



VETERANS FOR PEACE NEWS

MINNESOTA VETERANS FOR PEACE, CHAPTER 27

Veterans for Peace News is published quarterly by Minnesota Veterans for Peace, Chapter 27.

Veterans for Peace works to increase awareness of the costs of war, restrain government from intervening in the internal affairs of other nations, end the arms race, reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons, seek justice for veterans and victims of war, and abolish war as an instrument of national policy.

We pledge to use democratic and nonviolent means to achieve our purpose.

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"There won't be any trumpets blowing come the Judgement Day — on the bloody morning after, one tin soldier rides away..." (Potter & Lambert)



Wayne Wittman accepts 2014 National VFP Howard Zinn Lifetime Achievement Award. Also pictured are Bruce Berry and Ch. 27 President Dave Logsdon.

VFP 29th Annual Convention Abolish war on planet and poor

by Barry Riesch

Veterans For Peace celebrated their 29th National Convention in beautiful Asheville, NC. Hosted by Chapter 099 – Western NC, the convention convened on the campus of UNCA, bordered by a beautiful botanical garden, nestled amidst the Blue Ridge Mountains, close to the Appalachian Trail. Asheville is a town rich in history, a story in itself. I encourage readers to visit this great little arts community with its locally owned restaurants, art galleries, street musicians, hula hoops in downtown Pack Square Park and interesting people!

During the convention VFP member Roger Erlich from Raleigh NC chapter erected a 24-foot bell tower right in the middle of downtown Asheville, generating tremendous

public interest and exposure for VFP. Created from recycled soda and beer cans, the tower was inspired by the words cast in bronze on the door of the World War I-era Memorial Bell Tower at N.C. State University: "And They Shall Beat Their Swords Into Plowshares". The tower is dedicated "To all victims and veterans of war, regardless of race, faith, or nationality." The tower had an actual bell which was rung many times during the day.

The main theme of the convention was PAHPA – Peace at Home Peace Abroad. This theme came up many times in many workshops and talks, generating discussions about building coalitions and alliances by making other peoples' challenges "Our" challenges. As usual, the convention had an action-

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Greetings from the President Looking ahead

by David Logsdon

"You do not become a dissident just because you decide one day to take up this unusual career."

-Vaclav Havel

It's been an active summer for Chapter 27! There has been a full slate of Activism, Education, and Arts with our group, starting off with the wonderful Peacestock just outside of Red Wing. Bill Haberdank, President of the VFP Red Wing chapter put together an impressive program of speakers, music, poetry and great food. We were glad to support them financially and with boots on the ground.

After Peacestock, many of us travelled to beautiful Asheville, North Carolina, for the Veterans For Peace national convention. What a jam-packed five days it was. There were such informative workshops, plenaries featuring Iraq-Afghanistan veterans, music, camaraderie (networking) and, especially for our chapter, Wayne Whitman receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award. There was so much to take in and contemplate on so many levels. Many thanks to the Asheville chapter and the hard workers at National for a terrific convention experience!

Shortly after returning from the convention, a lot of Chapter 27 VFPers attended and were a part of the Hiroshima/Nagasaki Ceremony at the Lake Harriet Peace Garden. Kudos to Larry Johnson and his wife Elaine Wynn and others for their hard work putting together a beautiful, moving program of poetry, storytelling, music, and, of course, bell ringing!

Inspired by all this summer's activities and motivated to action by recent world events, we look forward to a dynamic fall with many opportunities to educate and inspire. Put those boots on folks, there is work to be done!

The War Crimes Times

*Read what "THEY"
don't want you to read.
Know what "THEY"
don't want you to know.*

www.warcrimestimes.org

This War Business: Reparations by Israel

by Tom Dooley

You break it, you buy it!

Not just practical and sensible, but moral and ethical.

Reparations can be complicated. Those imposed on Germany after World War I were extremely severe, and many think they caused Germany to rebuild its military with a vengeance and embark on World War II.

In the case of U.S. reparations to Vietnam, the Paris Treaty called for \$4.3 billion to be paid, but some smaller figure in the form of grants and loans was provided. Vietnam deserved many billions.

The numerous wars by Israel on Palestine, Iraq and Lebanon would probably total \$30 or \$40 billion. This would be a tremendous burden, and Israel would have trouble paying it even if they could afford it. If the nations of the world were inclined, they could isolate Israel economically, refuse to trade; this would be devastating and dangerous. Israel has 200 or 300 nukes.

I don't recall if reparations by Israel has come up in the past; it seems reparations are a "back burner" issue. I don't know why. If it comes up, it will be interesting to see Israel's reaction.

How much reparations from the U.S. government would Native Americans deserve...or African Americans?

Quote from a letter by David Short of South Africa in *The Economist* of May 26, 2001

"The American flag is habitually burnt publically around the world by anti-imperialists. The Stars and Stripes flies over the states of California and Texas and others, which America took by force from Mexico 150 years ago. Cities and towns have Spanish names. Mexicans still call these states "the occupied territories." America has not yet decolonized and continues to act in a brutal, imperialist fashion in many parts of the world. But what can one expect from a nation whose creation involved the genocide of one race and the extinction of another?"

STATS: Syria dead: 200,000. Ebola dead: 2,000 and counting. Palestinian dead: over 2000. Israeli dead 65. U.S. gun deaths year-to-date: 19,204.

If the U.S. invaded Mexico, what should Russia do?

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packed, bursting agenda. With almost constant activities there was little time to rest. The National Board, of course, held its annual meeting. There were plentiful workshops, films, poetry reading, plenary sessions, music, speakers and, best of all, great conversations. One could start each day at 6 a.m. with a new VFP working group called “Inner Peace: Mindfulness Meditation,” to serve the cause of world peace by nurturing peace within ourselves. A great way to start the day and, of course, help in our peace-building movement.

One of the great satisfactions of every conference is, for me, simply gathering to greet and share with members from across the country and to strengthen and confirm our resolve towards battling the scourge of war, both at home and abroad. It is always gratifying to hear of the work of other chapters and to be able to support each others’ efforts.

Because we are an aging organization, a special effort was made by VFP National Board to enroll post-9/11 veterans, waiving their registration fee as a means of encouragement. At this point in time we now have three post-9/11 veterans on our National Board; two are women of color: one African American and one Native American. It was great to have such an assembly of these vets. They held an encampment along a local river. This year actually marks the 10th anniversary of the formation of IVAW, which was born in 2004 during our Boston convention. A number of these younger vets are running for our National Board. Please check them out and consider voting for them.

Just a short list of some of the dignitaries and events:



The 24-foot bell tower created from recycled soda and beer cans.

