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# 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)



A good-sized crowd helped celebrate the 85th anniversary of the Kellogg-Briand Pact at the Kellogg Mansion in St. Paul.

## Thanks to all who helped celebrate Kellogg-Briand Pact

by Steve McKeown

From all the reports I heard, it was a wonderful event at the Kellogg House on Aug 27th, celebrating the 85th anniversary of the signing of this historic law that for the first time ever renounced war and made it illegal. Thanks indeed to all who attended and helped make it what it turned out to be. A special thanks to the residents and hosts Michael and Liz Gibba who went out of their way to pull it off in a very classy fashion that was equally meaningful.

Our chapter would also like to extend this thank you to St. Paul City Councilmember David Thune for bringing the Proclamation of Kellogg Briand Pact Day to a unanimous vote by the Council, to Aliko Brookstone for her poetry, to Peter Rothstein for his readings, and to all the musicians, especially the Gibba's

daughter Madde, who many say was one of the highlights in singing *Travelin Soldier*.

Particular thanks to those unseen: Frank Kellogg and Aristide Briand and the outlawry movement that brought the Kellogg-Briand Pact to a head.

I would be amiss in not mentioning David Swanson, the author of *When the World Outlawed War*, who inspired us, or Coleen Rowley, who insisted that we go to the Kellogg House for the first signatures of our petitions. Also attending was Larry Johnson, our president, who emceed and helped open up communication lines for this taking place. While there are many more to individually mention, I must mention my wife Joan, who filled in for me while I was hospitalized, and at

Kellogg Briand, cont'd page 8



# Sharpening our tools for peacemaking

by Larry Johnson, President, Chapter 27

**A**braham Lincoln told the story about the value of taking an hour to sharpen your saw so you could cut the tree in an hour, rather than taking four hours with a dull tool. We're up against a giant military/industrial/media/government complex so huge that a majority can be influenced to accept the outlandish: e.g., a defense contractor sells the Pentagon overpriced equipment that electrocutes our own soldiers, but "you can't regulate that, because it would discourage free enterprise." Our resources for peacemaking can seem futile against the giants, but we do have tools that can be kept sharp and effective.

## *NONVIOLENT LANGUAGE*

There's a proverb that says something like, "Angry words start a fight; a kind answer turns it away." Last year, Roxanne Abbas, Minnesota Peace Project, told me they had written a board resolution calling for

no name-calling or derogatory language, even when talking with legislators inclined to vote against every-

thing the peace movement stands for. I've never even seen their resolution, but it gave me the idea to write our own, passed early in the year, and good as a reminder:

*Be it resolved that members of Veterans for Peace, Chapter 27, will strive to refrain from derogatory language. We will treat everyone, no matter how extreme their opinions might seem to us, as someone with whom we could talk frankly, learn something from, and build a relationship with the potential to bring them closer to our mission of abolishing war.*

Further, be it resolved, with our Statement of Purpose saying all members are trusted to act in the best interest of the group for the larger purpose of World Peace, we will strive to function similarly with the broader peace community, not allowing "doctrinal differences" to interfere with our common goal of **turning public opinion against war by exposing its true and full costs to all.**

If we differ with someone, we will avoid derogatory mass email, choosing rather to discuss differences in person, with the intent of deepening relationships and commitment to build a powerful, cohesive movement together.

## *IMAGINATION*

Einstein said, "Imagination is more important than

knowledge." After the atomic bomb, he said, "Everything has changed, except the way we think."

We are bombarded with "knowledge" all the time. One group proves rationally (knowledge) that chemical pesticides (yet another spinoff of massive military spending: mostly milder forms of things like Agent Orange) cause cancer. Immediately some other group pays an influential name to prove that they don't.

Imagination trumps knowledge in our symbolic celebration of Nov. 11 as the original spontaneous day of joy "that war is over, and how can we keep it that way?" It is also displayed in how we raised the question statewide and nationally: "Did you know that Kellogg Blvd. is named for the only Minnesotan to receive the Nobel Peace Prize?" (Thank you, especially, Steve McKeown for these efforts).

Or how about the "Midday Ride of Bob and Roger," where Bob Heberle and Roger Cuthbertson went under the radar, riding a rubber raft into speaking distance to make a point to a group of wealthy individ-

*Angry words start a fight;  
a kind answer turns it away.*

uals gathered to laud then Vice President Dick Cheney's cohorts and policies. I think its unfortunate

that media has trained people to mainly think in imaginative sound bites, but since they have, we do well to be cognizant.

The first thing I sent out about Syria started with, "**Why do we have to kill civilians to teach people it is wrong to kill civilians?**" because imagination goes in at a level where people can at least see it, even if it confronts their belief. They're there for us to use more.

## *ECONOMIC LEVERAGE*

I believe that major factors in finally ending the "based on a string of lies" Vietnam War were the media bringing the horror of war into people's living rooms, as well as showing returning soldiers, throwing their hard-earned medals over the White House fence in unified disgust. I'm also aware of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, during the height of the 60s Civil Rights efforts, where brave individuals sacrificed deeply, got off the bus and walked miles to work to cut into the economic stability of a system that many, not sympathetic to their cause, were also dependent on for transportation or livelihood.

We have to create new ways to do these kinds of things, because obviously they figured out how to keep that from happening again. After all, a few years ago, scores of veterans chained themselves to the White House fence to make a statement about illegal wars, and the mainstream media was

Continued next page

virtually AWOL.

In this moment, I can't think of a way to "get off the bus" and impede the economic viability of Lockheed Martin, but I do have a thought. I think the heightened public awareness of illegal, unnecessary warfare during Vietnam led too many people to take it out on returning soldiers rather than on the leaders who perpetrated the lie to support those who profit from warfare. Thus, we've now created a massive media outpouring, encouraging us to support the troops and thank them for their service. Some of it is real, but too much is so thin you couldn't get enough to spread on toast if it was butter.

However, it allows an authentic avenue for sliding our message in, either in conversations or in talking to the media. I recently asked my city council to stop spray from drifting onto my property. I said, "I don't use chemicals, because they make me overtly sick. Besides, most of it is made by companies that gave us things like Agent Orange, and I can't support companies that don't support the troops." They looked stunned, and then someone said, "You're right, I just never thought of it that way."

Similarly, I've stood in front of banks foreclosing on veterans and said, "I can't support a company who made money investing in war, and now makes more, taking from the biggest percentage population among the homeless.

