

VETERANS FOR PEACE Semi-weekly eNews



VFP eNews | November 9, 2023

FEATURED EVENTS



GIs for Peace AND THE Antiwar Movement

Join us for two programs that explore the support of the wider antiwar movement for active-duty service members who opposed the Vietnam War.

PROGRAM ONE "Thank You for Your Service (for Peace)"
Thursday, November 9, 6 p.m. EST

This program offers a different twist to Armistice Day commemorations by recalling the tens of thousands of service members who opposed war and militarism during the Vietnam War and the civilians who helped them. Introduced and moderated by David Cortright, Vietnam era GI activist, scholar, author of *Soldiers in Revolt* (2015 & 2020) and Co-author of *Chicago Against Vietnam*, U.S. Soldiers and Sailors Who Opposed the War. (English 2015, second edition for digital edition 2022.)

Panel of activists:

- **J.J. Johnson**, a member of the Ft. Hood Three who refused orders for Vietnam in 1966 in one of the earliest acts of collective GI resistance to the war
- **Susan Schnall**, Navy nurse who was court-martialed for helping to organize an antiwar march of soldiers and civilians in San Francisco in 1968, currently President of Veterans For Peace
- **John Kent**, a former Navy fighter pilot who turned in his wings rather than fly combat missions in Vietnam and helped to organize the Concerned Officers Movement
- **Kathy Gilberd**, executive director of the National Lawyers Guild Military Law Task Force, a specialist on GI rights who was active in the antiwar movement and helped to provide legal aid for GI organizing
- **Paul Lauter**, former Chicago Region Peace Education Secretary, Director of the American Friends Service Committee and executive director of the U.S. Servicemen's Fund, which provided support for GI coffeehouses, underground newspapers, and organizing projects

PROGRAM TWO Films of the GI Antiwar Resistance
Wednesday, November 29, 8 p.m., EST

Moderated by Paul Lauter, former director U.S. Servicemen's Fund

A panel of filmmakers discussing their role in producing films on the scale and impact of the GI movement, the role of artists in supporting antiwar soldiers, and honoring helicopter pilot Hugh Thompson who tried to halt the killing and rescue civilians in the midst of the My Lai massacre:

- **John Fonda**, producer/performer of *FTA* (1972)
- **Holly Near**, musical artist and performer for *FTA*
- **David Zanger**, director of *Sold for Sin* (2003)
- **Corinne Field**, director of *The Whatsoever of My Lot* (2018)

Please watch the films before the November 29 program. *FTA* and *Sold for Sin* are available on Netflix. The *Whatsoever of My Lot* is available on Vimeo. The images below are links to Kino Now or Vimeo, where each movie is available to stream for a rental fee.



Waging Peace in Vietnam

THE POWER OF PROTEST

THE POWER OF PROTEST

CLICK TO REGISTER

REGISTER HERE

TODAY! – NOV. 9 • 3pm PST | 5pm CST | 6pm EST “Thank You for Your Service (for Peace)”

This program offers a different twist to Armistice Day commemorations by recalling the tens of thousands of service members who opposed war and militarism during the Vietnam War and the civilians who helped them.

- **David Cortright**, Moderator, Vietnam era GI activist, scholar, author of *Soldiers in Revolt*.
- **J.J. Johnson**, member of the Ft. Hood Three who refused orders for Vietnam in 1966 in one of the earliest acts of collective GI resistance to the war (a VFP member).
- **Susan Schnall**, former Navy nurse who was court-martialed for helping to organize an antiwar march of soldiers and civilians in San Francisco in 1968 (current VFP Board President).
- **John Kent**, former Navy fighter pilot who turned in his wings rather than fly combat missions in Vietnam and helped to organize the Concerned Officers Movement.
- **Kathy Gilberd**, executive director of the National Lawyers Guild Military Law Task Force, a specialist on GI rights who was active in the antiwar movement and helped to provide legal aid for GI organizing (VFP Advisor).
- **Paul Lauter**, former Chicago Region Peace Education Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee and executive director of the U.S. Servicemen's Fund, which provided support for GI coffeehouses, underground newspapers, and organizing projects.

