



Exposing the True Costs of War and Militarism Since 1985

While Promoting a Sustainable and Peaceful World

VETERANS FOR PEACE

Organized locally. Recognized internationally.

VFP National Newsletter

Winter/Spring 2024–25



Veterans For Peace take a stand for FOR PEACE and AGAINST FASCISM at March and April STOP THE GENOCIDE and HANDS OFF! protests (clockwise from top left): Washington, DC; Topsham, ME; San Francisco; Brunswick, ME; Chapel Hill, NC; and (center) Encinitas, CA.



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VFP NEWSLETTER

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Summer Issue Deadline:
Monday, June 9, 2025
editor@veteransforpeace.org

Chapter Report Guidelines:
200 words; include chapter ID,
location, and reporter name.

Submit no more than 3 photos,
as highresolution as possible.
Include credits and captions with
your report. Thank you!

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jennywarriorpoet.com

Introducing VFP's New Membership Coordinator, Heather Carlos!

Born and raised in Kansas, Heather is a U.S. Army combat veteran who served for 12 years—first as a 68D (Operating Room Specialist) and later as a 37F (Psychological



Specialist). Heather comes from a line of service members, as her father served in the Vietnam War. The child of an immigrant mother, from Peru, she was exposed at a young age to injustice within the immigration process and systemic disparities shaped a lifelong commitment to advocating for marginalized communities.

Heather's path led her to pursue an undergrad in political science, followed by a master's degree in public policy, grounding her professional focus in equitable healthcare access, immigration reform, veteran rights, and confronting the intentional destabilization of nations through militarism and imperialist policy.

Heather joined Veterans For Peace to be in solidarity with others who understand the cost of war—not just to those who serve, but to communities worldwide. Through organizing, policy work, and coalition-building, she aims to challenge systems of power that perpetuate inequity and violence—at home and abroad.

Outside of her public service role, Heather dedicates her time to culinary expression and loves preparing all that is seafood! As a lifelong dog lover, Heather is the proud mom of an 11-year-old American Bulldog/Boxer named Hiroshi, who has been by her side through deployment and has traveled this nation from east to west (literally!). Heather's passion and love extends into all areas of her life as she continues to strive for a more positive social impact.

LOOKING AHEAD

APRIL 20–26: SHUT DOWN DRONE WARFARE

2025 Spring Action Week at Holloman AFB, Alamogordo, New Mexico. Info. at shutdowndronewarfare.org.

APRIL 30: THE VIETNAM WAR ENDED 50 YEARS AGO

A VFP contingent will be in Viet Nam April 26 to May 11 to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the end of the American war.

MAY 26: MEMORIAL DAY (FEDERAL HOLIDAY)

We remember *all* victims of war, including civilians, service members sacrificed to senseless war and those lost to suicide.

JUNE 14: GOLDEN RULE 10TH ANNIVERSARY

The *Golden Rule* celebrates with a festive launch at Zerlang's boatyard, 1492 Fay, Samoa, California: 2–5 pm; launch at 4.

JULY 25-27: VETERANS FOR PEACE NATIONAL CONVENTION

VFP's first in-person convention since 2019, the 2025 event will be both in person and online. See announcement at left.

AUGUST 6: 80TH REMEMBRANCE OF HIROSHIMA

This year marks 80 years since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima (8/6) and Nagasaki (8/9) at the end of World War II.

AUGUST 10: AGENT ORANGE AWARENESS DAY

The U.S. military first used Agent Orange as part of its herbicidal warfare program in Viet Nam on August 10, 1961.

SEPTEMBER 21: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

2025 theme for the U.N.-declared day: *End Racism, Build Peace*.

SEPT 26–28: WAKE UP TO CLIMATE CRISIS TOUR KICKOFF

VFP's CCMP kicks off the West Coast leg of its 2025–26 *No MAS!* tour at the MCAS air show in Miramar, California.

WHO WE ARE

VETERANS FOR PEACE is a global organization of military veterans and allies whose collective efforts are to build a culture of peace by using our experiences and lifting our voices. We inform the public of the true causes of war and the enormous costs of wars, with an obligation to heal the wounds of wars. Our network is composed of over 100 chapters worldwide whose work includes: educating the public, advocating dismantling the war economy, providing services that assist veterans and victims of war, and most significant, working to end all wars.

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:

1. To increase public awareness of the causes and costs of war
2. To restrain our governments from intervening, overtly and covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations
3. To resist racism and repression in our home communities
4. To oppose the militarization of law enforcement
5. To end the arms race and to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons
6. To seek justice for veterans and victims of war
7. To abolish war as an instrument of national policy
8. To promote a sustainable and peaceful world

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. (Amended Dec. 2024)

SAVE THE DATE

VETERANS FOR PEACE National Convention

FRIDAY–SUNDAY, JULY 25–27

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
& Online

2025

- 40 years since the founding of VFP
- 50 years since the end of the war in Vietnam
- 80 years since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima & Nagasaki and the end of World War II



DETAILS COMING SOON

Now Is the Time!



Flanked by members of VFP, VFP President Susan Schnall delivers a powerful speech to veterans and supporters who turned out for the Veterans March at the National Mall in Washington on March 14, 2025. Susan, a veteran of the U.S. Navy, made the connections between government cuts in veterans' healthcare, ordering of mass deportations in the U.S., and supporting ethnic cleansing in Palestine.

The video is up on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/@veteransforpeace](https://www.youtube.com/@veteransforpeace)

Dear Veterans For Peace friends, colleagues, comrades,

Thank you for your ongoing, fantastic activism against this fascist, racist administration that labels undocumented immigrants as illegal aliens; illegally arrests, detains and deports those who disagree with their politics; kidnaps student activists from their home in the middle of the night and escorts them to holding areas hundreds of miles from their homes; cuts staff and services from veterans' health care; threatens Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare; puts unqualified individuals in charge of major agencies responsible for the health and welfare of the U.S. population and defense department; and threatens the civil liberties of those who speak up.

THANK YOU for taking action, for believing that we can make a difference in this country as we have a president threatening our liberties and promoting fascism; pretending to be a peacemaker while increasing military spending in the interests of the merchants of death—those

whose wealth derives from the sale of weapons to the highest bidder.

We wake up daily to new and disturbing reports reflecting the danger and cruelty of a U.S. administration whose actions are creating chaos, fear, and uncertainty across this country and the world—careless actions that threaten to destroy not just our economy and social fabric, but the habitability of our planet. The fear and anxiety is palpable.

As we hear friends and neighbors saying they don't know what to do, what actions to take that will be effective, we at Veterans For Peace say NOW IS THE TIME to plan and organize for those values in which we believe. We will not be silent and cower from these bullies.

VFP chapters across the country are getting together and organizing against the gutting of services at the Veterans Administration and against the inhumane and illegal roundups and deportations of asylum seekers unjustly labeled "illegal aliens."

As long as this administration continues its support of Israel's genocidal policies of starving the population, cutting off electrical power needed to desalinate the water supply, resuming the bombing of Gaza and repression in the West Bank, we in Veterans For Peace will be raising our voices and advocating governance that upholds human rights and ensures freedom and dignity for all peoples.

NOW IS THE TIME to build coalitions with organizations who share these values and ideals. We must work together to counter the forces of fascism. NOW IS THE TIME to build a stronger, more vibrant Veterans For Peace. We need all of you! I am pleased to welcome back **Michael McPhearson** to the Executive Director's seat. The board is excited to be working with him again as we move ahead together!

Yours in peace,

Susan Schnall
President, VFP National Board



MEETING THE MOMENT

Happy Anniversary Veterans For Peace!



IT HAS BEEN 40 YEARS since the founding of this vital organization. Although the reasons for establishing Veterans For Peace endure and are not cause to celebrate, the existence of our organization is crucial. I am grateful to Jerry Genesio for his vision and determination in starting VFP. I appreciate everyone who collaborated with him to make his dream a reality.

Thank you to all our members and donors for staying the course and supporting Veterans For Peace. Your contributions enable our work. You are VFP. I applied for the executive director position after Donald Trump won the presidential election because I anticipated our nation would face profound social and political crises. I felt compelled to address this pivotal moment by uniting with veterans who have turned away from war and toward peace and associate members who understand and support us. I hoped I was mistaken, but sadly, I was correct.

Before Trump, Americans typically gave a new president what we've come to refer to as a honeymoon period. But not this time. In recent weeks, we have witnessed a gradual realization that a madman who only cares about himself and billionaires has been elected to office. He has surrounded himself with a host of incompetent yes people to carry out his bidding. Every day brings something new. As I write this, the latest issue involves administration officials using Signal to discuss real-time military operations, which is foolish enough on its own. They also

mistakenly included a journalist in the chat group, which is the height of ineptitude. That kind of mistake, if committed by me when I was enlisted, would have led to my being disciplined and relieved of my duties when I was an officer. While I'm not advocating a well-oiled military machine, I am horrified by the idea that amateurs like these could stumble us into a major war.

Veterans For Peace has stepped forward to meet the moment. We understand that we must work for peace both at home and abroad to ensure peace and justice for all; otherwise, there will be peace and justice for none. Our chapters nationwide are busy spotlighting the cost of war and resisting militarism. They are standing in solidarity with people pushing for a fair and just system that benefits everyone. Members are educating the public about the atrocities in Palestine and urging officials to hold Israel accountable. Members are collaborating with organizations to resist mass deportation and bring deported veterans home. The Save Our VA campaign is diligently connecting with labor activists and other veterans to lobby and motivate Congress to protect veterans' benefits and ensure we receive the physical and mental healthcare we need. The Climate Crisis and Militarism project is organizing Wake Up to Climate Crisis No Military Air Shows (NO MAS) tours to protest the militarism that air shows promote and highlight the enormous carbon footprint of war and the U.S. military.