Right now we have a thing with Kellogg, also the name for one of many food companies using harmful elements sold by Monsanto. It's not particularly functional to go on a nationwide tirade against Kellogg's or any other commercial product, but I can reveal my secret: "I've quit snap, crackle, and popping, because I don't believe in supporting companies that don't support the troops."

Another Kellogg-Briand times secret worth letting out is the intense Post WWI war-profiteering hearings in Congress. Even the American Legion supported attempts to tax incomes over \$10,000 (probably equivalent to the modern mystical \$250,000) at 95% to stop excessive war profits. This, and the 1928 Peace Pact, were squashed by big companies, who were already making profits arming Nazi Germany in the lead up to WWII. We, as veterans, were asked to face the ultimate fear, death. I know we don't fear truth-telling, our sharpest tool.

## 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](http://www.warcrimestimes.org)

## *This War Business:* Bob Heberle

by Tom Dooley

On Sunday August 18 a good-sized gang of Vets For Peace members and friends descended on Bob Heberle's house in St Anthony to give him a ton of well wishes and to recount numerous actions that Bob and others did, including an attempted invasion of a millionaire's estate on Lake Minnetonka where a Republican fund-raiser for Michelle Bachmann was taking place with Vice President Dick Cheney attending. The roads were blocked so they had to go by sea on a pontoon boat. Bob and Roger Cuthbertson took rubber rafts and were headed to the beach when a Hennepin County Sheriff intervened.

This was one of numerous stories. Wayne Wittman presented Bob with a Medal of Commendation, which was given by the National Convention for his good works over the years. Bob was in good spirits but spoke in a whisper because of his lung cancer.

### *IN WAR, THERE ARE NO WINNERS*

Except the weapons makers who laugh all the way to the bank no matter which side wins and they use patriotism and JOBS to support their cause. To show the power of JOBS, consider there are 3,000 Abrams Army tanks sitting idle in the Sierra Mountains, and yet Jim Jordan (R. Ohio) was able to put through a bill to buy 42 more for \$255 million. His explanation: "I think it's in the best interest of the U.S. to defend our country." The factory is in his district.

**"The war in Iraq is a rare opportunity to move toward an historic period of cooperation. Out of these troubled times. . . a new world order can emerge."**

**George W. Bush,  
American President, 1991**

## Silent killers

by Steve McKeown

On Sep. 8, an advanced stealth multi-mission nuclear submarine was christened the U.S.S. Minnesota by both of our Senators, Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken.

This was the 10th such sub built, and the Navy says it requires 20 more. This one cost \$2.6 billion simply to make, which doesn't include the cost to operate it. It has 16 tubes, each of which can launch a Tomahawk cruise missile in a single salvo, along with additional torpedo capacity.

This attack submarine also has an internal lock-in chamber incorporated into the hull for special operations. This chamber can host a mini-submarine such as Grunman's Oceanic and Naval Systems advanced SEAL system to deliver special warfare forces such as Navy Sea Air Land {SEAL} teams or Marine recon units for counter terrorism



or localized operations. It is 377 feet long.

If these subs, which the Navy calls silent killers, were launched by North Korea (or any other nation that is ruled by our "enemies") we would at the very least be screaming at the little man who starves his people.

Meanwhile there aren't too many in the military industrial lobby and their Congressional backers who would even spend a night in most of Detroit. It is not too hard to figure out who needs a good dose of free enterprise here.

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## Sierra Club takes on the Marines

by Joan Johnson

I'm not a huge website or blog visitor, but my husband Steve recently introduced me to the site davidswanson.org "Let's try Democracy," which makes connections between war and other major issues: environmental, economic, and

social, to name a few.

At this site, I was especially interested to discover that Sierra Club is challenging the Marine Corps in its efforts to open a live firing range in an ancient place called Pagan Island, which is home to the Chamorro people and habitat to unique animals and plants, many rare and endangered. Peoples' livelihoods and LIVES are in danger too if the Marine Corps has its way. David makes the following connection: "A transfer of our major resources from war-making to environmental-saving is the clearest path to survival and prosperity, so every time a bridge is built between peace and environmental activism is a moment worth celebrating." We must help stop the sure devastation of this tiny volcanic island.

In our own Veterans For Peace chapter, connections have been made by many members between war and the environment. Larry Johnson and Chante Wolf have spoken and written extensively on this subject. Economic connections are often made by Tom White, Tom Dooley and our newsletter editor Frank Fuller, which exemplify further that war just isn't an isolated issue, as so many mainstream organizations and the media have treated them. Swanson tackles this issue in a way which makes one feel more intelligent and ready to take on the powers-that-be in an integrated fashion.

### Support Mayday Books

*Find a wide range of books and periodicals at 15% off cover price. All the time!*

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.

## *In memoriam* Bob Heberle

Members of Veterans For Peace Ch. 27 and the entire peace community lost a long-time dedicated member on Sept 6, 2013, when our friend Bob Heberle died at the age of 79.

Bob served in the Coast Guard from 1954-1956 and graduated from the College of St. Thomas in 1962. Bob also served on the Board of Directors of Veterans For Peace as well as editor of our local newsletter.

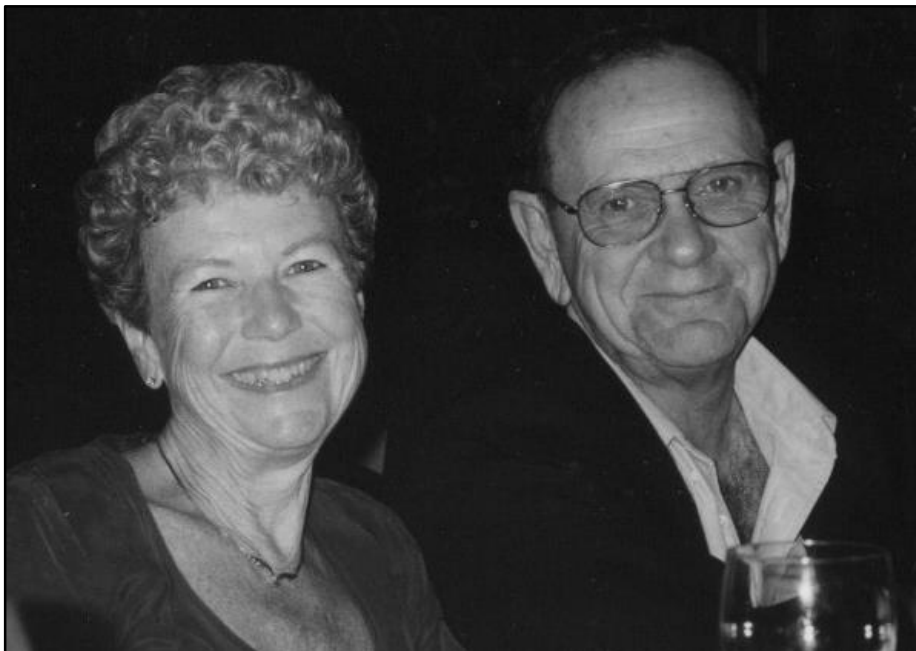
After graduation he was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship from Georgetown University to teach in Mexico, where he lived with his family from 1966-1968. While there he learned of the overwhelming poverty of those living in Central America, especially Guatemala. Friends