MERCHANTS OF DEATH WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL

"Come War Profiteers, Give Account"

Beginning November 12, 2023

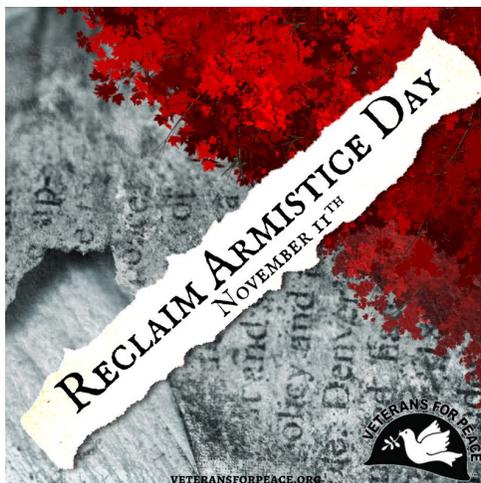
SUNDAY, November 12 • 5pm PT | 6pm MT | 7pm CT | 8pm ET

An invitation from Kathy Kelly, Merchants of Death War Crimes Tribunal Organizer & World BEYOND War Board President

Weapon makers project obscene profits from U.S. funding for war. Last week, over 100 activists held a [die-in](#) blocking the main entrance of Raytheon's office in Tucson, condemning Raytheon's complicity in the genocide of Palestinians by supplying missiles, bombs and weapons systems to Israel. [Here](#) is a list of action-oriented outdoor protests being planned in cities around the world.

Following the senseless "industrialized slaughter" of World War I, antiwar protesters vowed to never again tolerate merchants of death dragging them into horrific wars. On Armistice Day we say "war no more" as we call out those who would profit from killing.

Over 1,000 people have registered for the Merchants of Death War Crimes Tribunal. Please register if you haven't already, and encourage others to register, via [THIS LINK](#).



NOVEMBER 11th is ARMISTICE DAY!

On today's Veterans For Peace podcast (hosted by The Hector Black chapter out of Nashville), Minneapolis VFP member **Dave Logsdon**, coordinator of the annual **Veterans For Peace campaign to reclaim Armistice Day**, talks about the importance of honoring the original intent of the holiday, which was to celebrate and work for peace.

LISTEN UP!

*****READ Matt Hoh's blog post: "[Armistice Day and The Empire](#)"**

A PLEDGE and a CHALLENGE to VFP Members & Supporters from VFP National Director, Mike Ferner

Our bodies are needed at the front lines of this struggle to end the genocide in Gaza...and we are starting to answer the call.

Scattered across the country, our members are carrying signs and speaking out. Some have raised the volume by getting arrested in Senate hearings, hometown Congressional offices and corporate headquarters of the Merchants of Death.

But we can and we must do more.

More of us must vote...and I don't mean at a polling place. We must cast our whole vote by throwing our bodies on the gears of the war machine and joining our comrades who have been arrested in civil resistance actions.

My pledge, which I hope each of you who are physically able to will match, is this: I will vote with my whole body in a civil resistance action at my Congress Member's office. For obvious reasons I can't say where or when, but soon, and I will let you know.

Considering what's at stake, it's very little. If you've done it before, as many of us have, you know it's nothing at all compared to what people are suffering under our bombs. If you've not yet, you won't find a better time than now to begin.

Now is when we show what Veterans For Peace members are made of.



Mike Ferner, Director
Veterans For Peace

*"Can't add my name into the fight when I'm gone
And I won't be laughing at the lies when I'm gone
Can't be singing louder than the guns when I'm gone
So I guess I'll have to do it while I'm here." -- [Phil Ochs](#)*

VFP RESPONDS to CRISIS in GAZA



ABOVE: VFP members at the rally held in the Dorchester neighborhood of Boston.

On October 30, VFP member Ann Wright's op-ed was *published on Common Dreams: "The US Government Is Complicit in the Genocide Taking Place Inside the Gaza Ghetto."*

Veterans For Peace is compiling actions taken by our members in response to the ongoing crisis. Find photos, videos, audios, and links to additional content on [THIS PAGE](#).

CLOSE GUANTANAMO!



On September 28, 2023, VFP member James Yee was one of those who testified at a special hearing on closing the detention camp at the U.S. Guantanamo Bay Naval Base.

