem."

—RONALD REAGAN

Once a Marine, and then for much longer (but not long enough) a kind man of peace and a tireless advocate for justice and peace, Lars made a huge difference in the world, but not in the way Mr. Reagan probably had in mind.

We are all smarter, wiser and more inspired because of knowing Lars. It has been the privilege of many to have shared the planet with him for a time.

Semper Fidelis et Pacificae



"HUMANKIND has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect."

—Chief Seattle, Duwamish



New Hampshire VFP sends thanks to Spokane VFP for sponsoring the 2019 Convention. Best wishes for a great convention!

STOP BANKING THE BOMB



Our campaign is a broad-based coalition dedicated to the divestment from immoral loans that produce weapons of mass destruction. The more they invest, the more we protest!

VETERANS FOR PEACE OF WESTERN PA
WE DEMAND BANKS STOP PROFITEERING ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS
 join us on facebook — <https://www.facebook.com/StopBankingtheBomb/>



Cpl. Jeffrey M. Lucey Chapter 041

Cape Cod, Massachusetts

**Advocacy and healing for military
victims of Combat Stress Injuries.**

Our 24th annual **Voices of Peace Poetry Contest**
 – this year with 769 entries, from 24 schools.

**Best wishes to our brothers and sisters
working for peace and reconciliation,
and to abolish war.**

Since 1991, educating the Cape Cod
community about the true costs of war,
the possibilities for peace, and the
dangers of militarism.

***No War on Iran!
No War on Venezuela!
No War ANYWHERE!***



PHIL BERRIGAN MEMORIAL
CHAPTER #105

Baltimore, Maryland

PEACE! to all veterans and associates at the 34th Annual VFP Convention in Spokane



Veterans For Peace Chapter 46 members pose for a group shot in front of the Monterey Peace and Justice Center. Current chapter officers are: Justin Loza, President; Albert Maldonado, V.P.; Michael Dempsey, Secretary; and Dan Turner, Treasurer.



On the seventeenth anniversary of its founding, the 100+ members of the Santa Fe Chapter—"The Joan Duffy Chapter"—salute our colleagues gathered in Spokane, as well as all the others scattered around the nation and the globe, in the struggle to create a more peaceful world.

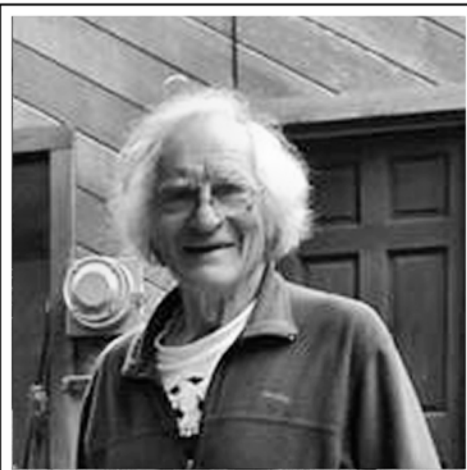
The nuclear age was born here in New Mexico. We look forward to a major Veterans For Peace campaign to denuclearize the world with a global effort as we approach the 75th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 2020. Please join us next August when the Albuquerque and Santa Fe Veterans For Peace Chapters host the 2020 VFP Convention in Albuquerque and Los Alamos, New Mexico.

"I object to violence because when it appears to do good, the good is only temporary; the evil it does it permanent."

—Gandhi

www.vfp-santafe.org • info@vfp-santafe.org

IN MEMORY of our Friend, Mentor & Fallen Comrade *Presente! - Presente! - Presente!*



Willard Ray 'Bill' Thompson
1929-2018
Captain, US Army, 1951-1958

👤 Born in San Francisco, Bill graduated from Vista High School and earned a B.A. in Economics at Knox College in 1951. He married Maureen Thompson and they had five children.

👤 Seriously wounded on "Pork Chop Hill" in Korea, Bill later served in Frankfurt, Germany. After his honorable discharge, Bill received an MBA from Stanford University but decided to teach young children. His 24-year teaching career in Palo Alto

schools included the 5th, 4th, and 1st grades, with his last 15 years, the "happiest and most productive," teaching kindergarten. His concern for the future world, for young children, led to his protest of first-strike nuclear weapons at Livermore Labs in 1982. The following year, he and 2,500 others were arrested and jailed 11 days. Bill and his second wife, June, participated in numerous peace and anti-nuclear events in the 1980's. Bill and June moved to Bayside, Ca., in 1989. He was instrumental in founding the Jacoby Creek Land Trust.

👤 In 1991, Bill became a founding member of the Humboldt Bay Chapter and he greatly enjoyed attending VFP's National Conventions. In 1994, Bill participated in a 40-day, juice-only fast on the Capitol steps in Washington, D.C., to close the School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Ga., where he had once been stationed. Before the start of the 2nd Gulf War, Chapter 56 began a daily vigil and Bill continued to stand faithfully on the Arcata Plaza in the weekly vigils opposing war. In November 2005, he began ringing a ceremonial bell for an hour preceding the vigil in remembrance of those killed in Iraq.