We celebrated Doug Rawlings for being our first “Poet Laureate of Veterans For Peace.” At our Opening Plenary we heard from Freeman Owle, a Native American who grew up in the Birdtown community. He shared a few traditional Cherokee stories with us. Frank Goldsmith, a Guantanamo defense attorney who was born in Asheville, shared his experiences with representing prisoners detained at Guantanamo. Of course we were led by VFP National President Patrick McCann (nicknamed “P-Mac”), who is doing a fine job for us. And then Michael McPherson, Interim Executive Director, who is doing an amazing job of running the National Office along with his fantastic staff. We are so blessed as an organization to have a person of Michael’s caliber at the helm; we hope he’ll stay on.

During the convention we were entertained by the ever-evolving VFP Chorus. Friday evening we enjoyed music and singing by John McCutcheon, a six-time Grammy nominee. To mix up the program at Saturday evening’s banquet we were entertained by the wonderful singing ensemble “Fruit of Labor” and spoken word artist/rapper Miles Megacith, who made an album with the proceeds going to VFP and to the Cultural Wing

of Black Workers for Justice.” Great entertainment!

During Saturday night’s banquet, details were announced regarding next year’s VFP National Convention to be held Aug. 6-10, 2015 in San Diego. A roll-call was read of VFP members who had passed over to the other side this past year – *Presente!* Chapter 27 rang 11 bells to honor them. During presentations Father Roy Bourgeois, the

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Soldiers: Know Your Rights

To Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan: You took an oath to uphold the Constitution, not to support policies that are illegal. The GI Hotline phone number is:

1-800-394-9544

THE ART OF WAGING PEACE, November 14-20 with Paul Chappell

by Larry Johnson

Elaine and I are part of an effort called “Revisioning Medicine,” which encourages health care providers to integrate the best of western medicine with all the rest that is known, from all cultures, ancient and modern. Elaine’s connection is her long-time work with integrative health, including EMDR trauma treatment. My invitation came because I started the first participatory patient TV channel, where children override pain and fear by making their own TV while in the hospital. About three years ago a medical doctor/leader in this effort sent a Ted Talk, apologizing and saying, “I don’t normally send things like this out, but I think you’ll forgive me after you listen to it.” We did, and were amazed as we heard Paul Chappell, a West Point Officer/Iraq Veteran, who came home and wrote *Will War Ever End*, and more recently *The Art of Waging Peace*. Then a year ago, at our national convention in Madison, Paul Chappell spoke before the dance. When we left, having heard him speak twice, Elaine said, “We have to figure out how to get him here some time.”

Shortly after that I signed on to “World Beyond War,” because I knew Leah Bolger, our past national president, was involved. I got an email back from Paul Chappell, and when I learned he’d be coming this way and be available Nov. 14-20, I said, “We’ll fill that time.” I knew what I was doing. I share the experience of all veterans about volunteering, the knee-jerk reaction to “I need three volunteers. You, you, and you.” I volunteered willingly, because I could see how important this week could be for all of our work here.

PAUL CHAPPELL WILL BE HERE NOVEMBER 14-20. Plymouth Congregational Church, now the host site for Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers, has made *The Art of Waging Peace* the book they’re encouraging everyone to read for 2015. Chappell will speak at Sunday forum there on November 16. If you go to www.worldbeyondwar.org, click on “About” and then “Who We Are,” you get speakers bureau and can find links to several talks on his bio.

In his talks and books, Chappell says, “At one time peo-



Paul Chappell

ple ridiculed the idea that ‘slavery is wrong.’ Through strategy and hard work, people made it illegal. It’s not totally gone, but people no longer consider it good. We can do the same with war, and we must.”

He emphasizes that the movements led by Gandhi and Martin Luther King were not full of “naïve pacifists” but rather disciplined people, determined to make significant change thru nonviolent resistance. Then reminiscent of the little known fact that there was large resistance to Hitler inside the Nazi army, he reminds us that soldiers like MacArthur were not/are not “right-wing hawks.” We wouldn’t agree with him on everything, but MacArthur leaned on Kennedy to

not build up troops in Vietnam, and he argued against use of the atomic bomb. Chappell argues that most of those who have experienced the horror of war, even if they haven’t officially signed on with us as Veterans For Peace, can and must be allies in ending war. The fact that we first got Chappell’s work from an integrative health doctor, and that many strategists are arguing that Climate Change and Cyberwarfare are our biggest international security threats, say WE MUST FILL THE WORKSHOP ON NOVEMBER 15, AND THE ROOM AT LANDMARK ON NOVEMBER 17. We must look for allies we don’t normally see at events. Chappell argues for a strategy that works.

During the week he’s here, Chappell will do a workshop on Saturday, Nov. 15, and as I write this, I still need a host site. He will do a major keynote at the MAP Celebration at Landmark Center in St. Paul the evening of Nov. 17. He will speak in college classes at St. Thomas, and can at others. There will be a major event, connecting him with youth and those who work with young people, and some outstate appearances. I have one driver and could use others, as well as connections for a good, undisturbed place to stay, probably in or between Minneapolis and St. Louis Park. All honoraria and donations go to Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, for whom Captain of Peace, Paul Chappell, works as Director of Peace Leadership.

All questions and offers to help, in any way, go to Larry Johnson, 612-747-3904 or larryjvfp@gmail.com.

Propaganda

by Steve McKeown

This coming year, expect the Pentagon to attempt to put our country in a re-education camp about the American War in Vietnam with the upcoming 40th anniversary of our high-tailing it out of there. The Pentagon's efforts will be akin to all the kings horses and men trying to put Humpty Dumpty together again.

Propaganda was and is not new to my generation. During the "war to end all war" anything German in this country, including even language and food, was not only suspect, but often seen as traitorous. What we are seeing now is more "shock and awe." Before the first Gulf Massacre and into the second one we had a sort of National Repentance of cleansing the media, and making sure that the unknown soldier who was spit upon never be desecrated again, and personal repentance on a national level each day for us not having to wait in line for gas. Remember after 9/11 how the sporting events were called off? This is where the propaganda switches into another gear and the military is being shown as the embodiment of freedom.

The umpire better not holler "Play Ball" before the jets fly overhead, nor dare the referees blow their whistle before the honor guard is trotted out to present some more veterans to be thanked so we can be free to watch and/or play the game. Besides the overt message is a subliminal one: if you want to play ball you first better play OUR BALL, and what's more, you had better show your appreciation too.

The point I am making is that the 40th anniversary thrust will be to welcome Vietnam vets into this grateful circle of being carriers of fighting for our freedom however "tragic and misunderstood" the war was. But no matter how many people jump on board to say onions are roses, the pig won't fly, because as the saying goes, a lie doesn't live, and those of us who have come this far with the truth will prevail.