will remember Bob as a devoted peace and justice activist, generous with his time and money and passionate in his favorite causes: the abolition of war, and justice for the people of Central America. Bob was instrumental in forming the Sister Parish program between St. Joan of Arc parish in Minneapolis and a parish in Guatemala.

During the Bush-Cheney era, Bob and another activist, Roger Cuthbertson, were arrested at a home on Lake

Minnetonka when they made an amphibious landing to protest at the home during a visit by Vice President Dick Cheney, there to raise funds for Michelle Bachmann.

Bob's vocation in life was in education, teaching in the



*Bob and Jean Heberle on their 50th wedding anniversary.*

Minneapolis Public School System for 34 years. He served as President of the Minneapolis Education Association and was active in the implementation of the desegregation of the Minneapolis Public schools.

Bob is survived by his wife and soul-mate of 55 years, Jean; his children Mary Hamm, Bob Jr., Janet Rudzki, Ruth Wolf and their spouses; and six grandchildren.

Bob, you are missed so very, very much.

---

## *In memoriam* Nancy Harris

by Wayne Wittman

In August Red Wing chapter member David Harris's wife and former Red Wing City Council Member Nancy died.

David's and her friends, including many of us from the peace community, celebrated her life at a memorial service in Red Wing.

The hall was full and there were several hours of delightful stories about Nancy and an opportunity for us to demonstrate to David and Nancy's family to show the love and admiration for David and to share in his loss. While many of us did not know Nancy, after learning about her, Bridget McDonald said it best: that she felt cheated not knowing her better.

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If you are moving please let us know, so you can receive your newsletter. Even if you leave a forwarding address with the post office, it still may cost us an additional \$ 1.10 each time so please let us know. Thank you

## Local VFP well represented at national convention

by Dave Lodgson

The 2013 Veterans for Peace National Convention was held in Madison, Wisconsin. This was a golden opportunity for Chapter 27 to make an impression on a broader level.

A strong contingent from the Twin Cities and outstate Minnesota converged on Madison with purpose. Our desire to make bell ringing an integral part of VFP culture got a boost when we were asked to be an emergency addition to the opening ceremony. Originally slated for the less attended business meeting on Saturday, we ended up doing Saturday's meeting and opening the Convention!

Both Ch. 27 President Larry Johnson and the unstoppable Steve McKeown led well-attended workshops. I attended the terrific presentation about the Kellogg-Briand treaty hosted by Steve and author David Swanson.

Wayne Whitman made it official; Chapter 27 will host the 2018 National Convention in downtown St. Paul! So with that in mind, many of us were making notes on what was working and not working about the convention.

What did work at this convention was its location! It was close to the Capitol and the daily singing protest of Gov. Scott Walker's policies and close to State street with all of its food and entertainment options. Everyone felt they



*Convention-goers joined in protests at the State Capitol building.*

were part of a progressive culture.

The Madison chapter has had a tumultuous year, but pulled off a very good convention. The mistakes were duly noted and there's no need to dwell on them since overall it was a wonderful experience. A mix of camaraderie, inspiration, and education, not to mention; fun.

## Kellogg-Briand workshop enlightens convention attendees

by Joan Johnson

David Swanson joined my husband Steve McKeown in giving a talk on the Kellogg-Briand Pact at the Veterans For Peace National Convention in Madison last August. Their workshop was well attended: standing room only.

David began by giving us the background on this important international peace pact, which was signed into law on August 27, 1928. He talked about its vital historical and social significance, ways in which the pact has been used, and why this outlawing of war needs to be explained and followed by nations today. During his talk, he frequently referred to information found in his book *When the World Outlawed War*, which, by the way, Ralph Nader calls "one of the four books you must read."

Many statements and ideas that David shared with us that day seemed to really resonate with everyone attending. One example that I found especially helpful in organizing my thoughts is this: **when we hear about the horrors of child abuse, would the media ever refer to resulting tragedies or deaths as "unfortunate collateral damage"**

**as a result of "essential humanitarian child abuse operations" made on the part of our government?** Now, replace "child abuse operations" with "war-making." Child abuse and war-making are both inherently wrong; one is frowned upon by society, while the other is justified. War-making results in murdering human beings. It is brutal, and it is wrong.

This leads to another thing David talked about, and that is how we have changed the language to accommodate wars since the K-B Pact was passed. Words such as "humanitarian intervention," "operation," or "police action" conveniently replace the word "war," making military actions more acceptable and palatable to the American public, even though they are in complete defiance to the K-B Pact. It is in the war-architects' and weapons-makers' best interest to not use the word "war," because war has been outlawed.

Reminding us that the K-B Pact puts forth the exact same goal as VFP's statement of purpose, "to abolish war as an instrument of national policy," Steve gave us concrete

Continued on next page



examples of what we can be doing to educate ourselves and others in its importance, and how to pressure the powers-that-be to uphold this law.