Meanwhile, the Democracy and Peace working group is examining ways we can advocate a real democracy that is controlled by the people rather than corporations and oligarchs.

Perhaps most important, Veterans For Peace supports conscientious objectors and initiatives aimed at educating military service members about their rights and responsibilities. We strive to help those in the military understand that they have choices. They must learn to identify illegal orders and recognize actions that may lead to moral injury. It is essential for them to comprehend when their actions could constitute a crime against democracy and the Constitution. If we continue along our nation's current path, there will be a showdown between the people and the Trump Administration. I don't want to be shot, nor do I want the men and women holding the guns to regret obeying the orders of a would-be king.

Again, thank you for your efforts as veterans and associate members working for peace and justice. The voices of veterans can make a significant difference. People are willing to listen to us. Let's ensure we communicate a positive and unifying message to advance our nation and the world toward a just and lasting peace for everyone to enjoy.

Michael McPhearson
VFP Executive Director

Deported Veterans Advocacy Project



The Long Journey Home

“Not possible” was what came to my mind when I first read the anguished cry for help from the fiancé of [a USMC Gulf War I combat veteran who had been wrongfully deported] in an email forwarded to me by Vetspeak Honcho Willie Hager. He received it from an active member of the VVAW San Diego Chapter named Chuck (“Mutt”) Winant, who obtained it from a local reporter. He asked if I could look into the story to determine its credibility, as VetSpeak couldn’t consider running a story with just the data in hand. What I heard from the fiancé of that veteran, who had been honorably discharged at the end of his first enlistment, was, quite simply, unbelievable.

Our subsequent research was done with a dedicated and knowledgeable Immigration and Criminal Defense Attorney, Heather Boxeth. Our face-to-face interviews included other veterans incarcerated in DHS/INS prisons and on bond. By reviewing the detailed records of arrest reports and transcripts of court cases during the defining and development stages of their incarceration, we proved this one woman’s story, this one case, was, in fact, just the tip of the iceberg of a major national scandal.”

—Jan Ruhman, “Veterans and the INS...Yet More Lies,” *VetSpeak* blog, 08/07/2009

THAT EXPERIENCE set Heather Boxeth and Jan Ruhman off on a long journey reaching out to deported veterans, with Heather taking on individual cases. Through this process, the individual veterans started working to support each other while Heather handled their cases. This unity and mutual support were the driving force behind the formation of **Veterans Without Borders** in 2009. This group was not just about chipping away at the problem, but about working together to get legislation passed that

would stop the deportations and return the deported veterans to their families in the U.S.

During this time, we encountered **Hector Barajas** at the San Ysidro border crossing, standing on the Mexican side in his Army dress blues, holding a “Stop Deporting Veterans” sign. Jan began working with Hector to develop a support house for deported veterans in Tijuana. The first step was finding a fiscal sponsor, so we turned to the **VVAW Legacy Trust**, which provided IRS tax-exempt

status until 2016. With Hector Barajas as Director, we founded the **Deported Veterans Support House**, a facility with 12 beds to be used for our deported veterans while work began on their cases in 2010. It is still in operation today.

When we proposed creating the **Deported Veterans Advocacy Project (DVAP)** at the 2016 Veterans For Peace National Convention, it was unanimously adopted. During the first year of direct funding, along with members of the **Tijuana Playas Barracks of the Unified U.S. Deported Veterans**, we chartered **VFP Tijuana Chapter 182 Hector Barrios Memorial Chapter** and opened the **Unified U.S. Deported Veterans Information Resource Center** under VFP fiscal sponsorship. **Robert Vivar**, the center’s executive director, has now returned home and is living and working in San Diego. **Hector Lopez** served as co-director until he finally returned home to his family in Madera, California.

DVAP continues the work of outreach and establishing a contact base to provide assistance and community for other deported veterans. **Alejandro Murillo** was our media and communications coordinator until he

returned to his U.S. home. To shore things up, our brother **Rocky Hernandez** is staffing our office with ancillary support from **Gary Loutenzhiser**, who, along with his wife Mar, owns and manages a group bed and breakfast called GaryMar in Tijuana.

Sadly, the long journey is not over. Considering the outcome of the recent presidential election, it has become even longer. As of this writing, all of the veterans whom we have brought back on parole certification are in danger

of having their parole decertified and returned to exile in Mexico.

As a consequence, 2025 will mean some new priorities for the Deported Veterans Advocacy Project. We will be tightening up our veteran alliances through continuing to work with VFW and American Legion Posts to create wall murals, promote legislation, and develop community support. This year, we will be: Expanding our outreach into the communities of returnees; gathering resources, and organizing legislative

networks that can employ returned veterans by funding them as staffers to work from home; linking local deported veteran cases with support resources.

We ask all VFP members to contact DVAP and commit to joining our legislative action network. We also encourage you all to donate when you can, individually and through chapter commitments, if possible.

Here's to 2025!

Willie Hager

DVAP Administrative Coordinator



uusdepvets.org

Leave No One Behind! Support DVAP's critical work on behalf of U.S. veterans this year!

Give online at veteransforpeace.org/our-work/vfp-national-projects/deported-veterans-advocacy-project/donate-dvap or mail a check to the National VFP office earmarked for our Deported Veterans Advocacy Project.

Peace & Planet News

Print edition of Spring issue now available!

THE SPRING 2025 print edition of *Peace & Planet News* is now available at peaceandplanetnews.org/orders. You can order a few copies for yourself or a whole bundle for your chapter. It's a great organizing tool; you can use it at tables at events; leave copies at your local library, bookstore, cafe, or laundromat; or hand them out at the many demonstrations going on around the country against genocide, dismantling the VA, and attacks on immigrants, among other issues. People are eager for the kind of news and analysis we provide, and especially if you tell them it's a veterans' paper, they will snatch them out of your hands!

Ellen Davidson, P&PN Managing Editor



Right: Chapter 72 president **Dan Shea**, decked out in VFP **Black Lives Matter** shirt, holds the paper with pride. Send photos of how YOU use the paper to takauff@gmail.com.



FIND US ONLINE | JOIN OUR FIGHT | veteransforpeace.org/SOVA

Trump and team escalate efforts to eliminate VA health care for veterans

WE'RE ONLY INTO the first weeks of President Trump's second term and already he and his Muskrats have created incredible chaos and confusion with recent cutbacks in government staffing and breaches in data privacy throughout the federal government. Particularly worrying for veterans are cuts being made in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA).

According to Washington Senator Patty Murray, a member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, over 1,000 VHA employees were fired during the week of February 9 in reckless efforts to slash the size of the federal government.

Senator Murray explained that "the Trump Administration is right now firing researchers at VA who do lifesaving work for our veterans—research to prevent veteran suicide, build life-changing prosthetics, address opioid addiction, and more. This move will effectively mean the end of VA research as we know it, in red and blue states. Trump and Musk need to reverse course on this elimination of VA research positions immediately—this callous across-the-board firing threatens to decimate so much of the life-saving research our veterans depend on."

Trump appointee VA Secretary Doug Collis asserted that these actions "...are focused on saving money so it can be better spent on veteran care." He goes on to say, "We thank these employees for their service to VA...but,...it's the right call to better support veterans, families, caregivers and survivors the department exists to serve."

If American veterans and the public don't act to stop this wholesale disassembling of the VHA and dismissal of its staff, even more veterans will be forced to obtain their healthcare through its private-sector Community Care Program (CCP), which several studies have shown does not provide healthcare equal in quality to VHA care.

Project 2025 and Concerned Veterans of America have a goal of limiting VA health care to direct, physical war-related injuries. This would eliminate the current holistic, veteran-centered healthcare the VA now offers. These decreases in VA staffing pave the road to this goal. When services are not sufficiently staffed, veterans are referred to the private sector. This actually increases costs with the resulting overspending drawing funds away from VA facilities. This will of course lead to a further decrease in VA services, resulting in more referrals to the private sector.

A bill before Congress would augment this by removing VA oversight of private-sector mental health/substance abuse care. Veterans could choose private-sector providers without pre-authorization and care could continue indefinitely with the VA simply paying the invoices without oversight or input. The bill would allow veterans to choose private-sector care regardless of access standards. The CCP was intended to supplement VA care when needed, and not as an unlimited choice, something private-sector health care plans do not allow.



VFP Chapter 14 member Jim Zimmerman taking it to the streets in Gainesville, Florida.

Join VFP in fighting this privatization of VA healthcare!

Navigate to our Save Our VA Project page on the VFP website [veteransforpeace.org/sova], sign up to receive SOVA updates, and join our efforts to stop the elimination of a benefit veterans have earned: the right to veteran-centric, holistic and competent health care.

Submitted by Arlys Herem



Climate Crisis & Militarism CCMP 2025–26 Tour supported by Zinn grant



A ZINN FUND GRANT of \$4,000 was awarded to VFP's Climate Crisis & Militarism Project (CCMP) in early March to help support the **Wake Up to Climate Crisis & No MÁS Tour 2025–2026**. Our promotional “elevator speech” says it all: **VETERANS AND CLIMATE ACTIVISTS DECLARE NO MÁS! — NO MILITARY AIR SHOWS**. Tour information can be found on the web at veteransforpeace.org/take-action/climatecrisis/no-mas.

Building on the success of past coalition protests in San Diego, San Francisco, Portland, Annapolis, and elsewhere, VFP members and climate activists plan to disrupt U.S. military air shows in 13 cities across the USA to dramatize the military's devastating impact on the climate crisis. Using an RV to display banners with the tour message, our team of volunteers will also visit at least 12 college campuses during three month-long tours between September 2025 and July 2026.

We welcome the participation of VFP chapters! This tour is an opportunity to work in coalition with younger vets, environmental and climate activists, students, and others in your community, and to have your chapter highlighted in a national project. There are seven VFP chapters along Route #1, five VFP chapters near Route #2, and seven chapters

Anyone with an RV to rent, please contact CCMP at climate@veteransforpeace.org

along Route #3. Project organizers will be contacting these chapter leads to get their assistance with organizing events and soliciting support from allied organizations in their communities.