WORLD BEYOND WAR

a global movement to end all wars

VFP members Leah Bolger, Bruce Gagnon, and Paul Chappell are among the impressive

International Speakers Bureau headed up

by David Swanson. Very worthy of

CHECKING out and SUPPORTING.

www.worldbeyondwar.org/speakers/

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heroic founder of the School of America Watch, was presented the Leadership in Peace award.

Among the highlights of Saturday evening's banquet were two incredible speakers: Matthew Hoh, a Senior Fellow at the Center for International Policy and former Director of the Afghanistan Study Group. Matthew was followed by none other than Cynthia McKinney, the 2008 Green Party Presidential Candidate who has made a career of speaking her mind and challenging authority. She served six terms as a member of the House of Representatives from Georgia.

However, the highlight for me, not only of Saturday's banquet but the entire convention, was when our very own Wayne Wittman received the Howard Zinn Lifetime Achievement Award. Wayne received this award amid an enthusiastic standing ovation. Nobody deserves this award more than Wayne; he is an amazing activist and role model. I am grateful for the 22 years I have known and been able to serve with him. Wayne was selected out of a field of seven nominees that included Martin Luther King Jr. and S. Brian Willson. As Michael McPherson pointed out "you can't win a lifetime achievement award when you're only 60 years old.

Thanks, Vets for Peace, for another year of working to make the world a better place. We are the only Veterans organization whose mission is to Abolish War. What would it be like without us?

Weblinks for further convention information:

Slide show of convention: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/mountainxpress/sets/72157645504736937/show/>

Convention program website: <http://www.vfpnationalconvention.org/program.htm>

Transcript of Cynthia McKinney's remarks: <http://milfuegos.blogspot.com/2014/07/cynthia-mckinney-veterans-for-peace.html>

Transcript of David Swanson remarks: <http://www.popularresistance.org/war-in-our-collective-imagination/>

Article about Swords Into Plowshares Tower:

<http://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/local/2014/07/22/asheville-hosting-veterans-peace-convention/12982879/>

Various video clips from the convention:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yanpTleObCk&feature=youtu.be>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBT_0JHS4yo

Top nine reasons to stop bombing Iraq

by David Swanson

1. It's not a rescue mission. The U.S. personnel could be evacuated without the 500-pound bombs. The persecuted minorities could be supplied, moved, or their enemy dissuaded, or all three, without the 500-pound bombs or the hundreds of "advisors" (trained and armed to kill, and never instructed in how to give advice; have you ever tried taking urgent advice from 430 people?). The boy who cried rescue mission should not be allowed to get away with it after the documented deception in Libya where a fictional threat to civilians was used to launch an all-out aggressive attack that has left that nation in ruins. Not to mention the false claims about Syrian chemical weapons and the false claim that missiles were the only option left for Syria – the latter claims being exposed when the former weren't believed, the missiles didn't launch, and less violent but perfectly obvious alternative courses of action were recognized. If the U.S. government were driven by a desire to rescue the innocent, why would it be arming Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Bahrain? The U.S. government destroyed the nation of Iraq between 2003 and 2011, with results including the near elimination of various minority groups. If preventing genocide were a dominant U.S. interest, it could have halted its participation in and aggravation of that war at any time, a war in which 97% of the dead were on one side, just as in Gaza this month – the distinction between war and genocide being one of perspective, not proportion. Or, of course, the U.S. could have left well alone. Ever since President Carter declared that the U.S. would kill for Iraqi oil, each of his successors has believed that course of action justified, and each has made matters significantly worse.

2. It's going to make things worse, again. This bombing will aggravate the Sunni-Shia divide, increase support for ISIS, and create a lasting legacy of hostility and violence. President Obama says there is no military solution, only reconciliation. But bombs don't reconcile. They

harden hearts and breed murderers. Numerous top U.S. officials admit that much of what the U.S. military does generates more enemies than it kills. When you continue down a path that is counterproductive on its own terms, the honesty of those terms has to be doubted. If this war is not for peace, is it perhaps – like every other war we've seen the U.S. wage in the area – for resources, profits, domination, and sadism? The leader of ISIS learned his hatred in a U.S. prison in Iraq. U.S. media report that fact as if it is just part of the standard portrait of a new Enemy #1, but the irony is not mere coincidence. Violence is created. It doesn't arise

ISIS almost certainly has weapons supplied by the U.S. in Syria, and certainly has weapons taken from Iraq. So, what is the U.S. doing? It's rushing more weapons to Iraq as fast as possible. Americans like to think of the Middle East as backward and violent, but the tools of the violence trade are manufactured in the United States.

out of irrational and inscrutable foreignness. It is planted by those great gardeners in the sky: planes, drones, and helicopters. A bombing campaign justified as protecting people actually endangers

them, and those around them, and many others, including those of us living in the imperial Homeland.

3. Bombs kill. Big bombs kill a lot of people. Massive bombing campaigns slaughter huge numbers of people, including those fighting in the hell the U.S. helped to create, and including those not fighting: men, women, children, grandparents, infants. Defenders of the bombing know this, but ignore it, and make no effort to calculate whether more people are supposedly being saved than are being killed. This indifference exposes the humanitarian pretensions of the operation. If some humans are of no value to you, humanitarianism is not what's driving your decisions. The U.S. war on Iraq from 2003 to 2011 killed a half million to a million-and-a-half Iraqis and 4,000 Americans. A war that puts fewer Americans on the ground and uses more planes and drones is thought of as involving less death only if our concern is narrowly limited to U.S. deaths. From the vantage point of the ground, an air war is the deadliest form of war there is.

4. There are other options. The choice between bombing and doing nothing is as false now as it was in

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September. If you can drop food on some people, why can't you drop food on everyone? It would cost a tiny fraction of dropping bombs on them. It would confuse the hell out of them, too – like Robin Williams' version of God high on pot and inventing the platypus. Of course, I now sound crazy because I'm talking about people who've been demonized (and personified in a killer straight out of a U.S. prison). It's not as if these are human beings with whom you can lament the death of Robin Williams. They're not like you and me. Etc. Yadda. Yadda. But in fact ISIS fighters were sharing their appreciation of Williams on Twitter on Tuesday. The United States could talk about other matters with ISIS as well, including a ceasefire, including a unilateral commitment to cease arming the Iraqi government even while trying to organize its ouster, including an offer to provide real humanitarian aid with no nasty strings attached, but with encouragement of civil liberties and democratic decision making. It's amazing how long minority ethnic groups in Iraq survived and thrived prior to the U.S. bringing democracy, and prior to the U.S. existing. The U.S. could do some good but must first do no harm.