After gathering over 11,000 signatures on a petition to make the pact's anniversary (Aug. 27th) a national holiday, Steve spoke about other ways of bringing it into our collective consciousness and making it relevant in our day-to-day lives. Having known about the K-B Pact himself since high school history class, Steve has spoken one-on-one with thousands of people about it. He has talked in numerous school settings and other places, written articles/letters to the editor, and urged us to do likewise. He has referred to the K-B Pact during Armistice Day bell-ringing ceremonies throughout the years and once had students take turns reading its paragraphs at a South Minneapolis grade school assembly of 500 children. He also took part in the peace essay contest this year, sponsored by the West Suburban Coalition of Churches of Chicago, answering the question: "how can the U.S. obey the law against war?" Steve, along with Coleen Rowley and others, planned the 85th anniversary pact-signing commemoration ceremony at the Kellogg House in St. Paul, where over 11,500 signatures were presented to representatives from Keith Ellison's and Betty McCollum's offices (members of Congress) (see Mike and Liz Gibba's article in this newsletter on page 9).

Both David and Steve talked about honoring the hopes, dreams and work of so many millions of people who, after the horrors and tragedies of World War I, yearned for and worked for peace. The mass movement that coalesced to make this pact happen was so huge that a Republican Secretary of State from Minnesota, Frank Kellogg, could not ignore them. Their cause became his cause, and he subsequently became the first (and only) Minnesotan to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, and it was as a result of this law

being passed by our nation and 83 other nations.

After the presentation, David and Steve responded to many thoughtful questions and statements from workshop participants. I thought David gave an excellent answer to the question of how the pact is to be enforced (without use of force!) He talked about how we can use creative means for upholding the law: by not participating in war actions for settling disputes, much in the spirit of Ghandi and Martin Luther King, for example; by initiating a mass movement of refusing to comply with violent military action; and by finding creative ways to solve the problems, including boycotts, mass sit-ins and mass marches.

Kathy Kelly, director of Creative Voices for Nonviolence, chimed in during this discussion, and had some very good things to add. The people who support and run organizations like hers and others like Nonviolent Peaceforce, Christian Peacemaker Teams, and Muslim Peacemaker Teams, have demonstrated creative alternatives throughout the years for problem-solving, and more importantly, promoting ways of PREVENTING violence in the first place. They are people who foster bridge-building by bringing love, caring, solidarity, books, learning, an empathetic ear, food-growing assistance, medical help and supplies, and clean water to other nations, instead of troops with guns, nuclear submarines, drones, bombs, missiles, chemical weapons (e.g. Agent Orange, depleted uranium and napalm), landmines, death and destruction. Which tactic do you think will eventually bring about peace?

For more info on the K-B Pact, see Steve's article in the August 2013 WAMM newsletter, Issue No. 6, and check out David Swanson's books *When the World Outlawed War* and *War No More: The Case for Abolition*, which contains a forward by Kathy Kelly. (go to [davidswanson.org](http://davidswanson.org))

## Some convention highlights

by Elaine Wynne

1) I presented on a panel "The Crisis in Veteran Health Care" with Col. Anne Wright and Dr. Eileen Ahearn, a psychiatrist from the VA in Madison. Anne has worked for six years to end the "culture" which supports sexual assault/harassment of women in the military. She supports a plan introduced by women Senators to refer these cases to prosecutors who are independent of Military Courts. She said detractors minimize the injuries by saying "33 percent of women in military report assault;

that's roughly the same as in the general public." Ellen Barfield commented that the 33 percent in general public

is over a lifetime and for women in the military it averages 33 percent over four to six years. The number of males who report being sexually assaulted in the military is much greater than for women because more men are in the military; their reported assaults represent 7 percent. Dr. Ahearn supported more community-based physical/mental health resources for veterans and applauded EMDR HAP Veteran Resilience Project of MN., both for its effi-

Presentation, continued on page 9

## Kellogg, continued from page 1



*David Thune holding up the Proclamation at a press conference following the successful passing of declaring Aug 27 Kellogg Briand-Pact Day by the St. Paul City Council. (photo by Tim Hansen)*

short notice took the reins admirably.

I do not know if this (along with the West Suburban Coalition of Peacemakers from Chicago on the same day as us) was the first celebration of the anniversary of this law that is still legally binding, but we hope there will be more

to come. In the next month, our chapter will be strategizing where we want to take this next, but it seems the direction we go will most assuredly include young people.

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## NSA, from page 16

quickly, from email and web pages to Twitter and Facebook and other social media. But the one thing everyone has come to trust is the basic security of all these types of communication. We've been told for years that computer scientists can keep your computer safe.

Now comes word that the NSA has been secretly trying to undermine Internet security. This opens everyone's records not just to the NSA but to hackers. It opens bank and credit card company records to hackers. Medical records could become open books.

Here is Bruce Schneier, a columnist, security expert and lecturer on this topic: "The NSA's actions are making us all less safe. They're not just spying on the bad guys, they're deliberately weakening Internet security for everyone—

including the good guys. It's sheer folly to believe that only the NSA can exploit the vulnerabilities they create. Additionally, by eavesdropping on all Americans, they're building the technical infrastructure for a police state. . . .

"Basically, the average user is screwed. You can't say 'Don't use Google'—that's a useless piece of advice. Or 'Don't use Facebook,' because then you don't talk to your friends, you don't get invited to parties, you don't get laid. It's like libertarians saying 'Don't use credit cards'; it just doesn't work in the real world.

"The Internet has become essential to our lives, and it has been subverted into a gigantic surveillance platform. The solutions have to be political. The best advice for the average person is to agitate for political change."

# Peace and serendipity forever: an open letter to the Veterans For Peace, Ch. 27

by Elizabeth and Michael Gibba

Thank you for affording us the opportunity to host the celebration of the St. Paul City Council's proclamation in honor of the 85th anniversary of the signing of the Kellogg-Briand Pact. It was truly a blessing for us, upon this historic house and the mission of its builder, Frank B. Kellogg.

As with many worthwhile endeavors, the fact that it happened at all seems nearly miraculous. What if we had not heard the bell and not answered the door on August 27th 2012, when a contingent of Veterans For Peace came with a petition, a bell ceremony and idealism? What if we had not moved into the house less than two months before? What if we had not been in the military or affiliated with VFP in California 20 years ago? What if they were selling magazines instead of asking us to sign a petition?

But they knocked and we answered; they asked and we are grateful for the experience.

Kellogg was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize for his authorship of the pact that bears his name, for a document that has put into law, in scores of countries, the pledge to end war as a means of settling international disputes. Who

would have believed it was possible until it was done?

Banning war was and is a noble ideal; yet at the beginning of the 21st century, as one counts the number of armed conflicts in which our country has been involved since 1928, with the drums of war pounding for future potential conflicts, there is a tendency to become cynical, to live in a world of statistical probability rather than in the universe of endless possibilities.