👤 At his hillside home, Bill terraced 1.5 acres into "Folklife Farm," with the vision of a place to bring local and international communities together to share in farming, sustainable energy, music, art, and spiritual connection, with the air of spreading love in the world.



Bill and his Weapon of Choice

Ad sponsored by Veterans For Peace Humboldt Bay – Chapter 56



The Donald and Sally-Alice Thompson Chapter 63 Veterans For Peace Albuquerque, NM

CIA/NSA Intervening in U.S. Internal Affairs

We, having dutifully served our nation, do hereby affirm our greater responsibility to serve the cause of world peace. To this end we will work, with others

- “To restrain our government from intervening, overtly and covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations”... including the USA (our addition)

The Central Intelligence Agency (founded 1947) and National Security Administration (founded 1952) have both interfered in the internal affairs of the US and its citizens for many decades.

- CIA's 1950s MK-ULTRA program used US and Canadian citizens to develop more effective torture techniques including sensory deprivation, stress positions, and self-inflicted pain. They were motivated by a perceived “torture gap” with the Soviets!
- The CIA actively spied on, collected information about, and disrupted anti-Vietnam activists activities with its Operation CHAOS (MJCHOAS) and Operation MERRIMACK programs
- The CIA deprived the FBI of critical information about two al Qaeda agents that (possibly) could have prevented the 9/11 airplane attacks. CIA intent was to co-opt these men.
- The NSA violated the 4th Amendment by collecting the phone and internet communications of *every* US citizen without a warrant - including politicians at all levels.
- The CIA is amongst us. Every major U.S. city has an office. Agents can spend years in these local offices.
- The CIA leadership has a long history of lying to Congressional oversight — and to U.S. citizens.

SAVE OUR VA!

DON'T LET HEALTHCARE CEOS and PRIVATIZERS DISMANTLE THE VA!

ASK THESE QUESTIONS BEFORE YOU AGREE TO REFERRAL TO

VA PROVIDER:

- What data do you have about the quality of care I will receive?
- Is the quality any better than what I'd receive here at the VA?
- Can I expect expertise in military-related conditions?
- Are the wait-times shorter in Community Care?
- Can I choose VA care even if I need to wait or drive further?
- Would my outside-provider care be coordinated by the VA?
- Will a bad outcome leave me dealing with this on my own?

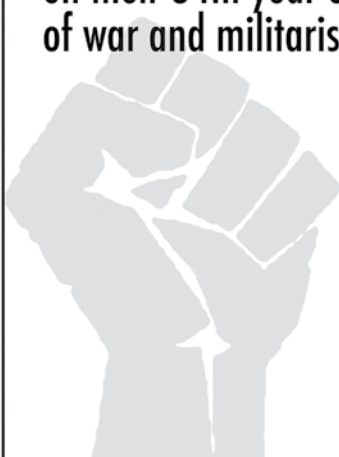
**CALL YOUR REPRESENTATIVE AND SENATOR AT
(202) 225-3121 AND TELL THEM
"FILL THE 50,000 STAFF VACANCIES."**



VFP CHAPTER 69, SAN FRANCISCO

**Congratulations to Veterans for Peace
on their 34th year of exposing the true costs
of war and militarism.**

The NLG salutes you!



 /NLGnational
 /NLGnews
 @nationallawyersguild
 www.nlg.org

**NO IRAN WAR!
NO PRIVATIZATION OF THE VA!**

Veterans Commission of the Party of Communists USA salutes the 34th Annual Convention of Veterans for Peace



P. O. BOX 140434, STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314-0434
WWW.PARTYOFCOMMUNISTSUSA.ORG (718) 979-6563

The Rachel Corrie Chapter
109 Olympia, Washington
welcomes
Veterans For Peace
to
The Evergreen State



Chapter website:
vfp109.com

Our Writers:

Larry Kerschner:
livejournal.com/~larrywrites

Mark Fleming:
reluctantsoldier.com

First Things First!
WORLD PEACE FIRST!

Paradoxically,
our last ditch stand,
optimal line of departure,
and final stop line.

Search the Web:
"LearnerPeaceworld"

LEARNER, BEGIN
www.learnerpeaceworld.com

V.A. HEALTHCARE SAVES LIVES.

VETERANS SAY: RESTORE FUNDING AND FULL STAFFING!



VFP Chapter 72 President Dan Shea speaks on behalf of veterans at a Save Our VA rally held jointly with the American Federation of Government Employees Union on June 5, 2019 at the World Trade Center Plaza in SW Portland, the location of Senator Jeff Merkley's office (D-OR), June 5, 2019. Photo: Mike Hastie.