Visit the No MAS web page, veteransforpeace.org/take-action/climatecrisis/no-mas, to see if your chapter is near a tour route.

This is an ambitious project, but the need is great to increase the awareness of the voting public to the threats of climate change and its links to U.S. militarism. According to a Pew Research survey done in 2024, only 11% of Trump voters considered climate change an important issue and even Harris voters ranked climate eighth out of their top ten priorities [see pewresearch.org/politics/2024/09/09/issues-and-the-2024-election/]. And when you talk to climate activists, most are unaware of the links between militarism and the climate crisis. The movement for peace and for climate justice is stronger together!

CCMP is recruiting volunteers to join our tour caravans, and to provide support at stops along the way. If your chapter is located near one of our tour routes, please ask VFP and non-VFP members of your community to join the effort. Finally, please donate what you can and urge folks you know to do the same, at veteransforpeace.org/take-action/climatecrisis/no-mas.

For more information or to volunteer, please email Jim Rine and Gary Butterfield at climate@veteransforpeace.org.



The Climate Crisis & Militarism Project brochure is available to download and print at veteransforpeace.org/take-action/climatecrisis/climateresources1



Korea Peace Campaign

Please join us in supporting the Hyosun-Miseon Memorial Archive Construction Fund!

HOW CAN WE SUPPORT *the Korean people's struggle for democracy, peace, and independence at this time?* Korea Peace Campaign members have identified one solid way: to support a South Korean peace project that is currently raising funds to build a memorial archive that will serve as a peace education center in the future.

Background

On June 13, 2002, in Gyeonggi, South Korea, a U.S. Army armored vehicle, returning to its home base on a public road after training maneuvers in the countryside, struck and killed two 14-year-old South Korean schoolgirls, Shin Hyosun and Shim Miseon. The American soldiers involved were found not guilty of negligent homicide at their military court-martial, inflaming anti-American sentiment in South Korea and sparking a series of candlelight vigils in protest of their deaths. The memory of the two schoolgirls is commemorated annually in South Korea.



22nd Commemoration Ceremony at Hyosun-Miseon Peace Park

Project Description

For the past few years, the Hyosun-Miseon Peace Park Project Committee in Korea has been fundraising to build a Hyosun-Miseon Memorial Archive next to its peace park, in order to preserve the documents, pictures, and videos relating to the horrific deaths of the two girls and the subsequent Korean peoples' candlelight movement for justice. The archive will serve as an important peace education center where visitors may learn about the continuing human costs of the U.S.



Memorial Archive Concept Illustration

war in Korea. The archive is being developed with both Koreans and Americans in mind, including many U.S. veterans who may visit South Korea in the future.

Our Goal

In solidarity with the Hyosun-Miseon Peace Park Project Committee's efforts, **VFP's Korea Peace Campaign, a national project, has set a goal of raising \$5,000–\$10,000 in the next six months** to contribute to the construction fund for the memorial archive building. We are the only U.S. veterans group supporting the project at this time.

Support the Memorial Archive!

We invite local Veterans For Peace chapters and individual members to help us meet our goal by making a charitable (tax-deductible) donation to VFP for the Korea Peace Campaign's Hyosun-Miseon Memorial Archive construction fund. And please share this invitation with others who may want to give.

- **CONTRIBUTE ONLINE** by clicking the **"Donate"** button on the Korea Peace Campaign page, which you can navigate to from the main VFP site via Our Work >> National Projects >> Korea Peace Campaign.* After donating, be sure to check YES where it says "Is this Donation for Hyosun & Miseon Archive Building Fund?"
- **MAIL A CHECK** made payable to "Veterans For Peace" and earmarked "for Korea Project—Archive Fund" to VFP National Office, 3407 S. Jefferson Ave, #219, St. Louis MO 63118

Thank you!

Ann Wright and John Kim

VFP Korea Peace Campaign Coordinators
kpc@veteransforpeace.org

*Or just go to veteransforpeace.org/our-work/vfp-national-projects/korea-peace-campaign/donate-kpc

The Golden Rule

THE **GOLDEN RULE** Peace Boat Project is thrilled to share updates on our recent activities and an exciting milestone: the 10-year anniversary of the *Golden Rule's* restoration and relaunch in Humboldt Bay, California. This historic vessel, a symbol of protest against nuclear testing, continues to inspire communities around the world with its message of peace, environmental stewardship, and veteran-led activism.

A Decade of Voyages and Impact

Ten years ago, the *Golden Rule* was lovingly restored by a dedicated group of Humboldt Bay supporters including beloved restoration coordinator **Chuck DeWitt**, who passed away earlier this year. Chuck's vision and hard work laid the foundation for the *Golden Rule's* incredible journey, and we honor his legacy as we celebrate this milestone.

Since its relaunch in 2015, the *Golden Rule* has sailed over 10,000 miles, visiting ports across the United States, Canada, Cuba, and Mexico. These voyages have not only spread the message of peace, but also fostered connections with communities and inspired resolutions in support of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

2024 Pacific Northwest Voyage

This summer, the *Golden Rule* completed its 2024 Pacific Northwest Voyage. The trip included a return to the **Victoria Classic Boat Festival** in Canada. For the second time, the *Golden Rule* was awarded **Best Working Boat**, a testament to its enduring spirit and mission. As Helen Jaccard proudly declared when accepting the award: "She isn't a fishing boat. She isn't a tug boat—but she works hard for peace!"

This voyage also included stops in ports along the Pacific Northwest coast. At each stop, *Golden Rule* crew members got to share stories of its historic journey and engage with local communities about the importance of nuclear disarmament and environmental protection.

Looking Ahead: 10-Year Anniversary Celebration

As we approach the 10-year anniversary of the *Golden Rule's* restoration, we are planning a series of events to celebrate this milestone and honor the individuals who made it possible. On June 14, 2025, we will host a community celebration in Humboldt Bay, featuring the relaunch of the *Golden Rule*, live music, food, and a special souvenir program recognizing our supporters.

We are also excited to announce a **Golden Rule Film Festival** on March 2, 2025, which will feature the world premiere of *The*



Journey for Peace, a film by Nolan Anderson that documents the *Golden Rule's* 2021 ocean crossing from Hawaii to California. This festival will also feature stories and footage from the boat's Great Loop Voyage and the 2024 Pacific Northwest Voyage.

A New Chapter for the Golden Rule

The ten-year milestone also marks the start of a new chapter for the *Golden Rule*. **Helen Jaccard**, who has served as project manager for the past decade, is retiring, and **Michelle Kanoe Lehua Marsonette** is stepping into that role. Michelle brings fresh energy and vision to the *Golden Rule*, along with a deep connection to its mission. Having served as a crew member on the 2021 ocean crossing, she has firsthand experience of the boat's power to inspire and unite.

Get Involved

The *Golden Rule's* success depends on the support of our community. Here's how you can get involved:

- **VOLUNTEER:** Join us for events, help with maintenance, or share your skills.
- **DONATE:** Contribute toward keeping the *Golden Rule* afloat and support our educational programs.
- **SPREAD THE WORD:** Follow us on social media, share our story, and invite others to join the movement.

Thank You

None of this would be possible without the incredible support of the Veterans For Peace community and the countless individuals and organizations who have welcomed the *Golden Rule* in ports around the world. As we celebrate this milestone, we are reminded of the power of grassroots activism and the enduring spirit of peace.

Let's continue to work together for peace, one voyage at a time.

In Peace and Friendship,
Helen Jaccard and Michelle Kanoe Lehua Marsonette

INTRODUCING OUR BRAND NEW

Labor Working Group

*“LOVE, WORK, AND KNOWLEDGE ARE
THE WELLSPRINGS OF OUR LIVES;
THEY SHOULD ALSO GOVERN IT.”*

—WILHELM REICH

THE CURRENT REGIME IS ...

- **attacking love:** fomenting hate against many groups as they try to impose full oligarchic, authoritarian rule.
- **attacking knowledge:** denying truth and science, including all of climate science.
- **attacking workers:** yet the power and solidarity of organized workers has the greatest potential for reorienting our society toward justice, democracy, sustainability, and peace.

THE LABOR WORKING GROUP OF VFP is organizing to build alliances, especially between workers' fights for their livelihoods and dignity, and veterans' fights for peace and justice. Workers fighting for their economic well-being are implicitly rejecting the oligarchy's priorities of a trillion dollars for war, of subsidies for fossil fuel companies, of tiny tax rates for billionaires; these workers deserve our support. Our support is even more called for when unions bargain and strike for the common good, such as nurses including demands for the welfare of patients, or teachers including demands in the interests of students and parents.

Our support is absolutely called for when unions take a stand for peace. **Labor unions representing the majority of unionized U.S. workers had endorsed Ceasefire in Gaza by the end of 2023.** This is the strongest anti-war stand by U.S. unions since at least 2005 when the AFL-CIO passed a resolution against the Iraq War.

Labor Working Group's biggest campaign so far has been the **People Over Pentagon (POP)** campaign to move \$100 billion dollars from the Pentagon to addressing social needs and the climate. As **Labor and Veterans for Sensible Priorities**, we have gathered the endorsements of 41 unions and labor groups, and 21 VFP chapters. We have worked in conjunction with Congress; the POP bill that in the previous two years was HR1134, was co-sponsored by 25 Congressmembers.

Consider the Post Office. The American Postal Workers Union (APWU), with over 200,000 members, is a militant union that highlights labor history. The APWU is fighting the privatization of the U.S. Postal Service. Given that 17% of postal workers are veterans, the APWU is also fighting, as VFP is, against privatization of the VA. APWU president Mark Dimondstein has long been a leading voice in Labor for moving money from the Pentagon to social needs.