It has been said that serendipity is God's way of acting anonymously. Believe it. By the very fact that such a pact exists at all; that there are folks like members of the Veterans For Peace and the many other dedicated activists in the community who honored us with their presence; that a confluence of unlikely events led to this gathering of peace warriors has dispelled in us any notion of cynicism and made us believe peace is possible.

It just goes to show: you never know unless you ask, and nothing happens unless you try.

And the weather was perfect.

May all doors ever open for you in welcome and peace be with you always.

## Convention highlights, from page 7

cacy and because it is community based.

2) Paul Chappell, West Point Graduate and author of *The Art of Waging Peace*, left active duty as a captain and spoke about his book. He said that "waging peace" requires discipline and strategy, not just emotion. It requires one to understand "opponents," determine where they are most vulnerable and deal with them at that point. He says the most vulnerable U.S. Government spot is "ethics" and that Chelsea Manning became a big threat because she hit it directly. Non-violence was chosen by Dr. Martin Luther King and Ghandi, because it was more effective than violence and required fewer resources and less loss of life. He carefully addressed the violence of racism and how he has dealt with it. He, like David Swanson, is one of the most amazing minds of this century! Read the book or visit his "Ted Talk."

3) Ellen Barfield convened a spirited Women's Caucus. The group resolved to get more Women on the Board of National VFP and to have more workshops by and for

women next year in Asheville. Ellen stayed on message with her sentiment: "being in VFP has been a lifesaver for me, being around others who experienced the military and aren't afraid to tell the truth. . . but there's still a lot of work to be done in male/female relations to make the VFP environment truly safe and comfortable for women veterans." This is about becoming stronger as an organization of both male and female veterans. The time spent strengthening and sensitizing the organization will be well worth it.

A great national meeting and especially when it passed Wayne Wittman's resolution to hold the VFP convention on Kellogg Boulevard, St. Paul, MN on August 27, 2018, the 90th anniversary of the Kellogg-Briand Pact.

**"It's really not a number  
I'm terribly interested in."**

**Colin Powell responding to a question about  
the number of Iraqis who were slaughtered by  
Americans in 1991**

# An open letter to Reps. Keith Ellison and Betty McCollum

September 15, 2013

To Representative Keith Ellison and Betty McCollum:

On August 27th, the 85th anniversary of the Kellogg-Briand Pact signing at the historic Kellogg House in St. Paul, our Veterans For Peace chapter helped host a celebration of this pact that outlawed war. At this occasion, members of your staff received petitions and banners from our chap-

ter. Over 11,000 signatures calling for a national holiday for the Pact were handed over to you in two separate bundles asking for your support, as we felt this would call attention to a law that millions worked to get passed and still remains law both in the U.S. and internationally. At this celebration a Proclamation was read that the St. Paul City Council passed unanimously marking the 85th anniversary as Kellogg-Briand Pact Day.

The banners were replicas of the actual Pact with the writing on top by Frank Kellogg, the only person from Minnesota to win a Nobel Peace Prize, the former U.S. Secretary of State, for whom

Kellogg Boulevard is named after. In giving you these banners we asked you to do the following:

1. For Rep. Ellison to show this to his Progressive Caucus
2. For Rep. McCollum to bring to her Armed Forces Committee
3. For both of you to bring these banners to Secretary of State John Kerry pointing out another Secretary of State, our own Frank Kellogg, whose words are written atop the Pact: "I will not be satisfied until every home, school, office, factory, church, and public building has a framed copy! Speak out. Hold not your peace."
4. As per Kellogg's urging, inform Sec. Kerry that this pact should best be hung in the White House War Room to remind the President of the law against war, and to work in establishing our country's defense accordingly.

Since our event, both of you have expressed your support for a U.S. war against Syria. Make no mistake about it

that air strikes are acts of war, and not just punitive acts of choice. Given that most Americans overwhelmingly oppose this, and even more do from your respective districts, we cannot help but wonder if we are running into a dead-end by our request to you, and we are puzzled by who you think you are representing. Therefore, unless you have a dramatic conversion experience, it probably is best that you have the banners in your own office until you get your own house in order, and we will pursue this with others. In the meantime I

suspect that you will be stuttering and stammering in any future encounters with anyone from the Peace Community, and will avert your gaze from Kellogg Boulevard when you near it.

This is a letter that I would have liked to have written differently, and I am mindful of the words of John Kennedy when he told the Quakers who vigiled for a long time outside the White House for a Nuclear Test Ban. Towards the end of his life he asked them if they believed in Redemption, and getting the affirmative went on to sign the Test Ban, cut orders to begin withdrawal from Vietnam, and worked behind the scenes with Russian

*Quotes by Frank Kellogg*

*"Have we so soon forgotten those four years of terrible carnage, the greatest war of all time; forgotten the millions of men who gave their lives, who made the supreme sacrifice and who today, beneath the soil of France and Belgium, sleep the eternal sleep?"*

*"I believe that in the end the abolition of war, the maintenance of world peace, the adjustment of international questions by pacific means will come through the force of public opinion, which controls nations and peoples."*

Premier Krushchev for complete and total disarmament. Neither of you, of course, are President, but your voice needs to echo that of a Republic and not the Empire.

Sincerely  
Steve McKeown

**"Our leaders had the audacity to say the Gulf War made America feel good again. How morally corrupt are we that we need a war to feel good about ourselves?"**

**Tim Robbins, American Actor**

# Camp Ripley protesters want end to local drone training

by Larry Fisk

Over 40 people gathered at the Main Gate of Camp Ripley Sep. 15th to oppose drone warfare, drone surveillance, war spending and threatened military strikes on Syria. The action was sponsored by the Brainerd Area Coalition for Peace and Little Falls Partners for Peace.

Participants, including Army and Navy veterans, came from the communities of Central Minnesota and as far away as the Twin Cities and Fargo, ND.

These organizations oppose war as an instrument of foreign policy and demand that the US government

obey international law, which makes war illegal unless a country is attacked or under imminent

threat of attack by another country. For over a decade these groups have opposed the U.S. wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya, "wars of choice," as Congressman Rick Nolan has called them. They see soldiers as victims of war and advocate full funding for the medical, psychological, educational and social support soldiers need while welcoming soldiers and veterans into the peace movement.