VFP Chapter 72



Portland, Oregon

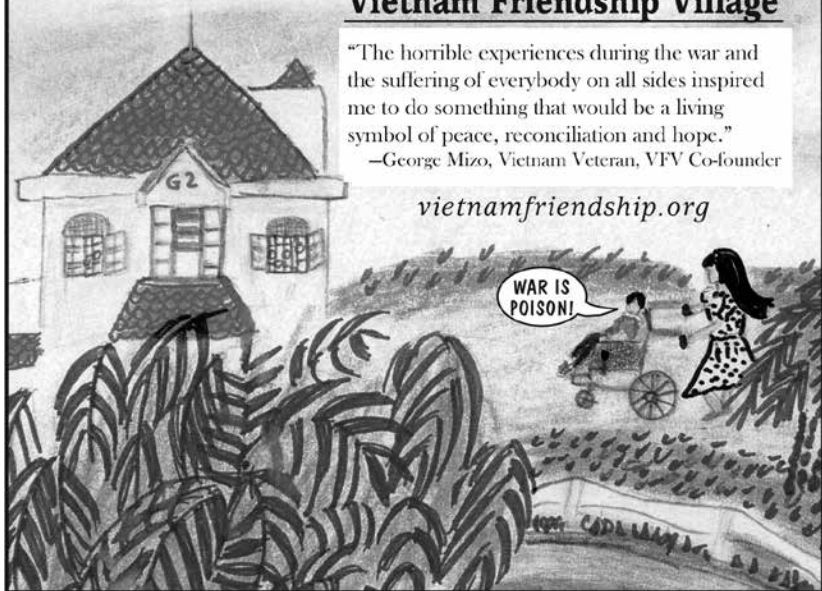
BECAUSE THE WOUNDS OF WAR TAKE A LONG TIME TO HEAL...

Vietnam Friendship Village

"The horrible experiences during the war and the suffering of everybody on all sides inspired me to do something that would be a living symbol of peace, reconciliation and hope."

—George Mizo, Vietnam Veteran, VFV Co-founder

vietnamfriendship.org



**IN THE FUTURE,
THERE WILL BE NO
WAR.**

**OR THERE WILL BE
NO FUTURE.**

Peace is possible. Evansville #104

Listen up!

VETERANS FOR PEACE RADIO HOUR

Thursdays @ 1PM CST

Livestream – www.radiofreenashville.org

Listen online anytime at

[https://soundcloud.com/WRFN Veterans for Peace](https://soundcloud.com/WRFN-Veterans-for-Peace)



Harvey Bennett and Jim Wohlgeomuth, VFP co-hosts



**Veterans for Peace Chapter 089
Nashville, Tennessee**

We value your feedback and ideas. Contact us at:
JRwohlgeomuth@juno.com –or– Bennethe2@gmail.com

On the air and online since January 2016



SAN DIEGO VETERANS FOR PEACE

sdvfp.org

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A PEACEFUL, SUSTAINABLE WORLD JOIN US

SAN DIEGO 350

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION

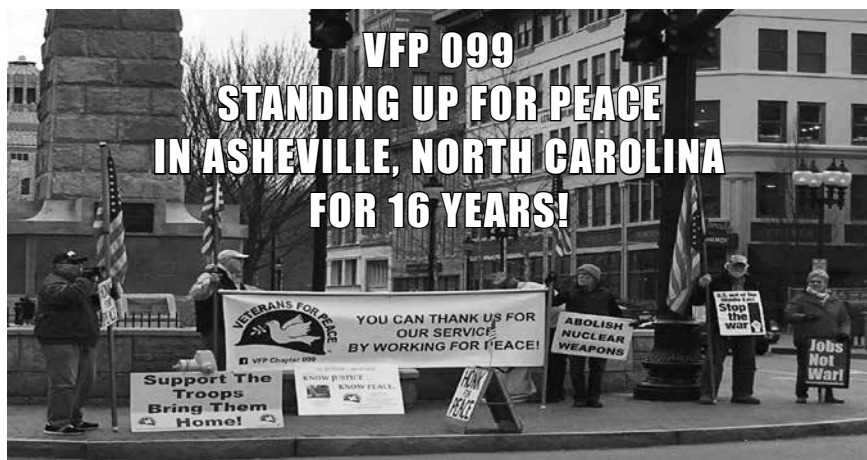
sandiego350.org

Drawings by Janie Upheim JanieUpheim.com
Used with Permission



Whether or not you believe in the pearly gates ...

you can be an angel and an ongoing contributor to peace by remembering Veterans for Peace in your will or other Planned Giving options. It's easy, and it doesn't cost a thing while you are alive. Help create a sustainable future for generations to come. Visit the Planned Giving Table at the Convention.



COURAGE TO RESIST

in collaboration with the
VIETNAM FULL DISCLOSURE
 effort of Veterans For Peace



Present a **weekly podcast** commemorating
GI resistance to the US war in Vietnam.
 This year marks **50 years of heroic resistance**,
 in and out of uniform, for many of the
courageous individuals featured.

To listen, **search 'Courage to Resist'** on your
favorite podcasting app, including: iTunes,
 TuneIn & Stitcher. Or visit (& consider supporting):

couragetoresist.org/podcasts

CENTRO GARYMAR



WELCOME TO CENTRO GARYMAR IN PLAYAS DE TIJUANA!



CALL TODAY! (619) 258-0169
MAR@CENTROGARYMAR.ORG
FACEBOOK: CUPTJ

Centro GaryMar is a facility, founded by activists, where social justice oriented groups can meet and support each other and small groups from outside of Tijuana can stay during their visit to our city at very reasonable rates. Centro GaryMar always extends help to deported vets for meetings, parties, visitors, etc. The 1st. VFP Board meeting outside the U.S. was held here. It is owned and operated by U.S. Veterans.