Not only the U.S. mainstream, but also many progressive advocacy groups have undervalued workers' well-being. FDR in his 1944 State of the Union address called for a "Second Bill of Rights" that includes: the right to earn enough to provide adequate food and clothing and recreation; a decent home; adequate medical care; a good education; and adequate protection from the economic fears of old age, sickness, accident, and unemployment.

FDR's initiative has been forgotten. VFP is a wonderful and crucial organization. However, none of the eight parts of our Statement of Purpose address the economic issues that FDR outlined. The Labor Working Group plans to introduce a ninth plank that will address economic well-being.

We look forward to May Day 2025!

Steve Morse

Find the Labor Working Group online at:

veteransforpeace.org/our-work/working-groups/labor

Contact us: labor@veteransforpeace.org



On February 19, 2025, six members of VFP Chapter 69—Steve Morse, Liam Curry, Phil Josselyn, Paul Cox, Vince Dijanich, and Michael Wong—joined a rally at a Tesla Dealership in San Francisco to protest Elon Musk's assault on Federal workers. Led by the new group Federal Unionists Network (FUN), about 200 people gathered in a spirited rally characterized by solidarity and FUN. A majority of cars on busy Van Ness Avenue honked their support. Among the speakers were both a veteran and the union president who works at the Fort Miley VA hospital in San Francisco, representing the fact that in numerous Federal agencies, both the workers whose livelihood depends on these government jobs, and those who are served by the valuable public services these workers provide, are under attack. [Photo: 48 Hills]

2024 Midwest Regional Conference

For our second attempt at organizing a regional get-together, coordinators chose Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Why Cedar Rapids? It was equidistant from most of our chapters and there was one enthusiastic chapter (#169 in Linn County, Iowa) willing to do the heavy lifting. The vibrant Iowa City chapter (#161) is a short drive from there, and they were a big help. My chapter (#027 in Minneapolis-St. Paul) helped as much as we could.

We found and booked Kiteville Hotel, a six-story hotel with full convention facilities and rooms for just \$50 a night. Formerly a Ramada Inn, a couple folks from New Jersey bought it as an investment and have run it as a “minimalist stay” hotel. They had only a skeleton crew (one maid), so it turned out to be a “build-your-own-burger” conference. The amazing Joe Aossy, our go-to guy in Cedar Rapids, hired the ex-manager from Ramada days to set up the rooms. Joe arranged for catered Indian food to be brought in on Friday night, his brother Bill used the hotel kitchen to make sloppy joes on Saturday, and we made coffee and supplied donuts Saturday morning!

We had all the ingredients for a terrific conference program-wise too. Mike Ferner kicked things off Friday evening and then turned the stage over to a couple of talented local musicians joined by VFP music makers.

Saturday morning, we heard the always wonderful Kathy Kelly speak. Then came three workshops: Arlys Herem and Jeff Roy of the National SOVA project presented on their efforts to save VA health care from privatization. Barry Riesch did a good presentation on behalf of Climate Justice Action. John LaForge of Nukewatch did a terrific workshop on the dual threats of aging nuclear power plants and nuclear war. Next, a local peace group showed slides and talked about their recent trip to China.



Ed Flaherty (left) and Dave Logsdon (speaking into mic) make the most of a televised moment during the 2024 Midwest conference.

To cap off the day, J. Emily Peabody performed her one-woman play on Jeanette Rankin.

On Sunday morning, Mike Ferner, Ed Flaherty, and I led a participatory chapter-building workshop to send everyone out on a positive note.

It was great to be able to host 50 folks from seven different states for a full weekend of camaraderie. The 2024 Midwest Regional VFP Conference made us realize how much we missed in-person VFP gatherings. And it cost VFP National nothing. In fact, we ended up raising a little money and were able to send in a donation of \$600!

Dave Logsdon, Midwest Regional Coordinator



2024 West Coast Regional Conference

About two dozen folks traveled to bucolic Ukiah, two hours north of San Francisco, to attend the 2024 West Coast Regional VFP conference last April. Co-hosted by three California chapters— Sonoma #071, San Francisco #069, and Mendocino #116—it was the fifth such gathering, but the first since 2019, and the first “hybrid,” with a small number of remote attendees and speakers including Norman Solomon, Helen Jaccard, and KJ Noh. In-person presenters included Therese Mughannam-Walrath, who shared her perspective as a Palestinian-American, Sonoma VFPers who discussed their Peace Pole project, and “Be the Change” book group members. Fun socializing and great meals rewarded all who made the trip.

VFP CHAPTER REPORTS

#010 – ALBANY, NEW YORK



Demonstration at Rep. Paul Tonko's office in Albany, New York
[photo submitted by John Amidon]

#013 – TUCSON, AZ



Chapter 13 brought two CEASE FIRE NOW! banners to the Armistice Day Parade in Tucson, Arizona. One was carried by car, the other was carried by Ray Cage (left) and Jim Handley. [Frame designer: Ray]

#019 – RIVERSIDE/SAN BERNARDINO, CA

VFP Chapter 19 joined with AMVETS Post 66 in 2024 for their annual Veterans Day Ceremony to Honor All Veterans. In Palm Springs, they also celebrated the 25th anniversary of LGBTQ+ veterans earning the right to march in the city's Veterans Day parade. VFP member Tom Swann Hernandez is proud to have led the negotiations with Palm Springs Mayor Will Kleindienst in 1999 to permit LGBTQ veterans—who had earned the right—to march in the parade for the first time. An honored participant in the 2024 parade, Tom rode in style with other veterans on an AMVETS Express van.

More recently, members of the Jon Castro VFP Chapter participated in the Palm Springs Black History Month parade on Saturday, February 22. The Monday before, February 17, they turned out with 500 other locals for a "Not My President" rally at Palm Springs City Hall organized by Courageous Resistance and Indivisible of the Desert. Similar but smaller rallies were held in nearby desert towns.

Tom Swann Hernandez

#025 – MADISON, WISCONSIN

Chapter 25 is in the final planning stages for two of our notable annual projects: Memorial Mile and the community Memorial Peace Service.

For a week every year, Memorial Mile, our display of silhouettes of tombstones representing U.S. combat deaths in Afghanistan and Iraq, lines a busy thoroughfare. The display draws the attention of many who have no other connection to peace efforts. This year we recruited more volunteers to participate in planning and producing the event. Several individuals and groups have stepped in, which will be a great help to us.

Another Memorial Day event we organize annually is a Memorial Peace Service, an open commemoration which always “packs the house.” In fact, public response has led us to change the venue this year, opting for a larger space in the Masonic Temple. We will maintain the custom of placing red carnations on the monument to the Lincoln Brigade and Clarence Kailin, for whom our chapter is named.

In addition to the tabling described by Brad Geyer [on page 17], our chapter’s public outreach efforts include a monthly book discussion and a film series, and both are thriving.

Madison Chapter 25 is active online at [madisonvfp.org]. Join our Facebook group at [[groups/madisonvfp](https://www.facebook.com/groups/madisonvfp)] and follow us on Instagram at [[@vets_for_peace_madison](https://www.instagram.com/@vets_for_peace_madison)].

Larry Orr

#027 – TWIN CITIES, MN

Veterans For Peace Twin Cities Chapter 27 has never been busier. We have regularly scheduled events every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, plus others that pop up weekly. In addition to doing regular visibility actions on the Peace Bridge between Minneapolis and St. Paul with WAMM [see photo], chapter members also protest weekly at the Governor’s mansion, where we like to sing “The Pipeline Blues.” Friday finds us on the streets in St. Paul again, protesting the treatment of Palestinians in Gaza.

For Indigenous Peoples Day, on September 10, 2024, we took part in a special remembrance of the “Dakota 38” at the powerful memorial in Mankato. The event included a silent march with one minute of silence for each victim, and personal recognition from the indigenous perspective.

On October 17, 2024, members and friends of VFP held a demonstration at the Federal Courthouse in Minneapolis to protest Blinken’s lies to Congress regarding Palestine.

Chapter 27 held our annual Armistice Day event on November 11 at the Victory Memorial in Minneapolis. At 11am we rang the bells. The sun shone brightly, casting dramatic shadows at the memorial. A video of the event is available on the “*thermes Art & Music*” YouTube channel [search for Armistice Commemoration 2024].

Mike McDonald



Members of Twin Cities VFP Chapter 27 join with friends from WAMM (Women Against Military Madness) for a visibility action on the Peace Bridge between Minneapolis and St Paul. [Photo: Mike McDonald]

#031 – PHILADELPHIA, PA



VFP Chapter 31 is still vital! Turning out for the Philadelphia Women’s March on January 18, 2025, are (left to right): Frank Corcoran, Mike Felker, Art Sharon, Bill Ehrhart, and Gene Cleaver. [Also present but not pictured: John Grant.]

#034 – NEW YORK CITY

The NYC Chapter continues to host online monthly meetings with interesting speakers. In the past quarter we heard from: British Army Veteran Richard Blewitt re war in Ukraine; Elliott Adams re the Gaza Freedom Flotilla, Hiroshima and the upcoming A-Bomb War Crimes Tribunal; 2024 VFP Convention highlights; Koohan Paik-Mander re Space Warfare and AI; Bruce Gagnon re U.S. Space Agency; Helen Jaccard and Gerry Condon re Nuclear Weapons.

We have also hosted numerous in-person events on peace and justice such as climate crisis, Gaza, Guantanamo, Korea, Okinawa, Yemen, Julian Assange, War Tax Resistance, and Nuclear Weapons.

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VFP CHAPTER REPORTS

New York Chapter #034 continued:

On July 5, 2024, PeaceWalk2024, coordinated by NYC members Tarak Kauff and Ellen Davidson, along with a great team from across the nation, culminated with participation in the NO to NATO demo and events in Washington, D.C. [photo below; more PeaceWalk2024 photos at peacewalk2024.org].