Though post commander Col. Scott St. Sauver expressed support for our First Amendment rights in a Record column, the post tried to move the demonstration away from the main gate to the other side of Highway 115. Soldiers have often told us they have gone to war to protect our speech rights, but none of these wars have been about rights or about defense.

Col. St. Sauver pointed out that the Camp's drones (unmanned aircraft), though tools of war, are non-weaponized and fly only over the Camp's 81 square miles. However, just as Camp Ripley has trained combat soldiers and support personnel who have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan and some of the 800 US military facilities in countries around the world, those trained in drone technol-

ogy will not stay here flying aircraft within Camp Ripley's perimeter. They will diffuse throughout the military and, perhaps, intelligence agencies (the FBI and CIA and police agencies have drone programs) and may participate in both military operations and domestic surveillance. In grim application of this technology, drone operators with joysticks in the U.S. assassinate people in Sudan, Pakistan and

Yemen. Drones terrorize civilians and have killed hundreds of innocent men, women and children.

Until we eliminate all militarized drones and ban drone surveillance, which (like cell phones, email, and license plate readers) can be used to track

and control citizens, drones will be a threat to world peace, to domestic privacy



*At the entrance to Camp Ripley, a contingent of VFP members protested U.S. drone warfare on Sep. 15 stand in front of the camp's sign, which ironically reads "Violence is never the answer." Pictured are Barry Riesch and Bruce Berry, VFP Ch. 27 members.*

and to our civil liberties.

According to the National Priorities Project, the cost of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq for Morrison County taxpayers is \$70 million and for Crow Wing County \$195 million. Over one quarter of a billion dollars pulled from two rural counties to destroy other societies instead of building our own! Money spent on the military and the destruction of war creates far less employment than education, healthcare, infrastructure, sustainable energy and other constructive investments.

A sad consequence of war has been the high rate of domestic violence among military families. During the demonstration, referring to "Domestic Violence Awareness Month", the lighted sign at the Main Gate of this facility, which trains Americans in the violence of war, ironically displayed the message "VIOLENCE IS NEVER THE ANSWER"!

*Larry Fisk is a local peace activist with the Brainerd Area Coalition for Peace and the Little Falls Partners for Peace.*

# The Subjugation of Conscience

by Mike Madden

Private Chelsea Manning is a good soldier. She took her oath of enlistment seriously. In the course of her duties, she saw serious wrongdoing and exposed it. She did it for the public good. She did it in a measured way that put no American personnel at risk. For her act of conscience, she has been sentenced to 35 years in prison by the very government whose crimes she exposed.

At trial, in her Statement in Support of Providence Inquiry, Manning spoke at length about a July 12, 2007 Apache helicopter attack on approximately 12 men in the streets of Baghdad. She said she was disturbed by the “bloodlust” exhibited by the

crew in the footage which has come to be known as the “Collateral Murder Video.” She was also aware that Reuters, whose journalists Saeed

Chmagh and Namir Noor-Eldeen were killed in the attack, had made a Freedom of Information Act request which the government stonewalled, at one point telling Reuters that the footage may no longer exist. That is the reason she gave for uploading the video to WikiLeaks despite the non-disclosure clause in her military contract.

The actions of the Apache crew that day were more than just disturbing. They were violations of international law. In the laws that govern armed conflict, there exists the Principle of Distinction which requires belligerents to distinguish between civilians and combatants. When there is doubt, people in question must be assumed to be civilian. The crew, observing the targets from a safe distance and possessing an advantage in firepower that would be instantaneously overwhelming, made no such attempt belying the Pentagon narrative that U.S. Forces go to great lengths to insure the safety of civilians.

The trigger-happy crew went on to launch a second attack on a victim of the initial salvo and three individuals Manning described in her testimony as a “good Samaritans.” The video shows the wounded man lying prone in the gutter, attempting but unable to move. A cargo van arrives on the scene and the three men engage in what is clearly an attempt to lend assistance. Observing again from a safe distance, the crew opens fire killing the victim and his rescuers. Shortly thereafter, U.S. ground forces arrive and discover that two children in the van have also been wounded in the wanton attack. Manning told the court she heard no remorse from the crew, which instead blamed

the victims for “bringing their kids into a battle.”

Manning described the secondary attack in moral terms, testifying she was “saddened” and “disturbed” by the crew’s “seemingly delightful bloodlust” and equating it with “a child torturing ants with a magnifying glass.” While any human with a conscience would share Manning’s moral outrage, the secondary attack was a further and egregious violation of international law. The Geneva Conventions protect the wounded and all those clearly out of the fight. They also protect any individual lending assistance to the fallen.

At the request of Reuters, the Pentagon did conduct an investigation of the incident. It found that the crew acted within the law of armed conflict and its own rules of engagement. Only by withhold-

*While claiming a desire to strengthen whistleblower protections, President Obama has instead pursued an unprecedented assault on whistleblowers.*

ing the video could the Pentagon make the first claim, and if the rules of engagement did allow the crew shoot recklessly and subsequently kill

wounded people and their rescuers, culpability for the war crimes evident in the video move up the chain of command to those who set the rules of engagement and those investigators who attempted to cover up the crimes.

The Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989 was intended to protect federal workers from retaliation when they reveal misconduct, abuse, or violations of the law. In practice, the law has been ineffectual because the type of disclosures that qualify for protection have been too narrowly defined and dubious official claims of national security have trumped even the most egregious government misconduct. While claiming a desire to strengthen whistleblower protections, President Obama has instead pursued an unprecedented assault on whistleblowers. Edward Snowden, Thomas Drake, John Kiriakou and others have incurred the wrath of the administration for revealing instances of government wrongdoing that the public has every right to know.

But it is the case of Private Chelsea Manning that best demonstrates the extreme measures the administration will employ to maintain the secrecy of its corrupt practices. She was subject to degrading treatment and solitary confinement tantamount to torture in her pretrial detention. She initially faced the death penalty for the trumped up charge of “aiding the enemy.” She was treated as a spy even though her only client was a grateful American public. The courage and dignity she has displayed throughout her ordeal should serve to inform those in the halls of power that no amount of intimidation or punishment can subjugate the human conscience.