Veterans For Peace Chapter 92, Seattle

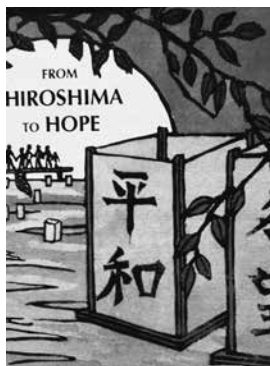
Sacred Lands, Sacred Lives: Peace Knows No Borders.

OCEANIA RISING PEACE PIVOT TO THE PACIFIC

Recent controversies in the Pacific have centered on the environmental, social, political, cultural, and economic effects of U.S. military bases. Kyle Kajihiro, board member of Hawai'i Peace and Justice, commented, "The bases make up about a quarter of the islands' most valuable land, and make the islands vulnerable to: toxic and radioactive contamination; damage from test bombing; jet crashes; unexploded ordnance; desecration of burials and other Indigenous sacred sites; potential foreign attack; and high social costs, such as homelessness and sexual assault.



*Selling VFP Vests
vfp92.org*



FROM HIROSHIMA TO HOPE

The annual lantern-floating ceremony honoring victims of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, August 6, every year, at Green Lake, Seattle, Wash.

THE PIONEERS OF A WARLESS WORLD ARE THE YOUTH WHO REFUSE MILITARY SERVICE

—Albert Einstein



PUGET SOUND: HOME TO 1/3 DEPLOYED U.S. NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY.

The United States, the world's primary nuclear power, currently has about 1,345 deployed strategic nuclear weapons mounted on ballistic missiles (400 on intercontinental missiles, 945 on sea-launched missiles).

VFP92 Seattle supports Ground Zero Center For Nonviolent Action



*Marching FOR PEACE
E. Stoller*

**Thank You, Spokane Chapter 35, for hosting
the 34th Annual 2019 Convention!**

VFP Convention Workshop

Nuclear Madness: Past, Present, and Future

Date: August 16th, 2019

Time Slot: 10:45a-12:15p

Location: DoubleTree Hotel, Spokane, WA (Grand Ballroom Salon II)

Abstract/Description: This panel will tell two parallel stories. First, the history, development, and impacts of nuclear weapons. Second, the formation and growth of environmental and peace resistance movements opposing nuclear madness. We will focus geographically on nuclear weapons in the western hemisphere, from the Pacific, to the Nevada Desert, to the Arctic. Since their inception, nuclear weapons have wreaked environmental injustice against the most oppressed people, especially indigenous peoples. But just as the effects of nuclear weapons know no borders, neither does peace. Our panel will conclude with a discussion on current projects and tools to combat contemporary nuclear proliferation and modernization.

Speakers:

Helen Jaccard is the Project Manager for the Veterans For Peace nuclear abolition sailboat, Golden Rule.

Jakob Whitson is the Outreach Director for Nevada Desert Experience, a non-profit organization aimed at abolishing nuclear weapons and armed military drones through education, spirituality, and nonviolent civil disobedience.

Craig Wilson is President of VFP Chapter 100, which is organizing "Point Hope: Alaska's Youth Congress for the Global Elimination of Nuclear Weapons."

POINT | HOPE

Alaska's Youth Congress for the Global Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

April 6-10, 2020 • Sitka, Alaska

In 1958, the US Atomic Energy Commission proposed Project Chariot, a plan to detonate six nuclear weapons 30 miles south of the native village of Point Hope, Alaska. Community members of Point Hope, and many other Alaskans, rose up in opposition to the proposed tests and successfully defeated the project.

Point Hope, Alaska's youth congress to eliminate nuclear weapons, is a week-long intensive congress for high school students, focusing on skills and policies to promote nuclear disarmament.



akhopecongress.org

Supported by



NORTHERN LIGHT
UNITED CHURCH

What's War Good For?

War comes wrapped in patriotic slogans, calls for sacrifice, honor, and heroism, and promises of glory. It comes wrapped in privilege under divine providence. It is what a grateful nation asks of its children. It is what is right and just. It is waged to make the nation and the world a better place, to cleanse evil. War is touted as the ultimate test of manhood, where the young can find out what they are made of. War, from a distance, seems noble. It gives us comrades and power and a chance to play a small bit in the great drama of history. It promises to give us an identity as warriors, patriots, as long as we go along with the myth, the one the war-makers need to wage wars and the defense contractors need to increase their profits.

*(Written by Chris Hedges, acclaimed
war journalist and Pulitzer Prize winner)*



Milwaukee Chapter 102



The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Memorial was created by **Defend the Sacred Alaska** to bring awareness to the disproportionate numbers of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls and the connection to the violence against our lands and water in Alaska, and throughout Indian Country. There is a direct correlation between violence against the earth and violence against women. The health of our people is directly tied to the health of our land and waters. Learn about this important movement at nativemovement.org.