5. There are now enough weapons already there to practically justify one of Colin Powell's slides retroactively. The U.S. accounts for 79% of foreign weapons transfers to Western Asia (the Middle East). The war on Libya had identical U.S. weapons on both sides. ISIS almost certainly has weapons supplied by the U.S. in Syria, and certainly has weapons taken from Iraq. So, what is the U.S. doing? It's rushing more weapons to Iraq as fast as possible. Americans like to think of the Middle East as backward and violent, but the tools of the violence trade are manufactured in the United States. Yes, the United States does still manufacture something, it's just not something that serves any useful purpose or about which most of us can manage to feel very proud. Weapons making also wastes money rather than creating it, because unaccountable profits are the single biggest product manufactured.

6. This is going to cost a fortune. Bombing Iraq is depicted as a measure of great restraint and forbearance. Meanwhile building schools and hospitals and green energy

infrastructure in Iraq would be viewed as madness if anyone dared propose it. But the latter would cost a lot less money – a consideration that is usually a top priority in U.S. politics whenever killing large numbers of people is not involved. The world spends \$2 trillion and the U.S. \$1 trillion (half the total) on war and war preparations every year. Three percent of U.S. military spending could end starvation on earth. The wonders that could be done with a fraction of military money are almost unimaginable and include actual defense against the actual danger of climate change.

7. Bombs are environmental disasters. If someone photographs a big oil fire, some will give a thought to the environmental damage. But a bombing campaign is, rather than an environmental accident, an intentional environmental catastrophe. The poisoned ground and water, and the disease epidemics, will reach the United States primarily through moral regret, depression, and suicide.

8. There go our civil liberties. Discussions of torture, imprisonment, assassination, surveillance, and denial of fair trials are severely damaged by wartime postures. After all, war is for "freedom," and who wouldn't be willing to surrender all of their freedoms for that?

9. War is illegal. It doesn't matter if the illegitimate government that you're trying to dump invited you to bomb its country. How can anyone take that seriously, while the U.S. installed that government and has armed it for years, as it has attacked its people? War is illegal under the Kellogg Briand Pact and the United Nations Charter, and pretending otherwise endangers the world. Domestically, under U.S. law, the president cannot launch a war. While the Senate has been silent, the U.S. House voted two weeks ago to ban any new presidential war on Iraq. Offering Congress a slap in the face, Obama waited for it to go on break, and then attacked Iraq

This was reprinted from David Swanson's blog Let's Try Democracy (davidswanson.org) with the author's permission.

But bombs don't reconcile. They harden hearts and breed murderers. Numerous top U.S. officials admit that much of what the U.S. military does generates more enemies than it kills.

Gentle Morning for Kind Wars

by Chante Wolf

I woke Saturday morning around five as a thunderstorm barked its approaching potential. I was about to drift off into my infrequent sleep-filled bliss, when a 'kaboom' snapped me back to the present moment, but not without taking me back through my memories of night-time in the war zone first. Once my heart settled and I knew sleep was done for me this day, I lay in bed and wondered what else my mission on this planet was to be. My mind tiptoed back to the Middle East and conversations that were just as excruciating as a woman raking her nails down a chalkboard.

First was the latest slaughter of mostly civilians in Gaza and the arguments pro or con from many sides, just as scorching as sizzling grease in an unkept fry pan. Each side spitting venom towards the other as the soldiers on the streets of Gaza spewed more bullets from a place of fear in their hearts. Doesn't seem to matter that those who are confined behind walls in territory that shrinks yearly, subjected to military check-points, long waiting times and high anxiety getting through the security gates, frequent arrests and harassment, have no established military. The people crammed into the West Bank have no ships, no tanks, no F-16's, or napalm, white phosphorus, nuclear weapons or cluster bombs, either. They have tunnels to hide in, rocks to throw and a few rockets to fight back with. When they do fight back, Israel shakes their scolding finger and launches bigger bombs into the small area hitting hospitals, a UN school and market places. It is amazing there is anything left at all to sell, let alone to eat, or water to drink from the destruction.

Reminds me of Iraq.

Our country has done similar things against Iraqis for 23 years now. First, our 1991 scolding war of slaughter and grim environmental destruction, followed by sanctions and monthly bombings for 12 years. Then another invasion based totally on lies from our leaders, "shock and awe," torture, Green Zones, embassy fortresses and door-kicking occupation. All done even without knowing their language, history or religion, honestly.

Tit for tat; this for that; he said, she said; they did it first and we are the victims; we are the chosen; god said; the

Bible says and the Koran demands. Excuses, excuses on all sides and like Billy Joel wrote, "we didn't start the fire, it's been burning since the world's been turning." So, how do people even dare approach the table with each side seething that they are right and everyone else is lying? To me, it would be like having a civil conversation with Dick Cheney about his lies concerning the invasion and occupation of Iraq, while earning his former employer 600 percent in no-bid profits. Same difference. Same arguments and same pile of crap left behind.

This is the same type of scenario that turned me so off with war to begin with. The total overkill of it, total insanity, the lying rhetoric and hypocrisy that always seemed to give us human beings another reason to slaughter each

other: that it brings peace and protects our freedom, even when those we are killing haven't tried to take it away or threaten us in any way, shape or form.

Meanwhile, back in the U.S. of A, adults school their children on the immorality of school yard bullying, lying and just

being mean to others. Later they stand back scratching their heads with the growing trend of school massacres. Seems to me that we live in a culture full of, "do as I say, not as I do;" "it is all their fault" and "they just don't want peace like we do!" It is 'us' versus 'them' and they are all evildoers whilst we are the victims and saints. Their religion demands human sacrifice and ours follows the righteousness of Jesus, not daring to even ask, "who would Jesus bomb?"

So, here we are again with tit for tat, eye for an eye and that war will always happen because everyone else is evil and out to get 'us.' Fear, fear, fear. Be very afraid.

Okay, so, here is the really hard lesson, folks. How then do we tell our children who stand in their school holding semi-automatic weapons poised ready to preemptively kill their own classmates, that their fears are not real when we are not willing to get past our own?

How do we show them the courage to apologize and take responsibility for being wrong and that maybe, just maybe, we all have been duped into thinking U.S. war making was about stopping terrorism, when instead, all the slaughtering is over oil, natural gas, lithium, opium and the weapons industry. Murder being done for Capitalism. We just haven't made the connection that the two are the same

How do we show our children the courage to apologize and take responsibility for being wrong and that maybe, just maybe, we all have been duped into thinking U.S. war making was about stopping terrorism?