## Celebremos la Resistencia!

by Mary McNellis

Converge on Fort Benning Nov. 23-24 for the 2013 annual protest and vigil to close the SOA/WHINSEC. This convergence of anti-militarization activists, labor unions, solidarity groups, immigrants and allies, radicals, progressives, faith communities, students and many more relies on the participation of all to make it a space for all of our movements to grow. The Vigil at Fort Benning is a place for groups to network, organize, and mobilize.

The purpose of the vigil, which began in 1990, is to put pressure on our govern-

ment to close the School of Americas, also known by some as School of Assassins, now officially called the Western

Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, WHINSEC. This school, funded by U.S. taxpayers, trains foreign military personnel, who are mostly Latin American, in subjects like counter-insurgency, military intelligence and counter-narcotics operations. SOA graduates have included some of the worst and most notorious human rights abusers in Latin American history, have led military coups and are responsible for massacres of hundreds of people. For much of the world, the school is synonymous with torture and impunity. SOA graduates were responsible for the Uraba massacre in Colombia, the El Mozote massacre of 900 civilians in El Salvador, the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero and the massacre of 14-year-old Celina Ramos, her mother Elba Ramos and six Jesuit priests in El Salvador, and for hundreds of other human rights abuses.

According to the SOA itself, more than 60,000 members of Latin American militaries have attended the SOA since its inception in 1946. All of us who pay taxes are complicitly responsible for the horrors perpetrated by SOA graduates. Closing the school would send a strong human rights message to Latin America and the world!

Veterans For Peace Ch. 27, along with Women Against Military Madness (WAMM), is once again chartering a bus from Minneapolis to the gates of Fort Benning for participation in Saturday afternoon's celebratory rally (music, puppets, speakers and more). After the rally the bus will drop the group off at the downtown Columbus Marriot hotel for a comfortable night's stay and opportunity to attend activities across the street at the convention center, which

include workshops, caucuses, cultural and musical events.

Sunday morning the group is taken back to Fort Benning gates for the solemn "PRESENTE" vigil when the names of the victims of SOA/WHINSEC graduates are read. The bus returns home Sunday afternoon, arriving in Minneapolis Monday afternoon.

The bus ride is itself part of the experience; Veterans for Peace aboard will be screening DVDs, sharing their thoughts and experiences relating to the SOA/other peace efforts and encouraging passengers to do the same. The bus leaves Minneapolis Friday AM Nov. 22 and returns Monday afternoon Nov.

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."* - Margaret Mead

25. Due to popular demand, the group will be staying at the downtown Marriott. Price per person is \$300 which

includes bus transportation and shared double room Sat. night. (If you desire a private room, cost is \$350.) Confirmation and specific details will be sent upon receipt of payment. There is a maximum of 48 passengers; registration will close when this number is reached.

To learn more about SOAW check out their website: [soaw.org/november/en/](http://soaw.org/november/en/).

For general information about the bus trip email questions to [vfpsow@yahoo.com](mailto:vfpsow@yahoo.com) or call WAMM office at (612) 827-5364. To register make check for \$300 payable to Veterans For Peace, Chapter 27. Please include your name, email address, snail mail address, phone numbers (incl. cell) and school or organization affiliation (if any). Mail to: Mary McNellis, PO Box 126, Stillwater MN 55082. Confirmations will be mailed out beginning Sept. 20th. After that date, if you haven't received a confirmation within seven days of mailing check, please email [vfpsow@yahoo.com](mailto:vfpsow@yahoo.com).

**"War deprivation has never caused a single case of post traumatic stress."**

*- from a 2012 Armistice Day talk in California by David Swanson, author of "War is a Lie and When the World Outlawed War"*

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### ONGOING EVENTS

**Second Sunday** each month, 6-8:30 pm:  
VFP Chapter 27 general meeting,  
1806 Riverside Ave., #3A.  
Executive meeting at 5 p.m.  
FFI: Larry Johnson at 612-747-3904.

**5-6 pm** Weds. Lake Street/Marshal Ave. Bridge vigil.

### OTHER EVENTS

Oct 5, 1-2 p.m., Lake St. and Hiawatha Ave., Mpls.  
Say NO to war. Protest to mark 12 years of war and to endorse the call for an end to U.S. wars and interventions.

Oct 4-5-6th, VFP retreat Two Harbors, Lake Superior.  
Dave: 203 9768

Oct 21, 7 p.m., "Our Vanishing Liberties: Drones, NSA and Executive Overreach." Speech by Matt Rothschild, editor, *The Progressive*, Hennepin Ave Methodist, 511 Groveland, Mpls. \$5.

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

Nov. 11, 6 pm. Brit's Pub, 10th and Nicollet, Mpls. See article this page.

Nov 11, 6:30 p.m. Bell ringing ceremony and Kellogg-Briand Proclamation read by St Paul City Councilman Dave Thune at Sisters of St Joseph Carondelet Chapel, 3 blks east of Cleveland and Randolph, St Paul.

Nov. 22-25. Bus trip to SOA. FFI see article page 13.

Dec 19-22, All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914 based on the true story that starts when a German soldier steps into "No man's Land" singing *Silent Night*. Directed by Peter Rothstein at the Pantages Theatre, 710 Hennepin, Mpls.  
www.LatteDa.org 612 339 3003

For information on vigils, go to the VFP website at [vfpchapter27.org](http://vfpchapter27.org) or call 612-827-5364 or visit [www.worldwidewamm.org](http://www.worldwidewamm.org)

## Armistice Day at Brit's Pub

by Dave Lodgson

A wonderful program is planned for Armistice Day at Brit's Pub (10th and Nicollet) Nov. 11th at 6 pm.

It will include bell ringing, anthems of four countries, short speeches and dramatic readings from Veterans (Micheal Orange, *Fire in the Hole*), and an actor from the History Theatre's spring presentation, *The Things they Carried*, adapted from Tim O'Brien's book. Great fish and chips and other food will be available to purchase as well as adult beverages!

## Bronze casting classes for veterans

by Gita Ghei

Artist and cast bronze specialist Gita Ghei is posting an opportunity for a project for veterans to work with her and members of the Veterans For Peace, Ch. 27, to cast bronze bells and individual artwork by the sustainable process of plaster investment. This begins in October. The work will be done at Gita's studio on Como Ave. in Minneapolis just off Highway 280.