At the August 5, 2024, Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration at the Japanese Consulate in New York City, Gary Davidson was the chapter's designee meeting with Japanese Consulate representatives.

In December, Nick Mottern, Anthony Donovan, and Jerry Hassett met with Palestinian U.N. Rep. Riyad Mansour, about sponsoring the Weaponized Drone Ban Treaty before the U.N. General Assembly.

Bob Keilbach



VFP Chapter 35 members CJ, Rusty, Hollis, and Jim B. represented Veterans For Peace at the Martin Luther King Jr. March in Spokane, Washington, on January 20, 2025. [Photo: Kate Burke]



New York City chapter members Tarak Kauff and Ellen Davidson were key organizers of VFP's 2024 PeaceWalk. This group shot (with Tarak on right and Ellen fourth from left) was taken shortly after the walk's arrival in Washington, D.C., on July 5, 2024.



Bob Keilbach (in foreground) joined other chapter 34 members for the No War Demo held at the New York Public Library on October 7, 2024. [Zool Zulkowitz and Tom Gogan also visible; Gary Davidson and Bob Nash not pictured.]

#035 – SPOKANE, WA

Greetings All!

Chapter 35 is now over 35 years old! The chapter was founded in 1989 by President-for-Life Rusty Nelson, who was promoted to President Emeritus at our last chapter election. Our officers: George Taylor, President; Tom Charles, Vice President; Robert J. Richard, Secretary; Raymond Thorne, Treasurer.

Joining with Pax Christi, we commemorated the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki with speeches and rose petals cast into the Spokane River. Six VFP members traveled to Ground Zero, located next to Bangor Naval Shipyard, to protest Trident Submarines. The chapter's 2024 Armistice Day commemoration was our largest ever.

Last year saw us assisting City Council in implementing Ordinance #36299 making Spokane a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone. We formed a Russia-Ukraine Committee. Many members are active with the Inland NW Coalition for the Liberation of Palestine. We joined the BDS Movement and U.S. Campaign for Palestinian Rights years ago. With friends at Idaho Rising Tide, we've twice protested Trans Canada Energy's GTN gas pipeline at their office.

So far, 2025 is off to a good start. Spokane VFP members were present at the women's rally on January 18 and the MLK march January 20. Our chapter just received a grant to pay office rent for the whole year! We printed 500 business cards and new stationery. We welcomed four new members. In February we held a planning retreat, and we have grant applications pending. Our reinvigorated chapter is connected to over 50 alliances, and we expect more growth in 2025.

Hollis H. Higgins

#041 – CAPE COD, MA

Cpl. Jeffrey M. Lucey VFP Chapter 41 was a sponsor of the local American Foundation for Suicide Prevention “Out of the Darkness” Community Walk on October 5, 2024, in Hyannis. VFP members joined hundreds of people in remembering all those lost to suicide. We marched in memory of Cpl. Jeffrey M. Lucey USMCR and all service members who have taken their own lives due to the hidden wounds of war. Our booth at the walk highlighted the chapter’s focus on raising awareness about veteran suicide and advocating healing services for veterans and active-duty military personnel suffering from PTSD.

On Veterans Day weekend, Saturday, November 10, 2024, our chapter co-sponsored, with the Unitarian Church of Barnstable, a free screening of the documentary film *What I Want You To Know*, a film produced by Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, followed by a panel discussion with Tommy Furlong, executive producer and Afghanistan veteran, and Catie Foertsch, movie director. Community attendance was good, and the two-hour Q&A was wonderful. We look to support the film’s distribution. This great example of veterans’ patriotic dissent should be seen by as many civilians and vets as possible.

The 30th Anniversary annual “Voices of Peace” Poetry Contest for 2025 has started. This contest, which is for both children and adults, has become a well-known and anticipated event in schools across Cape Cod and draws hundreds of



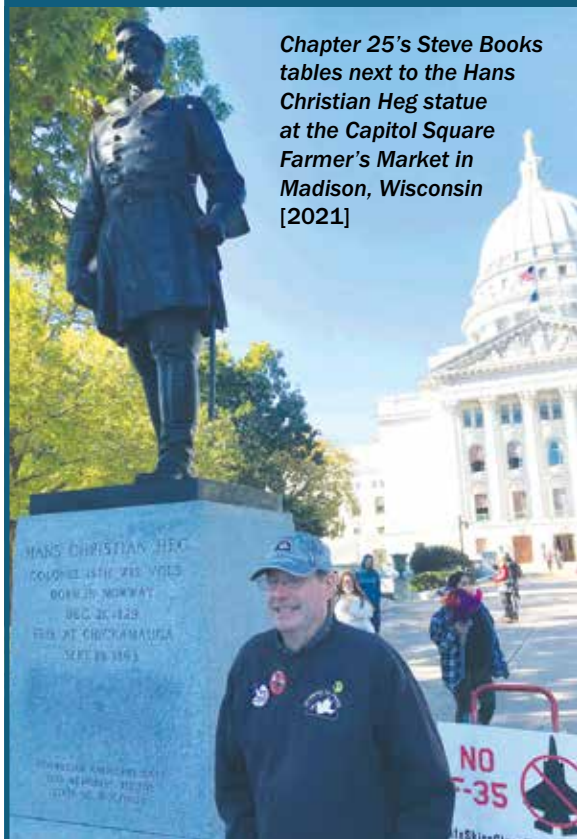
The Cape Code Chapter’s screening of What I Want You To Know attracted a good audience and spurred a great discussion.

poetry submissions each year. A crucial reason for its longevity is the perennial support of scores of local teachers who make poetry creation a part of their curriculum. The contest culminates in a public reading and awards ceremony in May that is always well attended by the poets, their families, and their teachers, as well as other community members. When we held our first contest in the mid-nineties, we never dreamed that it would be so successful and long lasting!

Duke Ellis

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CHAPTER OUTREACH STRATEGY: TABLING



Chapter 25’s Steve Books tables next to the Hans Christian Heg statue at the Capitol Square Farmer’s Market in Madison, Wisconsin [2021]

Each week that we can, we members of the **Clarence Kallin Veterans For Peace Chapter 25** in Madison, Wisconsin [#025], set up a table at the Capitol Square Farmer’s Market. The largest producers’ market in the U.S., it runs April to November and features 150+ different vendors. VFP sets up in the shadow of the statue of Hans Christian Heg, a Norwegian abolitionist and infantry leader who was fatally shot at the Battle of Chickamauga in 1863.

The City of Madison boasts 20,000 people visit the farmer’s market each week. The crowd is diverse, so our experience differs from week to week. Some people avoid weighty subjects, while others are curious and happy to engage. We find that people visiting from other nations are among the most curious; they seem to have a clearer picture of what’s going on here than those of us who are immersed in the drama.

With all who stop, we share our perspectives as military veterans and as peace activists concerned about the true costs of war. We strive to enlighten by providing information people may not be getting from representatives or the monied interests that own them. We plant seeds of consciousness with the hope they will germinate and grow.

We table at many other events in the Madison area, from music festivals to LaborFest. Our literature and signage cover a range of issues, from resisting nuclear weapons to working to protect the human rights of all people—those in Ukraine and Russia, Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, and all over. —Brad Geyer

VFP CHAPTER REPORTS

#042 – CONNECTICUT

Chapter 42 members followed up solidarity actions at Central Connecticut State and University of Connecticut in support of Students for Justice in Palestine, with a large presence at Hartford Hospital and Yale New Haven Hospital where members attended weekly vigils supporting Doctors and Nurses against Genocide, and New Haven Healthcare Workers 4 Palestine. At the Hospital of Central Connecticut in New Britain we continued our support for the medical community, standing up to dramatize Israeli destruction of Gaza hospitals. In January, members Paul Nyklicek, Jim Pandaru, and John Miksad (John is also a member of World Beyond War), performed the MLK Speech, “Beyond Vietnam” at the New Britain Public Library. On February 21, 2025, the Connecticut Mirror published Bill Potvis letter, titled “The Pope has it right in Gaza, It’s Cruelty not a War” [see ctmirror.org/2025/02/21/the-pope-has-it-right-its-cruelty-not-war/].

Jim Brasile



Chapter 42 members Guy Blais, Bill Potvin, and Jim Brasile table with Nour and Layan, members of We Will Return, a Connecticut-based organization that fosters collaboration for humanitarian aid, social activism, and educational initiatives aimed at supporting Palestinian communities. Bill and this Fasting for Palestine Children sign made an appearance at numerous vigils throughout the state.

#046 – MONTEREY, CA

VFP Monterey started 2025 under new leadership following an uncontested election of officers in November: Justin Loza, President; Mike Dempsey, Vice President; Catherine Crockett, Secretary; and Jack Erickson, Treasurer. President Loza laid out his vision and goals for the chapter in January at our regularly scheduled monthly meeting. A draft Strategic Organizing Plan in process of development was introduced to the chapter for review and revision at our February meeting.

Our first event for the year was the annual MLK Jr. parade and celebration in Seaside, California. We participated with the Peace Coalition of Monterey County, an alliance that we, as active members, helped create that has proven to be beneficial for all its members and organizations.

WAGE PEACE!!!!

Michael Dempsey



Monterey VFP Chapter 46 President Justin Loza (left) and V.P. Mike Dempsey (right) snapped this picture at the end of the Martin Luther King Jr. Parade in Seaside, California, on the Monterey Bay.

#047 – PITTSBURGH, PA

Pittsburgh VFP Chapter 47 was well represented at an action in support of the Palestinian people in late November. We were proud to be able to speak about the longstanding support of Palestine by Veterans For Peace.

On January 20 we showed up in support of a large anti-war coalition in Pittsburgh for an event called “We Fight Back” at the City/County building. On this day, we celebrated the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., while honoring his memory by standing up against oppression, repression, and the imperialism that continues to be perpetrated by our government. Standing outside in the cold for a couple of hours was a small price to pay as we fight back against an oligarchy of a few billionaires who care not about the environment, genocides, or even life itself.