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Awards for Kellogg Briand essays offered again



by Steve McKeown

Once again the West Suburban Faith-Based Peace Coalition out of Chicago gave awards for best essays for best essays on “How Can We Obey The Law Against War . . . The Kellogg Briand Pact.”

Kathy Kelly keynoted the ceremony on Aug 27th in which five awards were given out, including a first place winner from Australia. This year one of the contest rules was for entrants to submit their essay to a person in authority and ask for their response. The winners’ essays can be seen at www.faithpeace.org/node/322.

Although the number of essays submitted was small, despite National VFP putting out the contest rules world wide, the ones I read were excellent and who they were addressed to and their responses leads me to believe that it won’t stay small. Just as the Bible wasn’t written by everybody, that didn’t stop its dissemination.

Peacestock again a great success

July’s Peacestock was again another wonderful event by Bill Haberdink and the VFP Red Wing chapter. We thank everyone involved. All the speakers, musicians, and food were a class act. They have spoiled us for a number of years, but we really don’t mind

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and that we are barking up the wrong tree.

This all reminds me of what Robert Fulghum wrote in, “All I Really Need To Know I Learned in Kindergarten.” “Share everything. Play fair. Don’t hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Don’t take things that aren’t yours. Say you’re sorry when you hurt somebody.”

Time to lead by example and not excuses. Time to take the fear out of arguments. Time to make it illegal to pay PR firms with tax money in order to ‘sell’ us war and demand any company making one dime on war pay 100 percent income tax on it or hey, make murder-for-profit a crime, period. That would be the moral thing to do.

Support Mayday Books

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301 Cedar Ave., West Bank
(downstairs under the bike shop)

Mayday Books has been a consistent and significant supporter of Chapter 27 for many years. The volunteer staff has provided help with mailings and has donated books for the use of our group. It is also a great place to drop in and have a cup of coffee and talk with whomever happens to be there and find that book you have been looking for.

Hours: M-F noon to 7 p.m, Sat. noon to 6 p.m.

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

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60,000 persecuted children behind bars in US

by Joan Johnson

A desperate choice is being made by Central American children – a choice we would agonize over seeing our own children/grandchildren ever having to make: risk being kidnapped, raped, abducted, financially exploited or even killed while traveling to safety across another country's border; or stay put in their own countries and suffer the escalated violence and persecution there. Many parents have paid smugglers a year's worth of wages to take their child/children north to our country, in hopes they can escape the daily violence they experience, but smugglers can be criminals too, and many have turned on the children.

Thousands of children from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador have been making this treacherous journey alone, according to the *National Catholic Reporter*, which describes this as a "mass exodus of children, some as young as 4." They cite U.N. homicide figures which place these three countries in the world's "five top murder capitals." There is a real reason why these children need to leave home; a few are trying to reunite with relatives, but most are strangers in a strange land, hoping to find safe refuge.

What is the response of our "generous," "caring" "give me your tired, your poor" U.S. government? Open our arms to gather in the oppressed, suffering children? No, our government is building more detention centers to jail them – 60,000 detained children so far this year. According to *Latin Post*, Obama has stated that "some child migrants have already been deported, and that most of the child migrants will not be allowed to stay in the country," but that they will be "humanely repatriated." He is also exploring other options for asylum, but has stated that asylum is not his first choice.

The National Lawyer's Guild (NLG) has called the deportation of children fleeing violence "a wholly inadequate response which ignores the root causes of this forced migration." The Guild has called on the Obama administration to instead provide legal counsel to the children, which is our international human rights obligation. Many immigrants' rights groups are also vehemently opposed to the repatriation of children who are escaping completely unlivable situations at home.

Paromita Shah, Assoc. Director of the National Immigration Project of the NLG, reminds us that U.S. for-

eign policies such as CAFTA, the "War on Drugs" and interference with democratic processes of democratically-elected governments (considered "leftist") have all added fuel to the violence in these countries. Our own School of the Americas (a.k.a. SOA/WHINSEC) at Ft Benning, Ga., trains the leaders who subvert democracy in South and Central America, persecute the poor and oppressed, and protect the money interests of ruling elites/corporations.

We can't ignore the refugee crisis created in 2009, when democratically elected Honduran president Manuel Zelaya was overthrown by SOA-trained Gen. Romeo Orlando Vasquez Velasquez who led the coup. Instead of protesting the coup and helping to reinstate Zelaya, then Secretary of State Hilary Clinton kept the SOA life-line open to Honduras, supporting the new illegal leadership. Two previous coups in Honduras were led by SOA graduates Juan

Melgar Castro and Policarpo Paz Garcia. Our U.S. hands are full of blood.

What can we do about this recent immigrant crisis? We can speak out against the travesty of returning children to their violent living situations, explore root causes of the violence further, and educate others. Join our November "CLOSE THE SOA!" vigil in Fort Benning, GA (see article on page 12 for details). Many different groups are working together along the Texas border to help the influx of immigrants. We can help them with donations or time. I found several groups online working both within the countries mentioned above helping children/families, and at the U.S. border, helping immigrants.

REFERENCES FOR ARTICLE: National Catholic Reporter, Aug. 15-28, 2014 and www.latinpost.com/articles/18105/20140728/immigration-border-crisis-2014-obama-outlines-plan-central-american-leaders.htm

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Bells over Hiroshima

by Larry Johnson

Once again we participated, as Veterans For Peace, in the August 6th Hiroshima Remembrance at the Peace Garden by Lake Harriet. The annual 7:30 a.m. event included a greeting from Kaho Yamashita, college student from Nagasaki, and the “Legend of Sadako and the Thousand Cranes” by Renee Weeks/Wynne and Elaine Wynne. Sadako’s last crane, before atomic bomb radiation took her life, said, “This is our cry; this our prayer, to establish peace in the world.” Earlier in the week, Steve Clemens, Larry Johnson, Steve McKeown, Wayne Wittman, Roy Wolff, and Chante Wolf, gave Kaho their own stories on working for peace and nuclear disarmament, for a college paper she’s writing to energize the young people of Japan to keep working for peace.

Following the 8:15 a.m. moment of silence, at the time the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Renee and Elaine distributed paper cranes so participants could hang them in the trees and bushes of the Peace Garden. Shortly after that, Joan Johnson’s group, Granphbojo, began to play wonderful music, leading from tragedy to hope. Dave Logsdon, VFP President, read our statement of purpose, which includes working to abolish nuclear weapons. Gerald Ganann, and Granphbojo, led all in singing “Last Night I Had the Strangest Dream,” as we paid tribute to the passing of Doris Marquit, long-time activist with Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom. We noted that WILPF was there in the massive push that led to the signing of the 1928 Kellogg-Briand Pact, banning war in the way David Swanson’s book, *When the World Outlawed War*, says reflected the “strange dream,” with the mighty room, full of men signing papers saying they’d never fight again.