North Star VFP Chapter 146 wants to give a shout out to our brothers and sisters in the Native Movement who are striving for peace and justice, and defending the sacred. Together we send our best wishes for a successful and productive convention.

EISENHOWER CHAPTER 157

**“WHAT IF THEY
GAVE A WAR
AND NOBODY CAME?”**



**WE SALUTE THOSE
WHO SAID NO!**



TRIANGLE REGION/NORTH CAROLINA
NCVETERANSFORPEACE@GMAIL.COM

VETERANS FOR PEACE EAST BAY CHAPTER 162

Waging Peace in Oakland, Berkeley, and the East Bay since March 2011



FRONT ROW (L-R): Peter Straus, Gene Bernardi, Rick Sterling, Cathe Norman, Gene Ruyle, Gregory Ross, Fred Norman. BACK ROW (L-R): Maurice Martin, Robert McCockran, Marti Guy-Downing, Daniel Borgström, John Walsh. NOT SHOWN: David Welsh, Alfredo Figueroa, Robert Manning, Vince Dijanich, David Makofsky, and others.

Since being chartered in March 2011, Chapter 162 has pursued our mission to Honor the Dead, Heal the Wounded, and Stop the Wars in the following activities:

Tabled at UC Berkeley * Sponsored the No Nukes Resolutions for National VFP * First Friday Festival in Oakland * Opposed the Naval Base on Jeju Island, Korea * Juneteenth Festival in Richmond * Support deported veterans in Tijuana * Vigils for peace in Pleasanton * Read Poetry at the Peace Memorial Crosses of Lafayette * Fought to End Militarization of Police * Supported KPFA Community Radio * Co-sponsored half day conference * Stop the War Machine / Save the Planet" * Co-sponsored "Tribute to Robert Parry: The Journalist Who Revealed Vital Facts from Contras & Cocaine to Russiagate" * Co-sponsored event with Camilo Mejia: "What's Happening in Nicaragua?" * Joined efforts to demilitarize psychology in the APA.



Honor the Dead, Heal the Wounded, Stop the Wars.



“LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND”

The VFP Sgt. Barrios Chapter #182 is on the border and on the front line of interception for our U.S. Military Deported Veterans, assisting them to integrate into the community as productive residents while searching for legal avenues to return home to the USA.

Our Resource Center services include:

- Contact with U.S. family ● Housing referral ● Medical needs/substance abuse treatment ● Support in obtaining documents, such as Mexican ID and DD-214
- Benefits and pensions filing (V.A.) ● Employment interview preparation
- Job Bank and Referrals ●

Don't Miss the Deported Veterans Workshop!

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:

Hector López | Robert Vivar, Directors

Unified U.S. Deported Veterans / Mexico

Office: 664-210-5001 | Mobile 664-807-9008

unifieddeportedveterans@gmail.com | dvsh.rob@gmail.com

Director Jan Ruhman

Unified U.S. Deported Veterans / U.S.

Mobile: 858-361-6273

Jallan.ruhman@gmail.com

www.uusdepvets.org

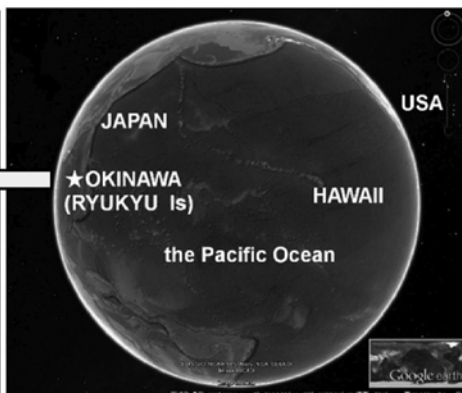
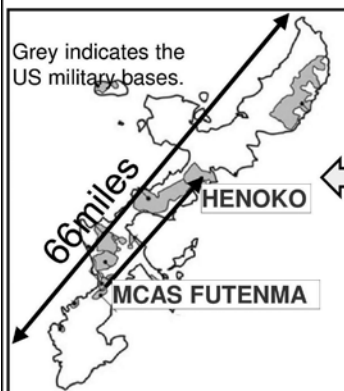
Please **DONATE** to help keep our Resource Center open:
<http://bit.ly/VFPDeportedVets>



OKINAWA says "NO!"



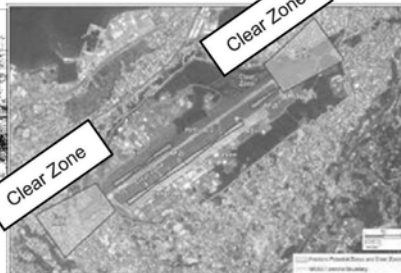
Ryukyu-Okinawa is a small islands area that has been colonized by Japan. The Battle of Okinawa, which was the last theater of WWII, incurred heavy casualties of 100,000 Okinawa people. This was one quarter of Okinawa population. 70.6% of US military exclusive-use facilities in Japan (in area) are concentrated on the Island of Okinawa.



US Government should immediately close and return the land of Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma. MCAS Futenma is an airfield that was built in June, 1945 by the US military with destruction of villages where many houses, schools and farms were located.