Along with allies, we say no to the billionaire agenda, and yes to healthcare for all, yes to peace in the Middle East, and yes to closing all U.S. overseas military bases, yes to the rights

#063 – ALBUQUERQUE, NM

VFP Chapter 63 mourns the loss of two valuable members in past months: Key founder of our chapter and World War II navy veteran Sally-Alice Thompson died in July; and long-time associate member Mandy Pino died in December. We also miss Peter Phillips, chapter treasurer and important strategist and activist who recently moved to California.

We are urging our State Legislature to pass House Bill 171, Office of Peacebuilding Act, sponsored by State Representative Andrea Romero. If passed it would create the Citizens' Peacebuilding Advisory Council. On Monday, February 3, members traveled to Santa Fe to join a march to the New Mexico State Capitol and a rally in the rotunda in support of immigrants.

Some of our members have been writing letters to the editor concerning U.S. weapons used by Israel.

Our chapter keeps a close eye and has been engaged in several struggles on the environmental and social justice fronts related to Los Alamos National Lab (LANL), the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility, and oil and gas industry



VFP Chapter 47's Pablo Dordal speaks as Doc Arbuckle holds VFP flag at a rally at the federal building in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in late November 2024.

Pittsburgh Chapter #047 continued:

of women, BIPOC, and LGBTQ+ people, and yes to money for housing, jobs, and education! Let's shut down the Military Industrial Complex.

Many more actions and events are in the works, including a documentary film screening.

Peace and Good,

Paul "Pablo" Dordal

#061 – GREATER ST. LOUIS, MO

On November 1, 2024, Veterans For Peace Chapter 61, part of the greater St. Louis area, participated in a collaborative peaceful demonstration at the Veterans Memorial in O'Fallon. Alongside other organizations, we showcased a handmade Puerto Rican flag labeled "National Treasure" in response to recent derogatory remarks about Puerto Rico, while also expressing our support for Palestine and the situation in Gaza. The turnout was fantastic, with many people beeping, waving, and asking questions. Our presence helped raise awareness about our chapter, fostering community connections and potentially attracting new members. The atmosphere was joyful, highlighted by bubbles that brought smiles to many. This demonstration marks the beginning of ongoing efforts to engage with the community. We want everyone to know that we are here for them and encourage anyone with issues needing veterans' attention to reach out to us. Overall, the reception was warm and welcoming, emphasizing the love and support within our community.

Ashley Salazar



Charles Powell, longtime member of Albuquerque VFP Chapter 63, at a relaxed visibility action near a nuclear facility in New Mexico.

polluters. We have been part of efforts to force LANL to monitor and mitigate their poisonous Hexavalent Chromium contamination and plume, and to stop LANL's Casa del Rio Powerline which will damage our Native communities and the Santa Fe National Forest. And we advocated passage of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) to help radiation-affected communities.

We are fighting Trump and his uberwealthy fascistic supporters; his climate-warming coal, gas, and oil development; his promised degradation of public lands; his illegal domestic use of the military; and his land grab threats toward Canada, Panama, Denmark (Greenland), and Gaza.

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VFP CHAPTER REPORTS

Albuquerque Chapter #063 continued:

Our regular monthly meetings feature programs. Recent topics include the development and deployment of “depleted” uranium (DU) in New Mexico, the U.S., and the world, and the fight against U.S. Air Force plans to send tens of thousands of low-level and supersonic training flights over our state and most of the American Southwest.

Bill Tiwald

#069 – SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Fleet Week 2024: As part of the No MAS campaign to shut down air shows, VFP Chapter 69, working with VFP-CCMP, 350.org, and allied groups, handed out flyers October 11–12 at the Blue Angels Air Show. Our strategy of connecting anti-militarism with climate activism is gaining traction.

VFP members joined with about 200 others for an Armistice Day action November 11 in San Francisco, in support of Sanders’ bill against another \$20 billion weapons aid to Israel. We stopped by the Palace Hotel in support of strikers, then Butler’s office, and finished at Padilla’s. David Solnit was a lead organizer of the event, which featured street art, people willing to be arrested, and long—but good—speeches. We met up with some interesting **About Face** folks there.

Veterans For Peace was one of the honorees at the Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center’s 16th Annual Peace & Justice Awards Dinner, November 23, 2024, in Lafayette, California.

Vince Dijanich was elected to finish out Bill Creighton’s term after Bill’s resignation as chapter president last year. Vince won a two-year term in his own right in January. We appreciated Bill for his many years of service at a festive holiday party—our first in five years—at the San Francisco Veterans Building on



San Francisco VFP Chapter 69 tablers (left to right): Vince Dijanich, Paul Cox, Lou Flores, and Steve Morse.

December 17. Members of Sonoma County Chapter 71 came down and attendees also included members of CodePink and WILPF. Paul Cox of Chapter 69 organized the potluck dinner, and Susan Schnall spoke on VFP organizing.

On Saturday, January 25, 2025, Chapter 69 participated along with a dozen other peace and justice organizations in a special gathering of in Berkeley, where each organization presented about their work. CodePink gave every one of them a pink heart award, and held a bake sale benefiting Prosthetics for Palestine.

The October 2024 Vietnam Tour was a great effort. Chapter 160 is hosting another tour April 26–May 11, straddling the 50th Anniversary of the (American) war’s end, April 30 (Reunification Day in Viet Nam).

Vince Dijanich



VFP Chapter 69 members marched in the Veterans Day Demonstration against Genocide in San Francisco. Marching with VFP flags are (left to right): Lou Flores, Steve Morse, Nadya Williams, and Michael Wong.

#071 – SONOMA, CA

VFP Chapter 71 has been dedicating Peace Poles at schools for four years—63 have been planted so far. They use a Peace Pledge composed by 5th and 6th grade students at all of the dedication ceremonies.

PEACE PLEDGE

*I pledge to use my words to speak in a kind way.
I pledge to help others as I go throughout my day.
I pledge to care for our earth
With my healing heart and hands.
I pledge to respect people in each and every land.
I pledge to join together as we unite the big and small.
I pledge to do my part to create PEACE for one and all.*

Waging PEACE one Peace Pole and one school at a time.

Fred Ptucha

#089 – NASHVILLE, TN

In late January, Harvey Bennett of the Hector Black Chapter attended the 17th annual Nuclear Deterrence Summit in Crystal City, Virginia, just down the road from the Pentagon and across the river from D.C. Along with Anthony Donovan and Greg Mello, he suffered through what turned out to be a military/nuclear industrial complex love fest: very little talk about deterrence and peace; much more about the upgrades of our nuclear arsenal and the ability to survive a nuclear exchange.

Harvey goes into specifics about the summit on the February 20 segment of VFP Peace Radio Hour, the show he continues to co-host with Jim Wohlgemuth. Recent guests include KJ Noh, Matt Hoh, Margaret Kimberly, and Lawrence Wilkerson. [See all shows at soundcloud.com/user-55976759]

Jim also co-hosts a monthly regional VFP Zoom with Patrick McCann on the third Tuesday. The meetings are open to VFP and extended community and focus on timely issues important for us, the nation, and the world.

James Wohlgemuth

#090 – BINGHAMTON, NY

Reap What You Sow—Don't Lose Heart, a two-act, two-actor play co-authored by VFP members Jack Gilroy and Paul “Zool” Zulkowitz, with Olivia Gilroy, was premiered by the new **Rising Together Talkback Theater Company** in downtown NYC in mid-November [reviewed by Kathy Kelly at hollywoodprogressive.com/stage/maryhouse-stage].

On December 9, VFP members and allies staged a grave-digging action for murdered Gaza Children on the lawn outside the Syracuse offices of New York Senators Charles Schumer and Kirstin Gillibrand [video at youtu.be/VeEXqlmitB4].

Chapter 90 has teamed up with Peace Action, Pax Christi, and Jewish Voices for Peace to produce multiple “Peace Pop Ups” to reach the general population with films, music, poetry, theater, and children’s activities. Through art and creativity, we seek to make peace popular!



Longtime VFP member and peace-justice activist Susan Lamont at the January 17 Peace Pole dedication ceremony in Rohnert Park—one of many sponsored by Sonoma County Veterans For Peace.

[Photo: Terence McNeill]



GRAVEDIGGING ACTION FOR GAZA CHILDREN, SYRACUSE, NY



In December we screened two films—**Something in the Water**, about the social-economic divide in the U.S., and **Devout and Dangerous**, about the Berrigan brothers—both followed by terrific Q&A. Also in December, we hosted a poetry reading at a local coffeehouse with a “compassion and war” theme. In January, we returned to that venue for a hootenanny—a musical offering of song performances, some humorous and others more thoughtful.

On February 8, two VFP members from the Stu Naismith chapter served as panelists for an educational panel at the Broome County Public Library titled, “Where Do My Taxes Go?”

In late February, two chapters came together in a collective attempt to shut down an assassination training base—the 174th Attack Wing of the New York State National Guard in Syracuse.

Jack Gilroy

#093/#74 – ANN ARBOR/DETROIT, MI

Chapters 93 (Ann Arbor and surrounding area) and 74 (Detroit and surrounding area) have lost their long-time chairs due to death and illness, and are in the process of regrouping. We often have joint meetings and participate together.

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VFP CHAPTER REPORTS



Detroit #074 member Jim Rine (left) and Bill Shea, president of #093, carried this excellent banner at the protest outside the VA Medical Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on March 29, 2024.

Ann Arbor/Detroit Chapters #093/#074, continued:

On Sunday, March 29, Veterans For Peace from Ann Arbor and Detroit areas jointly marched to protest recent job cuts at the Veterans Health Administration. The protest, which was held outside the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center, lasted for a few hours despite a consistent rain, and drew a wide array of people concerned with Trump administration and labor issues.