At the end, five of us who made Armistice Bells with the State Arts Board grant this year, rang bells 11 times in unison. Bruce Berry, Stephen Gates, Ted John, Larry Johnson, and Steve McKeown rang the bells that always remind us of our intense, ongoing commitment to work for the end of violent conflict that was hoped for when those bells rang around the world at the end of World War I.

On August 8, a Nagasaki Remembrance was held in St. Paul. In The Bells of Nagasaki, Takashi Nagal, a survivor of that bombing, says, “May they (the bells) ring out this message of peace until the morning of the day on which the world ends. Men and women of the world, never again plan war. With the atomic bomb, war can only mean suicide for the human race. With this atomic waste, the people of Nagasaki confront the world and cry NO MORE WAR.”



VFP member Steve Gates handcasted Armistice bell. photo by Josh McKeown

Thanks to JoAnn Blatchley and the others who regularly organize and participate in these events to keep us sharp on our commitment to follow the fervent cry of Sadako Sasaki of Hiroshima and Takashi Nagal of Nagasaki.

LIGHT RAIL ACCESS TO OUR OFFICE AND MAYDAY BOOKS

The new Green Rail Line between Minneapolis and St. Paul now has a West Bank stop that is one block north of Mayday and two blocks from our office.

Police back down on SOA protest limits

The following report was compiled from several reports on the SOAWatch website, soaw.org

The Columbus GA police department backed down from its attempts to severely restrict the annual SOAWatch demonstration against the School of the Americas that would have limited protests to 200 people, banned a stage or sound system, and required protests to move from the front entrance of the base to the back entrance.

Following a coordinated grassroots pressure campaign, and negotiations with the Columbus Police Department, the police backed down and ended their efforts to limit the public's rights to protest. The vigil will take place Nov. 21-23.

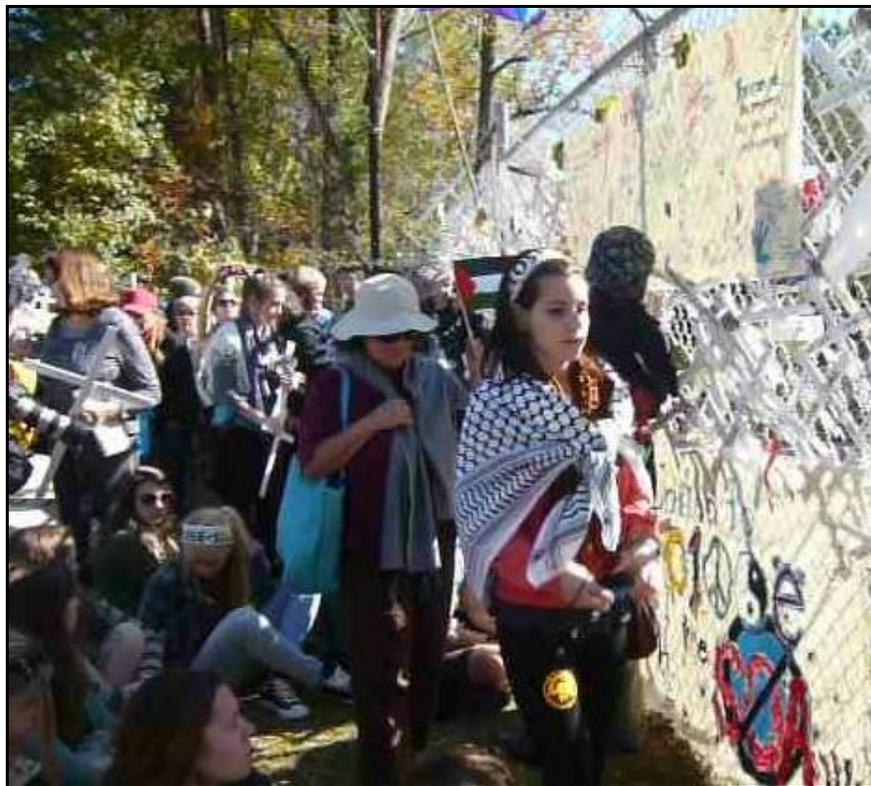
SOAWatch was able to gather a lot of support quickly to oppose these restrictions. Over 7,000 people signed a petition opposing the restrictions, and 12 members of Congress wrote a letter to the Columbus mayor and police chief which stated: "While the demonstration may impede traffic and constitute an inconvenience to Ft. Benning, these types of disruptions are part and parcel of our country's proud tradition of vigorous free speech."

In addition, over 75 national and international human rights and social justice organizations wrote letters to Columbus authorities supporting protesters' First Amendment rights.

This dispute began when Police Chief R.T. Boren wrote in July to SOAWatch and said that Ft. Benning officials have said they will not close the main gates as they have in the past.

"Considering the terrain and narrow public right of way in the requested area, 200 participants would be the maximum number of participants that could safely demonstrate along the east and west boundaries of Ft. Benning Road in this area," the chief wrote.

The police would also have limited the right to protest to "within five (5) feet of the curb or edge of the pavement along Ft. Benning Road near the entrance to Ft. Benning, Georgia. This does not include any part of the center medians in this area or any part of the street used primarily for



The Columbus police would have banned the Sunday funeral reenactment and remembrance of those who were murdered by SOA graduates.

vehicular traffic."

In a reply to the police chief, the SOAWatch wrote that the city and police have tried in the past to limit the group's rights to protest but have lost in court each time.

The letter noted: "In 2001 the City of Columbus went to court to try to stop us from continuing our peaceful demonstration. The U.S. federal court in Columbus GA denied the city's attempt to shut us down finding we had a constitutional right to demonstrate there. . . . [The court noted in its opinion that] SOAW demonstrated for '11 years without permit, without arrests outside of Fort Benning, without incident out of bounds, without harm to the community, without anything but perhaps a nuisance to the people in the neighborhood and nuisance to the people who find that to be a nuisance.'

"In 2001 the City of Columbus, one week before the demonstration, announced it was going to conduct mass warrantless searches of all the people who wished to exercise their First Amendment rights. The federal 11th Circuit Court of Appeals . . . declared that action violated the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution five different ways as well as the Fourth Amendment."

The letter also stated, "Our annual peaceful political

Continued next page

In memoriam Doris Marquit

by Elizabeth Shippee

These remarks were given at Doris Marquit's memorial service.