The picture shows the process of airfield construction.



Former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld was reported to utter, "This is the most dangerous airfield in the world", when he was flying over Futenma in 2003. The aerial view photo shows MCAS Futenma is now completely surrounded by a congested city. Its "clear zones" extend to the surrounding city neighborhoods.

This situation with residential houses and schools being inside clear zones does not comply with the Air Installations Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ) of the US military airfields. US military should immediately stop operating MCAS Futenma and close it. We demand US government return the land of MCAS Futenma, which they had wrest away from Okinawa people with force.

VFP ROCK (ROCK=Ryukyu Okinawa Chapter Kokusai)
<https://www.facebook.com/VFP.ROCK/>



OKINAWA : NO MORE BASES!



Nevertheless, the MCAS Futenma closure-return plan that the governments of US and Japan presented to Okinawa called for the construction of a new airfield at Henoko area, which is in the northern part of the island. Futenma was supposed to be relocated there.

Henoko Sea is a treasure of the world

The sea off Henoko shore has large areas of coral reefs and dugongs, endangered Asian manatees, inhabit there. Okinawa people want to preserve this world treasure for their offspring.

Okinawa people are opposed to the construction of the new base in Henoko.

Prefecture gubernatorial elections in 2014 and 2018 had winners whose platforms declared opposition to Henoko new base construction.

Prefecture referendum resulted in 71.74% opposition to the Henoko landfill operation.

On February 24, 2019, Okinawa prefecture held a referendum on Henoko landfill operation. The results were 71.7% opposition, while 18.99% support and 8.75 % none of above.

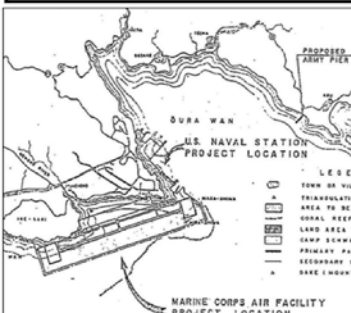
Our Request for the democratic people of the United States

This new MCAS base would be used by the US military. Members of VFP joined the opposition movement at Henoko three times.

Please ask the US government to respect Okinawa people's will and to stop the construction.



The Henoko base plan with two runways in V shape and a facility and a military port facility



The Henoko plan is based on the Vietnam War era plan made in 1966. This Cold War era plan should be abandoned right now.



the current situation of the construction. (*The Okinawa Times*, July 1, 2019)

VFP ROCK (ROCK=Ryukyus Okinawa Chapter Kokusai)
<https://www.facebook.com/VFP.ROCK/>



Join our campaign to end endless war by repealing the 2001 and 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF). Build a team of advocates in your local community as part of a growing grassroots network to advance federal policy for peace and justice.

In 2019, we accomplished:

- » 186 in-person Congressional meetings
- » 101 media publications
- » 77 Cosponsors for H.R. 1274 to repeal the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force

E-mail info@fcnl.org or go to fcnl.org/getstarted to learn how you can start or join an Advocacy Team in your community.



Friends Committee on
National Legislation

A Quaker Lobby in the Public Interest



Close All U.S. Foreign Military Bases!

The increasingly aggressive actions of US and NATO forces, the raging wars in the Middle East, the devastating economic wars and sanctions against countries that resist US domination, the burgeoning arms race devastating the national treasuries, the bellicose language replacing diplomatic negotiations, the destruction of the global environment through war and unfettered exploitation, and the global impact on public health, have created crises that unless checked by popular opposition can lead to unimaginable human catastrophe.

None of us can stop this madness alone. Global peace forces must come together to mobilize the millions in our countries, and around the world, to protect peace and to save our planet.

We salute our VFP brothers and sisters and invite them to help us in our global effort to shut down all US and NATO military bases by endorsing, joining, and providing financial support to the Coalition Against U.S. Foreign Military Bases.

We are proud that the Veterans For Peace is a leading member of our Coalition.

To join us and/or make a financial contribution please visit:

<https://NoForeignBases.org>

or contact us at:

info@NoForeignBases.org

All Financial Contributions to the Coalition Are Tax-Deductible

SHUT DOWN CREECH!

***—Ground the Drones,
—Stop the Bombing Everywhere
—Demilitarize!***

Join CODEPINK, Veterans For Peace, and others
Sun., September 29 to Sat., October 5
to Mark 10 YEARS of DRONE RESISTANCE at CREECH
"Killer Drone" Air Force Base in Indian Springs, Nevada



Nonviolent Resistance to Drone Murder, Creech Air Force Base, April 2019.
PHOTO BY JOHN AMIDON

Join us!

**SAY NO TO THE ULTIMATE IN RACIST VIOLENCE:
U.S. REMOTE MURDER and TERROR BY DRONES
around the world.**

**Sponsored by CODEPINK Women for Peace • codepink.org
Complete event info at shutdowncreech.blogspot.com**

CONTACTS: Toby – ratherbenyckeling@comcast.net
Eleanor – eastbaycodepink@gmail.com
Maggie – maggiehunter32@yahoo.com

STOP DEPORTING U.S. MILITARY VETERANS!