Chapter 93 continues with our tradition of organizing an annual Concert for Peace to raise money for our scholarship funds (we recently helped fund a PhD dissertation) and of honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s stance on militarism and war by hosting lectures at the University of Michigan and the Ann Arbor Public Library on MLK Day.

Mike Muha

#102 – MILWAUKEE, WI

In November 2024, our 18th annual Armistice Day event at Milwaukee City Hall drew a crowd of 90, plus others who joined via Zoom, to celebrate and promote peace.



Baltimore VFP Chapter 105 and allies on a windy February 17.

Ann Wright (Retired Colonel), a career Army officer and U.S. diplomat who resigned over the U.S. invasion of Iraq, warned of the threat to peace posed by continued spread of U.S. military bases, now numbering 900 around the world. She urged people to take action to confront elected officials, and to risk or invite arrest to see firsthand the need for reform of our justice system, which sends many women to jail for minor, non-criminal offenses.

Reggie Jackson, journalist, Navy veteran, race relations expert, speaker and activist, encouraged people to become serial harassers of members of Congress and other officials, continually writing them—actual letters, not emails or online contacts—to get their attention.

In January 2025, we held our Annual Chapter Meeting with 16 members attending. We not only reviewed accomplishments achieved in 2024, but also discussed priorities, new opportunities and expected challenges in 2025. Members were encouraged to get involved and stay involved to seize the opportunities and meet the challenges together.

B. Keith Brumley

#105 – BALTIMORE, MD

A dozen or so VFP members and peace friends marched in the Baltimore, Maryland, Black History Month parade on February 17. It was created in lieu of the annual Martin Luther King Jr. parade held in January, which was cancelled this year due to inclement weather. February's stiff winds made it hard to carry VFP flags, but we made it. We were disappointed to have missed Baltimore's Not My President rally that took place on the same day at exactly the same time. Nevertheless, we were proud to march alongside Black Baltimoreans, to demonstrate solidarity and support and declare defiantly: BLACK HISTORY IS IMPORTANT!

Ellen Barfield

#112 – VENTURA COUNTY, CA

Throughout the summer and fall of 2024, Chapter 112 members stayed active. We met separately with two local members of Congress over their support of the Gaza genocide. We demonstrated with L.A. Catholic Worker for nuclear abolition and the ending of violence in Gaza and Ukraine at Vandenberg Space Force Base.

We had a presence at the Chicano Chicana Moratorium Commemoration celebrating the historic National Chicano Moratorium March that took place in 1970 against the Vietnam War; an International Peace Day event in September; and the downtown Oxnard Multicultural Festival. Our presence at a student-led military job fair demonstration at UCSB led to brief interviews aired on KPFK radio with two seasoned military counter-recruiters, including chapter member Michael Cervantes, a Vietnam War Army infantry veteran. We hosted our first annual Amplified Concert in support of Gaza children.

These are the lucky peacemakers closing out the remarkable year 2024. Seven members of Veterans For Peace joined Palestinian companions, friends, and invitees in a December full moon peace vigil and peace walk in Ventura, California.



Ventura County Chapter #112, continued:

Chapter member Cindy Piester, a leading member of VFP's Climate Crisis and Militarism Project, is in her third year of COP participation and was a badged virtual attendee at COP 29, the U.N. climate change conference held in Baku, Azerbaijan, November 11-22, 2024. She was a virtual guest speaker for the Unitarian Universalist's program, "COP 29 and Peace as a UU Climate Justice Imperative," on December 12, 2024.

Initiated by chapter members Diana Kubilos, Helena Pasquarella, and Shane Meserve, we gave a final goodbye to a tragic 2024 by sponsoring an emotionally uplifting and "magical" December full moon vigil and peace walk enriched by a palpably gracious, civic-minded Palestinian presence arriving at the Pacific shoreline at twilight. Our chapter photo includes seven VFP members, together with friends and invitees, all affirming that peace be the absolute theme for America's next era going forward.

Shane Meserve

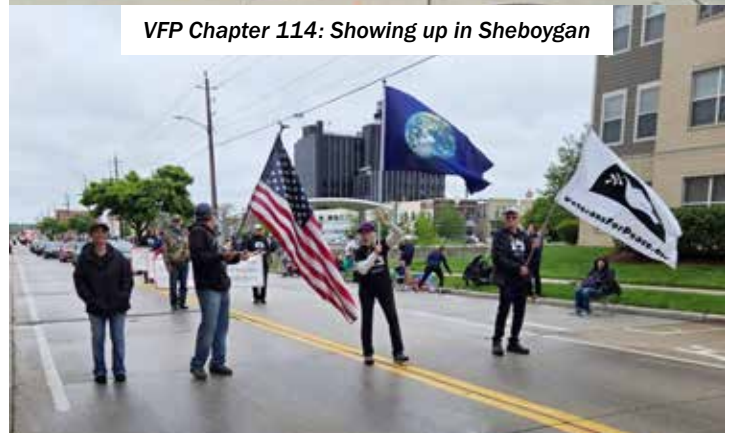
#114 - SHEBOYGAN, WI

Greetings from the city of chairs, cheese, churches, and bratwurst! It's been a while since we reported in; a combination of COVID, low membership and slow recruitment, along with

continued on page 24



VFP Chapter 114: Showing up in Sheboygan



VFP CHAPTER REPORTS



VFP Chapter 180 members and supporters gathered to demonstrate against the U.S.-Israeli genocide in Palestine, in October 2024.
[Photo submitted by: Josh Shurley]

Sheboygan Chapter #114 continued:

the entropy of creeping old age is taking its toll. We were just about to throw in the towel and close the chapter when we heard about the Great Circle Tour that the VFP peace boat *Golden Rule* was making that would include Lake Michigan! We contacted them and set up a stop here on their way to Milwaukee and Chicago. By the time of the boat's arrival in August 2023, we were ready to greet them with a musical gathering, several speaking gigs around town, and a donation of a thousand bucks to support the project. The events re-energized us!

As 2024 began, we maintained a presence at our Free Speech Corner, protesting U.S. support of the Zionist genocide in Gaza. That peace action has continued throughout this year and is still going strong with many positive reactions from the public. Letters have been sent to the White House and the Senate as well!

We marched in the Memorial Day Parade with a third flag added to our color guard: the Earth Flag for world peace. In August we attended a fundraiser for a possible new VFP Chapter in Green Bay. The group is involved in building 12 small, 500-square-foot homes for houseless vets, within walking distance of the VA Clinic.

November 11 saw us observing Armistice Day at City Hall. There was music and the mayor spoke briefly.

Our chapter has a December tradition in which we nominate and then vote on five organizations to grace with a chapter donation. For example, we have given to Southern Poverty Law Center, *Democracy Now!*, and the VFP Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility Campaign.

In 2025, we will try once again to stage a Concert for Peace and Justice. If we succeed, it will be our 16th—our first since 2019!

Wishing all our fellow VFP chapters a peaceful 2025.

Tom Contrestan

#180 – FRESNO, CA

The Fresno Chapter has been actively engaged over the past six months in efforts to expose the true costs of war. In the fall, members participated in an impactful “Focus on Palestine” panel that drew a crowd of hundreds, and spoke out about ongoing struggles against the U.S.-funded genocide.

On January 29, our chapter joined an anti-nuclear demonstration and die-in, sending a powerful message about the dangers of nuclear proliferation. In solidarity with Fresno's Peace Coalition, VFP-180 members have maintained a consistent presence outside the offices of the war crimes apologists representing us in the 16th District and in the U.S. Senate.

Additionally, Josh Shurley's radio program, *Stir It Up*, continues to spotlight the work of local Central Valley activists. As the chapter looks to the future, it remains committed to resisting the autocratic chaos coming from the political class and the oligarchs who control them.

Chapter 180 continues to drive VFP's mission forward:
Peace at home, peace abroad!

Josh Shurley

#184 – MISSISSIPPI

Since our Veterans Day Parade participation in Biloxi, the Mississippi chapter has been busy looking for a few good recruits. We've been printing and disseminating VFP materials in the Hattiesburg, Jackson, Gulfport, and Biloxi areas. We've been setting up a social media presence in Facebook, Instagram, and Blue Sky. We've been seeking alliances with other organizations with similar goals.

On January 20, we co-sponsored with Mississippi Rising and other organizations a demonstration in the capitol city of Jackson, where our very own Martin Allen gave a wonderful speech on the current class war. Martin had previously addressed the City Council of Jackson to weigh in on an ordinance having to do with homeless encampments. All of our members contribute. Stoa has been invaluable in Communications. Grant's been our go-to with security, together with James. James made us beautiful flag poles, I have been doing a regular Sunday vigil at 4pm at Jones Park in Gulfport.

Peace to All,

Ray Nacanaynay

CHAPTER 757 – HAMPTON ROADS, VA

VFP Chapter 757 reports an eventful, three-day Air Show Peace Rally with members gathering at NAS Oceana in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on the weekend of September 20–22, 2024. This was our first air show as the Veterans For Peace Hampton Roads Chapter, and we can't wait till next year! We met a lot of great people who were interested in what we represented and what we had to say. Some vets even reached out to us privately afterward to thank us.

Hampton Roads Chapter #757 continued:

On Saturday and Sunday, September 21–22, we brought Air Show–focused messaging to the rally. Our mission at the Air Show is about building a culture of peace instead of continuing to amass an ongoing culture of war, as well as addressing the climate and economic impacts of war.

The NAS Oceana Air Show is the single largest annual military recruiting event in Hampton Roads, with entertaining events and activities designed to appeal to families and children—to capture their attention for long-term “buy-in.” Huge resources are poured into this, and continuous recruitment in schools at all levels has become accepted practice.

Chapter 757 was invited to spend Saturday, November 9, at the City of Hampton/Fort Monroe’s Veterans Day celebration! We walked in the parade and then spent time at our event table afterward talking about peace education, militarism and its effect on the climate, and the history of Armistice Day. We had lots of positive responses. When one person complained about our inclusion, [wrongly] citing anti-Zionism, a member of the event planning committee defended our right to be there and made sure we were included.