I am honored to speak for MN Metro WILPF at this memorial planned by Doris's family.

There are two quotes that Doris knew, and they remind me of her work with and devotion to WILPF:

First, from Eleanor Roosevelt: "It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe. One must work at it."

Secondly, from Blanche Weisen Cook, historian and Eleanor Roosevelt's biographer, said 25 years ago on the 75th anniversary of the founding of WILPF: "I think of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom as the political home for maverick women, aware of the complexities, capable of growth and change."

Together, these words exemplify Doris Marquit as I have known her: intelligent, passionate, hard-working and willing to learn new ways as needed. We who have met with her for the past 10, 20, 30 years remember a fun side of Doris, too. What joy she found in symbolic tee shirts (for example, more love, less capitalism) and peace buttons and jewelry galore.

We already know that there is no one person to take her place. We will all need to pitch in to keep our branch afloat. In memory of Doris (and Eleanor Roosevelt) we will work at it. It is her turn to rest.

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protest and the School of the Americas Watch organization have received ongoing active opposition from the City of Columbus' Police Department in past years. The ongoing harassment and intimidation by plain clothes and undercover officers throughout the weekend that interferes with the gathering, repeated low flying helicopters, changing of insurance requirements seemingly targeted to the SOAW, metal detector and surveillance intimidation, and other tactics calls into question your department's sworn oath to uphold the constitutional rights of all present within your

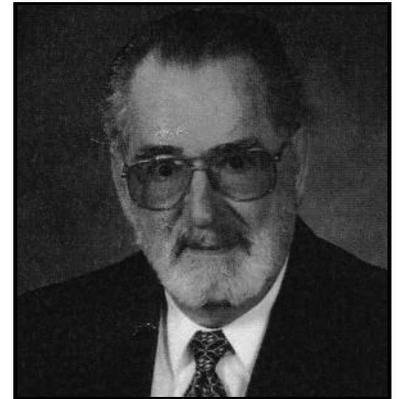
In memoriam Karl Vanderhorck

by Steve McKeown

Karl was a World War II veteran who had seen a lot of combat. One of his children said he started to talk about his experiences after attending our first Fourth of July retreat at Wilder Forest in the early nineties. Karl attended the retreats faithfully after that. He was a supporter of our chapter, and a member of VFP Duluth/Superior Chapter 80. Karl died Aug. 2 at the age of 92. His wife Kay survives him, and also attended our retreats, and both were long time members of *Pax Christi*.

In 1999, I asked Karl to make a sign for a demonstration we were holding outside a recruiting station. He painted a large beautiful sign with a helmet saying **HONOR VETERANS NO MORE WAR!** (See photo on page 16.) The sign is still in use, and has been well traveled. A number of us from our chapter went to his burial at Lakewood Cemetery in Mpls. Afterwards, Roy Wolff, Ron Staff, and I held his sign outside the gate for 20 minutes in honor of Karl.

The former college administrator, father, grandfather, and great grandfather was quick to give pro-war promoters a piece of his mind, and he was even quicker to praise each and everyone he knew for their peace work. Karl now joins his friends from Chapter 80: Bob and Tess Koenig and Kathy Anderson. If one believes in intercessory prayer to this crew for Peace and Justice, I would not bet against their prayers being heard.



jurisdiction."

This year is the 25th anniversary of this action, which began on the first anniversary of the 1989 SOA graduate-led massacre of 16-year-old Celina Ramos, her mother Elba Ramos and six Jesuit priests at the University of Central America in El Salvador. Among the school's graduates are at least 11 Central American dictators as well as leaders of death squads.

EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING EVENTS

Second Sunday each month, 5:30--7:30 pm:
VFP Chapter 27 general meeting,
1806 Riverside Ave., #3A.
Executive meeting at 5 p.m.
FFI: Dave Logsdon at 612-203-9768.

4:30-5:30 pm Weds. Lake Street/Marshall Ave. Bridge vigil.

OTHER EVENTS

Sep 20, 6 p.m., VFP canoe raffle at WAMM community room 4200 Cedar Av S Mpls with food and music.

Nov 11, 10:30 a.m. Bell ringing ceremony for Armistice Day. 1st shot Memorial, south end of State Capital, St Paul.

Nov 16 9 a.m., Plymouth Church, 1900 Nicollet Av. Mpls., "The Art of Waging Peace."

Nov 17th, 7 p.m., Landmark Center, 75 West 5th St., St Paul. "Is World Peace Possible? Exploring the Anatomy of War and Peace".

Both events feature Paul Chappell, Iraq war veteran and West Point graduate For other engagements with Paul from the 14th to 20th, see article on page 4.

For information on vigils, go to the VFP website at vfpchapter27.org or call 612-827-5364 or visit www.worldwidewamm.org

Climate change rally Sep. 21

Join hundreds of Minnesotans at the biggest climate change rally in world history! A climate change rally will take place Sep. 21st as people from all walks of life come together to organize, to build power, to confront the fossil fuel industry, and to shift to a just, safe, peaceful world. Heads of state from around the world will be in NYC at the same time for a historic United Nations summit on climate change, and thousands will be there to demand action, not just words.

Coach buses are being chartered from Minneapolis to New York and back. They will have three choices available for bus schedules.

These buses are organized by MN350 and Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light, and are open to all who would like to attend the People's Climate March. FFI contact claire@mnipl.org.

Bus to Fort Benning is full

The VFP bus to Fort Benning can no longer accept additional passengers. Our commitments to the St Thomas, St. Catherine, Cretin Derham Hall students and St. Joseph workers and people who have paid have filled our bus. We will keep you informed if the situation changes. Thank you all for your response to our program.

Movie night

Chapter 27 began showing documentary features last March on a large flat screen in the common space of our office at 1806 Riverside Ave., # 3A, in Minneapolis. So far this year we've shown *Sir, No Sir, Dirty Wars, Unmanned: America's Drone Wars, and The Ghosts of Jeju.*

These movies are scheduled every Wednesday following Chapter 27's general meeting on the second Sunday of each month.



"Capt. Paul K. Chappell has given us a crucial look at war and peace from the unique perspective of a soldier, and his new ideas show us why world peace is both necessary and possible in the 21st century. [He] can help people everywhere understand why war must end, and how together we can end it."
—Archbishop Desmond Tutu

PAUL K. CHAPPELL
AUTHOR • EDUCATOR • SOLDIER OF PEACE

Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers {MAP} Celebration
~ OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ~
November 17th, 2014
7:00 PM • St. Paul Landmark Center
75 West 5th St., {near Rice Park and the Ordway Theater}

IS WORLD PEACE POSSIBLE?
The anatomy of War and Peace

6 p.m. - Networking Reception includes: A PEACE OF MY MIND PHOTO EXHIBIT and kick off of High School Peace Essay Contest.