The project was conceived with the VFP as a community building project around the symbolism of the bells, specifically as rung at the end of World War I, or Armistice Day. The group will look at the cultural symbolism and significance and ceremonial use of bells. Each participant will create a cast bronze bell diameter not to exceed 6" or an individual bronze artwork of their choice. There will be a commitment of 12-16 classes of three hours each. The schedule will be set but if participants cannot make every class Gita will have open studio time available so participants can keep up with the group.

There will be two sessions: October through December with a bronze pour in December. The second session will start in January with a metal pour late February.

A public community event on International Storytelling day March 20 will be the capstone event and all participants will work together in March to finish their artwork and help with the event.

There is space for up to four participants for the upcoming October session and an additional four could join the session starting in January. We have a core group of five that will work through both sessions. The project is funded by the Minnesota State Arts Board.



## Afghans speak of war's terrors

*This is an excerpt taken from an article written by Kathy Kelly in the June-July Catholic Worker Newspaper. Kathy recently spoke at our VFP National Convention, Peacestock, and some other venues in the Twin City area.*

Since 2009, Voices for Creative Nonviolence has maintained a grim record we call "The Afghan Atrocities Update," which gives the dates, locations, numbers, and names of Afghan civilians killed by NATO forces. Even with details culled from news reports, these data can't help but merge into one large statistic, something about terrible pain that's worth caring about but that is happening very far away.

It's one thing to chronicle sparse details about these U.S.-led NATO attacks. It's quite another to sit across from Afghan men as they try, having broken down in tears, to regain sufficient composure to finish telling us their stories. In May, at a restaurant in Kabul, I and two friends from the Afghan Peace Volunteers met with five Pashun men from Afghanistan's northern and eastern provinces. The men had agreed to tell us about their experiences living in areas affected by regular drone attacks, aerial bombings and night raids. Each of them noted that they also fear Taliban threats and attacks. "What can we do," they asked, "when both sides are targeting us?"

### The First Responder's Tale

Jamaludeen, an emergency medical responder from Jalabad, is a large man, with a serious yet kindly demeanor. He began our conversation by saying that he simply doesn't understand how one human being can inflict so much harm on another. Last winter, NATO forces fired on his cousin, Rafiqullah, age 30, who was studying to be a pediatrics specialist.

"A suicide bomber had apparently blown himself up near the airport. My cousin and two other men were riding in a car on a road leading to the airport. It was 6:45 a.m. When they realized that NATO helicopters and tanks were firing missiles, they left their car and huddled on the roadside, but they were easily seen. A missile exploded near them, seriously wounding Rafiqullah and another passenger, while killing their driver Hayatullah."

Hayatullah, our friend told us, was an older man, about 45 years old, who left behind a wife, two boys and one daughter.

Although badly wounded, Rafiqullah and his fellow passenger could still speak. A U.S. tank arrived and they began pleading with the NATO soldiers to take them to the

hospital. "I am a doctor," said Rafiqullah's fellow passenger, a medical student named Siraj Ahmad. "Please save me!" But the soldiers handcuffed the two wounded young men and awaited a decision about what to do next. Rafiqullah died there, by the side of the road. Still handcuffed, Siraj Ahmad was taken, not to a hospital, but to the airport, perhaps to await evacuation. That was where he died. He was 35 and had four daughters. Rafiqullah leaves three small girls behind.

Four years ago, Jamaludeen tried to bring first-aid as an early responder to a wedding party attacked by NATO forces. Only he couldn't, because they were no survivors; 54 people were killed, all of them women and children except for the bridegroom.

"It was like hell," said Dr. Jamaludeen. "I saw little shoes. Covered with blood, along with pieces of clothing and musical instruments. It was very, very terrible to me. The NATO soldiers knew these people were not a threat.

It's difficult to verify these reports: this one seems to correspond with an attack on a wedding party in Nangarhar in which, according to news reports, 47 people were killed.

*Kathy then goes on to tell of the other stories, those that are caught in the middle, familiar to many of us who were in Vietnam and Korea. These are not stories told in the War rooms of the world, and most certainly not brought up in ours except to spin tales of denial. If they are brought up, it is to manipulate their side in their justification for righteous war. Can the middle fend off both sides? Must it choose one side over another and hope to come out on top? Arming the middle by either side, always without exception, leaves a price to be paid. To truly protect the middle requires a cease fire that can never be brought about by the arms merchants, but by diplomatic pressure always.*

### **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**



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 Sep. 24, 2013:  
4,486 dead in Iraq and  
2,277 combat deaths in Afghanistan.

An estimated 18-22 veterans commit suicide each day,  
amounting to 35,770 over the past five years.

## **NSA spying: what it means for all of us**

by Frank Fuller

The continuing revelations of how the NSA has been ignoring the constitution and breaking the law should be terrifying everyone.

Its power is almost immeasurable. Its command center is a \$2 billion heavily fortified building in the Utah desert that has its own power plant and is 15 times larger than most professional football stadiums. *Wired Magazine* described it thusly: “Flowing through its servers and routers and stored in near-bottomless databases will be all forms of communication, including the complete contents of private emails, cell phone calls, and Google searches, as well as all sorts of personal data trails—parking receipts, travel itineraries, bookstore purchases, and other digital ‘pocket litter.’ It is, in some measure, the realization of the ‘total information awareness’ program created during the first term of the Bush administration—an effort that was killed by Congress in 2003 after it caused an outcry over its potential for invading Americans’ privacy.”

This is certainly something that activists need to be worried about. At this point there are indications that some criminals are being charged with crimes because of things

the NSA has discovered illegally. From the ACLU: “We found out last month that the DEA secretly uses NSA sur-

veillance data against Americans as part of its drug investigations – and then conceals its reliance on this foreign intelligence information. This practice jeopardizes the right to a fair trial for anyone facing criminal prosecution based on evidence derived from that surveillance data.”

Also from the ACLU: “Operations like the Hemisphere Project should not be kept secret. When a government surveillance program is predicated on its being able to access vast databases of information pertaining to Americans, the overwhelming majority of whom are and will always be innocent of wrongdoing, these programs should be public. Law enforcement agents are sifting through data about all of us. The existence and purpose of these databases should be disclosed. The personal information of too many innocent people is at stake, and democratic principles require that we all be given an opportunity to weigh in.”

And it is not just the data the NSA is collecting that can be worrisome about this. The Internet has become a central part of life for most people. Its form changes

**NSA, Continued on page 8**