757 has been active throughout the winter and celebrated one full year in Hampton Roads on Sunday, March 16, 2025!

Heather Butler



On Friday, September 20, NAS Oceana hosted a military career–focused STEM event for local Chesapeake and Virginia Beach 5th graders. Chapter 757 members held up signs for the school buses and got a lot of positive reactions from students, including peace signs flashed through tinted windows!

Commemorating U.S. Airman Aaron Bushnell’s Sacrifice for a Free Palestine!

Below: On Wednesday, February 26, 2025, in remembrance of Aaron Bushnell’s self-sacrifice a year prior (February 25, 2024), VFP Joan Duffy Chapter 55 members joined the Santa Fe Ad Hoc Committee for Palestine and others at a demonstration for Palestinian liberation at the east entrance of the New Mexico State Capitol. Visible in the background is the sculpture “Morning Prayer” by hircahua Apache artist Allan Houser. Pictured (L to R): Greg Corning, Sharon Argenbright, unidentified activist, Guthrie, Stephanie Hedgecoke (holding VFP flag), unidentified activist.



VFP Hawaii Chapter 113 also hosted an event in memory of Aaron Bushnell at the University of Hawaii on Feb. 26.

[Edited versions of publishers' blurbs.]

White Poverty: How Exposing Myths About Race and Class Can Reconstruct American Democracy by William J. Barber II (Liveright, 2024)

One of the most pernicious and persistent myths in the U.S. is the association of Black skin with poverty. Though there are forty million more poor white people than Black people, most Americans, both Republicans and Democrats, continue to think of poverty—along with issues like welfare, unemployment, and food stamps—as solely a Black problem. Why is this so? What are the historical causes? And what are the political consequences that result?

Genocide in Gaza: Voices of Global Conscience edited by Ahmet Davutoglu and Richard Falk (Clarity Press, 2025)

At a time when neither governments nor international institutions are demonstrating either the will or the capability to act in accord with the rule of law or the popular will of the majority of the peoples of the world who have demonstrated against the genocide in their millions, these substantial essays give an overview of the extraordinary damage wrought and what can and should be done to protect the human rights of Palestinians.

Sacred Soldier: The Danger of Worshipping Warriors by Robert F. Keeler (Olive Branch Press, 2024)

"[A] clear, concise, and highly readable book... [offering] a broad range of insights and information regarding the mythologization of the warrior, so critical a part of the era of perpetual war in which we live." —Camillo "Mac" Bica, Vietnam veteran, author of *Worthy of Gratitude? Why Veterans May Not Want To Be Thanked for Their "Service" in War*

My Country Is the World: Writings, Speeches, Statements, and Interviews against the Vietnam War by Staughton Lynd, edited by Luke Stewart (Haymarket Books, 2023)

Staughton Lynd's (1929–2022) speeches, writings, statements, and interviews make some of the most coherent and persuasive arguments against the war in Vietnam based on U.S. and international law, precedents from American history, and moral and ethical considerations based on conscientious objection to war and an internationalism embraced by American radicals which says: "My country is the world, my countrymen are all mankind."

Sister Rebel by Theresa Killeen Bonpane (Xeno Books, 2023)

Theresa Bonpane's memoir charts her journey from a young Irish American woman, to a Maryknoll sister working in Chile, to a dedicated peace activist and director of the Office of the Americas in Los Angeles. Along the way, she works alongside notable figures such as Howard Zinn and Martin Sheen, who helped shape her beliefs and actions in the fight for peace and justice. An insightful and thought-provoking look at the inner workings and challenges of the peace movement.

Guns, Piranha, Lions, No Visa No Problem: My Life and Times by Kenneth Lipner (Austin Macauley Publishers, 2024)

Ken Lipner's memoir reads like an amazing, action-packed spy novel. As the title suggests, this unique memoir describes the intriguing, serendipitous, eclectic life of a sports-loving, peace-promoting, justice-seeking, pet-rescuing public policy advisor and economics professor with a wanderlust that took him to 120 countries.

Deadly Betrayal: The Truth About Why the United States Invaded Iraq by Dennis Fritz, with Foreword by Larry Wilkerson (OR Books, 2024)

Deadly Betrayal uncovers why and how a cabal of Pentagon Advisors in the George W. Bush Administration created a fabricated justification to attack Iraq. The book provides a detailed insider account of how a Pentagon cabal strategized to manipulate intelligence, pressure the United Nations, force a Congressional authorization for the use of force through political threats, and scare the American people after 9/11 into supporting an attack on Iraq.

The First Atomic Bomb: The Trinity Site in New Mexico by Janet Farrell Brodie (University of Nebraska Press, 2023)

A deeply researched history of the first explosion on July 16, 1945 of the atomic bomb that was developed by the Manhattan Project at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Dubbed "the gadget," this was the second bomb dropped over Nagasaki called Fat Man, a plutonium implosion bomb.

Making the Unseen Visible: Science and the Contested Histories of Radiation Exposure by L. Jacob Darwin Hamblin and Linda Richards (Oregon State University Press, 2023)

From 2017 to 2020, the authors facilitated the Oregon State University Downwinders Project to support research and scholarship on the Downwinders cases near the Hanford nuclear site in Washington. In addition, summer workshops brought a variety of stakeholders together to explore the science, history, and lived history of radiation exposure, and this book compiles some of their writings. Included is a chapter by Helen Jaccard, "Reflections on the *Golden Rule*."

Men and Racism—The Healing Path: A Courageous and Compassionate Journey Through the Fear of Being Vulnerable by Roberto Schiraldi (Balboa Press, 2024)

Roberto Schiraldi's very personal offering of stories, poems, articles, and other works related to his own healing journey was written to support and empower men working to heal themselves and the world. His hope is that readers will find kinship, inspiration, and motivation in these pages.

The Good Lord Willing and the Creek Don't Rise: Pentimento Memories of Mom and Me by Robert W. Norris (Tin Gate, 2023)

This memoir relates the trials, tribulations, and unbreakable bond of a Pacific Northwest mother and her son, Kay Schlinkman and Robert Norris. When Robert becomes a C.O. after entering the air force, is court-martialed and goes to military prison, Kay defends his choice and faces the consequences in solidarity. Both characters in this dual memoir have remarkable life stories to tell.

The Church of Stop Shopping and Religious Activism: Combatting Consumerism and Climate Change through Performance by George González (NYU Press, 2024)

Since the dawn of the new millennium, the grassroots performance activist group the Stop Shopping Church, led by co-founders Reverend Billy and Savitri D, has advanced a sophisticated anti-capitalist critique in what they call "Earth Justice." This book details 25 years of the group's unique activism and adventures.

featuring work by VFP Poet Laureate **Jenny Pacanowski**

I have so much to say when I am lost in the swirl of the state of the world.
Heading to the sacred space of the workshop, I enter the room and I am
free.
We rant, we vent, and I remember to love my community. I am centered.
I breathe in and I am grounded.
I am relieved when the veterans show up for themselves:
Not for a cause, Not for a mission
Show up for themselves
I wish for veterans and our civilian allies to fill up their souls to
Overflowing with purpose and passion, just like mine.
I set myself for success following this vision of mine...
A way to reintegrate from service to civilian.
How can we as veterans thrive after service...?
Releasing these suicidal ideations (so many follow through...)
What if this reintegration program helps all veterans skip the
“Typical Veteran Story”— losing time and years to addiction,
homelessness, depression, fractured relationships, isolation...
What if we got out of service and were taught to love ourselves?
To take care of our bruised souls and hurting hearts
No addiction to escape
No suicide to relieve the pain
Unconditional love for ourselves and a guide to follow?
That’s what we created, an answer, an example, a practice, a model
Me and Corinna (the wind beneath my wings) are here.
To show the military and the world
To Embody
The opposite of war and military service isn’t peace,
It’s love
It’s Self Love.
We are creating an answer the DOD
The Department of Defense doesn’t have and doesn’t want.
They just grind up service members and expel them when they no longer
serve
The war machine’s purpose
The Kool Aid is poison
Hmmm raising the bar, instead of drinking to cultivate camaraderie
Let’s talk about our feelings
Fully
Beginning to End, the whole cycle of emotions
From Grief to Happy
From Guilt to Relief
From Shame to Thriving—
Never stuck in one;
Experiencing All.

This is the life I lead.
I am enjoying it.
Expanding again.

Veterans For Peace!

Begin your reintegration and empowerment journey with WVE&T anytime during or after military service. Workshops for civilian support members are also available, because everyone deserves the opportunity to love themselves.

~Jenny

[womenveteransempowered.org/
upcoming-events](http://womenveteransempowered.org/upcoming-events)



WATERFALL

Flowing through me like a hollow bone
The waterfall of unconditional love
It is married to the depths of the ocean
It outpours without restriction or obstacle
It flows towards all
It does not need to be received to exist
Some accept it
Some turn away
Some can’t feel it
Yet my waterfall of unconditional love flows

Jenny Pacanowski, an Iraq Veteran, is Founder and Director of Women Veterans Empowered & Thriving [womenveteransempowered.org]



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Above: Founding members of Maine Chapter #001
Right: Veterans For Peace Founder Jerry Genesio



Above center and right: Former VFP President David Cline, a Vietnam veteran. [Portrait: Derek Shapton Artist's Rep: Westside Studio]



VFP U.K. (active 2011-2022)



Restoration of the Golden Rule, 2011



Left: Will Thomas and Roy Bourgeois, 2013 SOAW vigil at Ft. Benning, Georgia [Will Thomas Flickr]



September 2005 Anti-Iraq War protest in D.C. [O'Coileain Flickr album]



Boston's Smedley Butler Brigade, Armistice 2014 [Tim Pierce]