For more information, or to secure a seat at the talk, please contact Larry Johnson at 612-747-3904 or larryjvfp@gmail.com

Endorsed by Veterans For Peace www.vfpchapter27.org

Vets mark anniversary of Kellogg-Briand with march



VFP nighttime Armistice bell ringing on Kellogg Blvd after walk. photo by Josh Mckeown

by Larry Johnson

Since the late 80s, Chapter 27 has celebrated November 11th as the original Armistice Day, with bells of peace ringing 11 times at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

This year a State Arts Board grant allowed 11 of us to make our own bells with sculptor, Gita Ghei. That led to an invitation to be at the Festival of Nations, an enormous annual event at the St. Paul Civic Centre, drawing thousands from the five-state region. We talked with many about why we ring bells for peace, and how the Kellogg-Briand Pact, outlawing war, emerged from the massive peace movement following World War I.

This year Aug. 27, the day the pact was signed, was marked at the Lake Street Peace Bridge, linking St. Paul and Minneapolis. Here activists have gathered to call for an end to war every Wednesday since the bombing of Yugoslavia in the 1990s. We rang bells 11 times at each of the four corners of the bridge, and then 14 of us set out to walk six miles, carrying VFP flags, bells, and signs, to Kellogg Blvd. in St. Paul, where the 2018 National VFP Convention will be held.

In Selby-Dale, a poorer neighborhood in St. Paul, a happy family cheered us on. Vice president Mike Madden, an avid bicyclist, noticed a bike problem and ran across the street to fix the dislodged chain on a little boy's bike. "God Bless You All!" cheered the mom, to give us second wind.

As darkness fell in front of the Science Museum on Kellogg, we rang bells 11 times and planted flags to claim the boulevard for the work of the Kellogg-Briand Pact, which Kellogg himself said should be hanging in every public institution.

Our next major work to "enforce" the Pact is the annual bus, full of activists and college students, to the "Close the School of Americas" event in Columbus GA.

Just before that, we have Paul Chappell, author of *The Art of Waging Peace*, Nov. 14-20, speaking in college classes, leading a workshop, and keynoting a major public event at the historic Landmark Center in St. Paul, right off of Kellogg Blvd.

If the powers-that-be have made it so virtually no one in Minnesota knows that the boulevard is named for the only Minnesotan to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in outlawing war, we're going to let them know.



Veterans For Peace, Inc., Chapter 27
1806 Riverside Ave., #3A.
Minneapolis, MN 55454

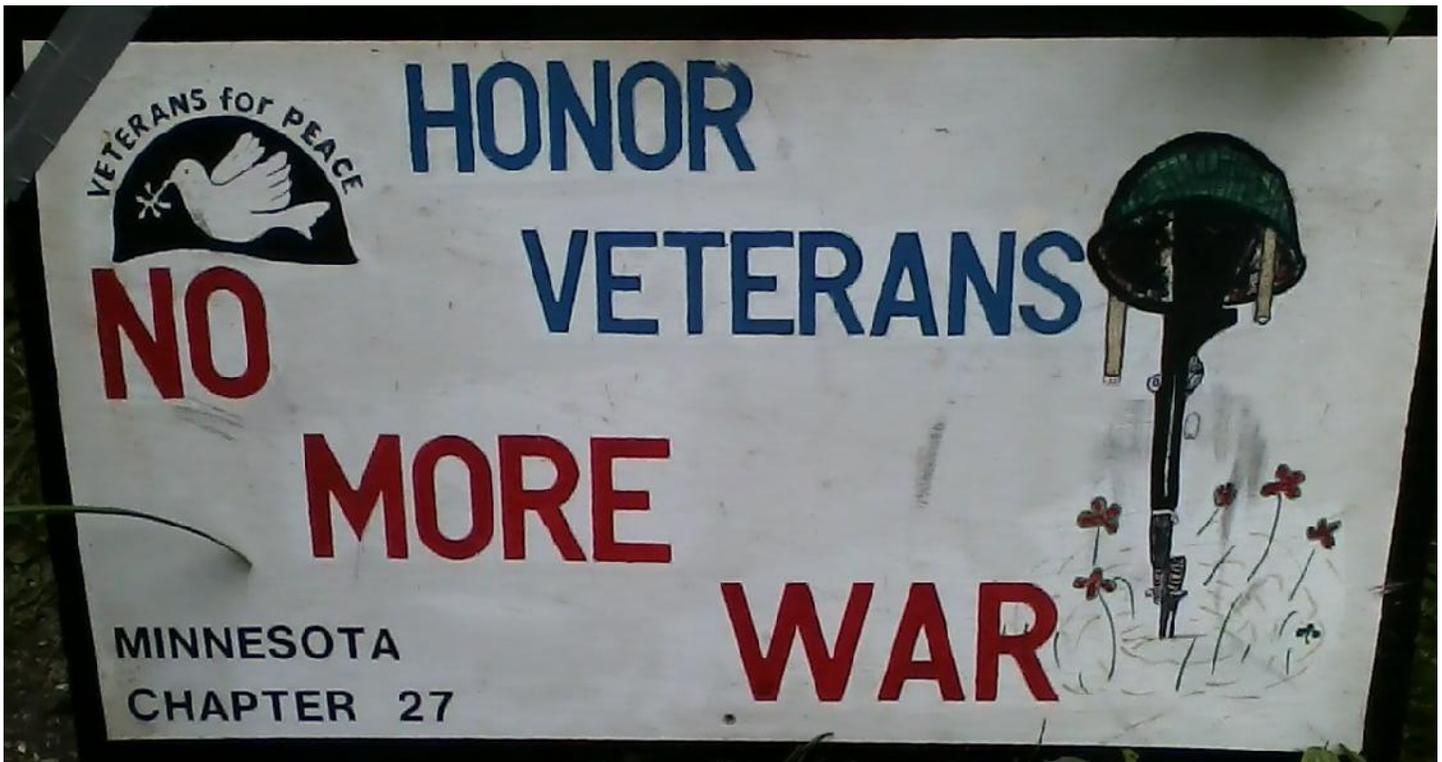
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SUPPORT THE TROOPS! BRING THEM HOME ALIVE NOW!

As of Sept. 7, 2014:
4,486 dead in Iraq and
2,344 combat deaths in Afghanistan.

An estimated 22 veterans commit suicide each day,
amounting to over 35,770 over the past five years.



Sign made by Karl Vanderhorck. See article on page 13.