GEORGE JOHNSON

650-207-6073

wgeoj@outlook.com

WILLIE HAGER

904-465-3250

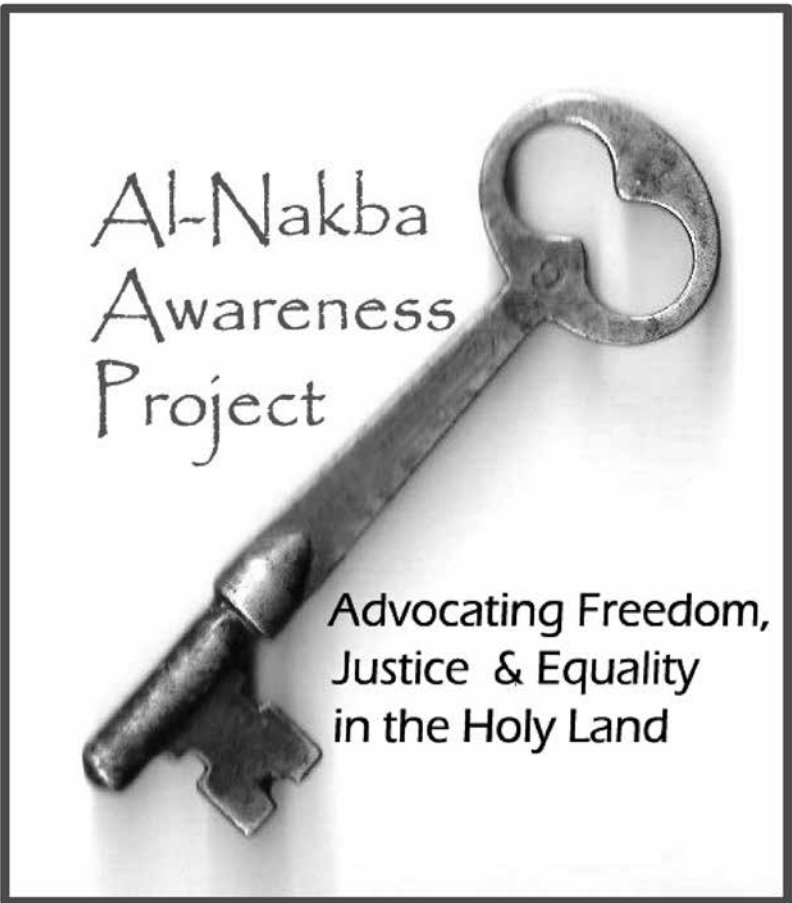
VFPJax@mail.com

PO Box 261815, Mira Mesa, CA 92196

***BRING HOME ALL
DEPORTED VETS NOW!***

**Please DONATE to help
keep our Resource Center open:**

<http://bit.ly/VFPDeportedVets>



www.al-nakba-history.com

*Thanks to all the VFP chapters
who have helped us challenge the
Israeli blockade of Gaza by supporting the*

Gaza Freedom Flotilla

As of July 26, 2019, The Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) documented 207 killings by Israel since the Great March of Return began on 30 March 2018, including 44 children, 2 women, 9 persons with disabilities, 4 paramedics, and 2 journalists. Among the additional 13,323 wounded were 2,742 children, 409 women, 221 paramedics, and 207 journalists. Of those, PCHR documented cases of 196 persons who are now permanently disabled (including 28 children and 5 women): 149 amputees; 21 paralyzed; 26 blind or deaf; and 9 sexually disabled.

In six more months, by the year 2020, the Israeli land and sea blockade, Israeli theft of potable water and Israel's criminal reduction of electricity into Gaza will make Gaza uninhabitable, according to the World Health Organization.

The apartheid walls, illegal Israeli settlements on Palestinian land in the West Bank, and imprisonment of over 600 children in the West Bank call us to support the Gaza Freedom Flotilla and other organizations that challenge criminal Israeli policies toward Palestine!

Gaza Freedom Flotilla boats will sail again in 2020 to bring attention to the brutal Israeli blockade of the 2 million Palestinians who live in Gaza. We will continue to sail until Palestine is free.

VISIT OUR WEBSITES:

jfp.freedomflotilla.org | usboatstogaza.org

DONATE TO THE GAZA FREEDOM FLOTILLA AT:

[2018boatstogaza-nonviolenceinternational.
nationbuilder.com/contribute](http://2018boatstogaza-nonviolenceinternational.nationbuilder.com/contribute)

BOLD Ideas, ESSENTIAL Reading

“Messner’s narrative points the way for other activists seeking to build popular opposition movements.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“A deeply personal, very human book. Michael Messner has brought on stage some eloquent survivors whom our politicians should listen to before they dare even consider sending young men and women out to fight yet again.”

—Adam Hochschild, author of *To End All Wars: A Story of Loyalty and Rebellion, 1914-1918*

“An eloquent, passionate, and moving account of how war has sometimes moved veterans towards peace.”