Chaired by Members of the European Parliament Clare Daly and Mick Wallace, the event is taped and is available for online viewing. [James Yee appears at minute 25:50 to 38:00.] Former prisoners of the camp are joined by a prominent human rights activists advocating for the closure of the detention camp and for the EU and its Member States to assist in finding viable solutions for the relocation of the remaining prisoners to third countries, and the guarantee of decent living conditions for former prisoners wrongfully detained by the US administration for years and then resettled.

Captain James Yee is a West Point graduate who later studied Islam in Damascus, Syria. He served as a U.S. Army chaplain and was assigned to Guantanamo Bay in late 2002 to minister to the prisoners suspected of terrorism. Chaplain Yee reported the prisoners' abusive conditions to his superiors and recommended ways to both improve their conditions and maintain security. His superiors tried to implement his recommendations, which ran afoul of others in the intelligence section. Yee was then arrested, falsely accused and subjected to abusive conditions himself while held in solitary confinement. His family, legal defense team and political support movement finally got him released with all charges dropped. He left the U.S. Army with an Honorable Discharge, and has since written a book about his experience, *For God and Country, Faith and Patriotism Under Fire*.

WATCH THE HEARING

A Musical Request from One of Our Readers

Bob Dylan's superb anti-war classic, "Masters of War"

[listen | read the lyrics]

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9

3 PM Pacific | 4 PM Mountain | 5 PM Central | 6 PM Eastern

"Thank You for Your Service (for Peace)"

Panel Event hosted by the Vietnam Peace Commemoration Committee

SEE description at the top of this email or [CLICK HERE](#) for info.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Armistice Day

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12 • 8 PM Eastern Time

Merchants of Death War Crimes Tribunal

Livestreamed Opening Session

The Merchants of Death War Crimes Tribunal will hold accountable — through testimony of witnesses — U.S. weapons manufacturers who knowingly produce and sell products which attack and kill not only combatants but non-combatants as well. These manufacturers may have committed Crimes Against Humanity as well as violated U.S. Federal criminal laws. The Tribunal will hear the evidence and render a verdict. [INFO & REGISTRATION HERE](#)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15 • 4 PM Pacific Time

The Madness of Militarism

In this Second Annual Ellsberg Lecture presented by the Ellsberg Institute for Peace and Democracy, journalist, author, and antiwar organizer Norman Solomon will discuss what Martin Luther King Jr. called “the madness of militarism,” with a focus on present-day U.S. militarism, its consequences, and possibilities for overcoming its pervasive effects. [REGISTER HERE](#). Find previous EIPD programs and related links [HERE](#).

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Special Events with Le Ly Hayslip & Global Village Foundation

Le Ly Hayslip and Global Village Foundation are hosting two special events in Southern California on Saturday, November 18: A film screening of Oliver Stone's *Heaven & Earth* (the 1993 film based on Le Ly's memoirs) followed by lunch and an author panel, and a Global Peace & Legacy Awards Gala Dinner in the evening. [MORE INFO HERE](#).

THURS–SAT, NOVEMBER 23–25

World BEYOND War Regional Peace Conference **Imagine Africa Beyond War**

The objective of this regional conference is to strengthen the collaboration amongst WBW Chapters and allies in Africa and worldwide and envisage World BEYOND War's blueprint for an alternative security system as the approach to imagine Africa beyond war. [INFO & REGISTRATION HERE](#)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29 • 8 PM Eastern Time

Films of the GI Antiwar Resistance

Hosted by the Vietnam Peace Commemoration Committee

[CLICK HERE](#) for info.

LOOKING FORWARD

July 15–August 19, 2024

Poor People's Army March

Also known as the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign, the mission of the nonviolent Poor People's Army is to keep people alive and to build a cooperative economy and society. Endorsed by Veterans For Peace, the two-week Poor People's Army March will go from Mikwaukee – site of the Republican National Convention (July 15) – to Chicago – site of the Democratic National Convention (August 19). The march will deliver the same message to both conventions: ***"We reject corporate greed and demand an end to poverty."***

Keep Us Strong!



DONATE TODAY

Help Us Grow!

follow us



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