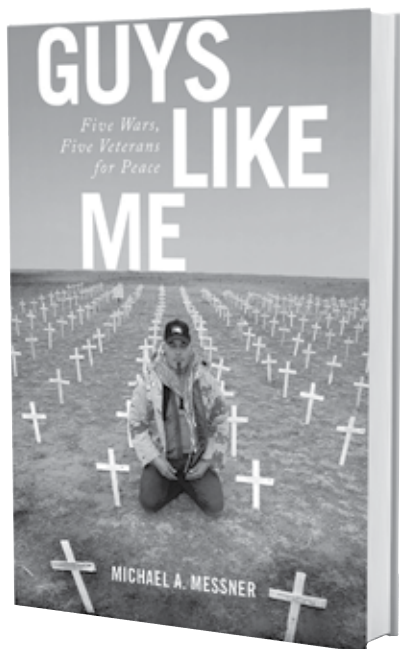
—Viet Thanh Nguyen

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Plato, 380 BC

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THREE LIVES OF A WARRIOR

I was a U.S. Navy Light Attack/Fighter pilot who went down over North Vietnam in the early days of the Vietnam War. I parachuted into their country when my plane exploded out from under me. Then I spent four days on the run until I was captured and subsequently spent almost eight years, 2,855 days and nights, as a prisoner in terrible conditions. My incarceration as a POW proved to be such a watershed in my life that I now experience my existence as having lived three lives. These obviously are contained in the time periods before, during and after the war.

My POW years were a miserable time. I learned about torture firsthand, unlike the policymakers who twaddle their tongues about brutal treatment of fellow human beings, calling it "enhanced interrogation techniques." What makes my story different is that unlike many of those who shared my fate at the hands of the North Vietnamese guards and interrogators, I didn't come home tightly wrapped in a military banner.

I helped found VFP Chapter 46, Monterey, CA in 1991 and have served and currently serve as chapter president for 15 years. I



also served 5 years on our National Board of Directors including 3 years as chair of the board. I instituted life memberships and have the honor of holding life membership number one.

My book, "Three Lives of a Warrior" tells the story of my lives before (learning to be a warrior,) during (being a warrior in war and prison,) and after (being a warrior for peace and justice.) It is available through www.phillipbutlerphd.com or directly www.threelivesofawarrior.com.

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The United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC) salutes Veterans for Peace on the occasion of your 34th national convention. UNAC is proud to have VFP as a member organization. There is no stronger voice for peace than that of veterans. We express our solidarity and hope for a successful convention.

**<http://UNACpeace.org>
UNACpeace@gmail.com**



Military Families
SPEAK OUT



Proud supporter of this year's 2019 VFP Convention in Spokane
MFSO families appreciate the steadfast support Veterans for Peace has provided over the past 18 years. Please refer families who have loved ones that have served since 9-11 to MFSO
mfsooc@earthlink.net 562-833-8035
Military Families Speak Out is on Facebook

#NoWar2019

Pathways to Peace



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worldbeyondwar.org/nowar2019



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COMMEMORATIVE GATHERING: BRIDGING THE PAST AND PRESENT

Remembering the 30th Anniversary of The UCA Massacre*

**30 years ago SOA trained Salvadorian Military stormed the University of Central America (UCA) and murdered 6 Jesuit Priests, their housekeeper and her daughter, in El Salvador. SOAW was born in response.*

PROGRAM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH

RiverMill Event Center 3715 First Ave., Columbus

Panel 1 - SOAW Staff: Where we are and where we are headed

Panel 2 - Paths forward: Practical ways to make positive change

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH

South Gate Entrance - Fort Benning Road

Litany and Procession



STAND UP! SPEAK OUT!

Please join us at the gates of Fort Benning. The suffering and death we see at our borders is the direct result of training facilities like the SOA/WHINSEC. We demand humane treatment for those seeking asylum from the violence and poverty these very training centers are creating.

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Just as relevant now as it was 30 years ago.

For more information please visit SOAW.org.

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**Mark Colville • Fr. Steve Kelly
Liz McAlister • Leonard Peltier • Rafil Dhafir
Jared Chase • Chelsea Manning**

Pick up a free NR newsletter at the convention, with the latest news and updates including about Veterans for Peace Ken Mayers and Tarak Kauff, prevented from leaving Ireland until trial.

Or email your postal address to nukeresister@igc.org and we'll mail a copy to you. Find us also at www.nukeresister.org and on Facebook and Twitter.

**Thank You, Veterans for Peace
for 34 years of peace activism!**

The Kings Bay Plowshares, seven Catholic peace activists who engaged in nonviolent acts of nuclear disarmament inside the Kings Bay Trident nuclear submarine base in Georgia on April 4, 2018, are awaiting trial – three in jail and four out on bond with ankle monitors.

Their action occurred on the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who identified the “evil triplets” of racism, poverty and militarism, and declared that the ultimate logic of racism is genocide. The KBP took action because the ultimate logic of the Trident submarine’s nuclear arsenal is omnicide.



(l-r) Clare Grady, Liz McAlister, Patrick O'Neill, Carmen Trotta, Fr. Steve Kelly, SJ, Martha Hennessy, Mark Colville

More info at kingsbayplowshares7.org