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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)



Where did the 2012 Canoe go? Yes, the drawing happened on schedule last September at the Black Dog Café in St. Paul and the happy winner came and picked up the canoe that week. What didn't happen was the news story about it. It was a case of "I thought you were going to write the story." "No, I thought you were going to write it." Jim Gellerman, the winner of the canoe, also happens to be a veteran and resident of Wisconsin. He came and picked up the canoe and expressed enthusiastic agreement with our goals as Veterans for Peace. (text and photo by John Sherman)

It's our flag, too!

by Jim Lovestar

The American flag, Old Glory, The Stars and Stripes. What thoughts come to you as you read those words? What emotions?

When I was a child, I bought the whole story: flag and country, heroic struggle in war, all of it. I wanted some of that hero stuff when I joined the Marine Corps. Semper Fi, lock and load, salute the colors.

Then I was assigned, without training or even a briefing, with just a two-page set of instructions (you know how that works), to escort the bodies of Marines killed in Vietnam back to their families.

Long story short, there was an outfit,

Escort Platoon, on my base, and in June, 1969, we were all out doing what we were trained to do as the bodies were piling up. So I developed a new relationship to the flag. I attended the funerals, helped carry the flag-draped caskets to the hearses, then to the gravesites. Along with another Marine from a local reserve unit, I would lift the flag off the coffin, fold it, and hand it solemnly to the next of kin.

As I write this, I notice myself sighing with the memory. And there it was, something to remember the dead Marine by. Another sigh here.

Some years later, when 241 Marines were

The flag, cont'd page 5

The Turkey River, turquoise and turning from war's terror

by Larry Johnson, President, Chapter 27

Shortly after Congressman Keith Ellison spoke eloquently against striking Iran militarily at the October forum at St. Joan of Arc, I sent him our "Thank You. We've got your back" letter. Shortly after that, Dave Logsdon ran into Rep. Ellison, now co-chair of the Progressive Caucus, who asked to meet with our group. In January, 22 members of VFP 27, along with Roxanne Abbas of Minnesota Peace Project, met with Keith Ellison, discussing multiple issues of war profiteering, drones, Geneva Conventions, torture, Bradley Manning, and war toxins like Agent Orange. We concluded with a request to meet regularly and with Keith's promise to forward our effort to let the whole country know that war itself has been illegal since the Kellogg-Briand Pact was signed in 1928. We were also challenged to further articulate our position on Iran.

When I started as president, Steve McKeown told me how our Armistice effort, and our chapter, grew from a 1987 D.C. Capitol-steps protest against Contra Aid. About that time, I was, in concept, a Veteran For Peace, but I knew nothing of any organizations. Elaine and I were at a storytelling conference in Iowa, and I emerged from a late night Turkey River ritual, with an image of early fascination with a grade school turquoise story. Research showed me turquoise was sacred not only to Native Americans here, but also in ancient Persia (now Iran). The next thing I knew, we were managing the local feed of a national Christic Institute video-conference focusing on bringing justice in the Iran/Contra Scandal. The lawsuit died, and the main players were exonerated, even though someone, either President Reagan, or Oliver North, was clearly lying to Congress, about arming Iran in the 80s.

Now we're concerned that Iran might get nuclear weapons, like their neighbors. Ever since 1945 we've been playing the game, "Nukes are too dangerous, but we must have them, just in case someone else uses them." Even Reagan tried to cut nuclear weapons. Then we started increasing our nuclear arsenal. Now we're talking again about reduction, maybe because we've got drones, which are theoretically more precise. Even accidentally, drones kill fewer people than a nuclear bomb, so we can feel less

guilty about the "war crime" or "collateral damage" of killing civilians. But then one of our drones landed in Iran, so now we fear that they might copy its design and fire back. This is our international difficulty with what we tell children: "Just because he hit you, doesn't mean its OK to hit back."

Elaine just told me of an exchange she heard on one of the more progressive talk radio shows. Someone called in, and said: "I was in Vietnam, and drones would have saved a lot of lives there." Someone else called: "I was in Vietnam too, and I believe we should never have gone." To which another caller responded: "What we really need is a Marshall Plan to give civilians and returning soldiers good jobs to build a system to stop global warming and quit believing our oil has flowed under their land."

That, of course, is where we were headed in the late 70s, until we cancelled it to arm Iran, and though reflection and history is important, here is an articulate Iran statement just sent to us from Robert Johnson, a member from southern Minnesota:

"We, members of the Southeast Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers, agree with the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), which "opposes all military action against Iran's nuclear program," and holds that "no military action will prevent nuclear proliferation."

"We believe the conclusion of the Oxford Research Group that "consequences of a military attack on Iran are so serious they should not be encouraged in any way at all."

"We are deeply concerned that an inadvertent strike on a nuclear reactor would result in release of highly radioactive elements and the death of thousands of people living near, and heavy contamination of neighboring states, according to the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"We believe a unilateral military intervention by either Israel or the U.S. will drive Iran to make a bomb deeper underground, and that other nations of the region, believing likewise, will immediately start developing a bomb.

"We also fear an attack on Iran could unleash a

Ever since 1945 we've been playing the game, "Nukes are too dangerous, but we must have them, just in case someone else uses them."

Continued next page

regional war that would accelerate climate change and world military spending, reducing funds needed to alleviate deprivation in countries where loss of hope generates terrorism.

“We believe only diplomacy and cooperation with the IAEA, and negotiations mediated by the UN can prevent proliferation.

“We believe negotiations should consider the legal rights Iran has under the NPT, and that covert action and extreme sanctions are counterproductive to negotiations. Part of any successful negotiation, with Iran and North Korea, must provide evidence that major nuclear powers are moving toward a comprehensive treaty to eliminate all nuclear weapons and establishment of a nuclear-free Middle East and East Asia.

“If we are to continue to prevent the potential catastrophes inherent in a world with so many nuclear weapons, respect for the rule of law must grow.”

Enough said. So I'll conclude with a note about Scheherazade, a brave young woman with roots in ancient Persia. Her King caught the Queen in an affair, and lashed out in a vendetta against all women. Systematically he began marrying young women of the kingdom, sleeping with them, and then executing them in the morning. Sheherazade, knowing she would eventually be drafted, decided to enlist. After the lovemaking, she began a horrendous tale, designed to capture the sadistic imagination of the King. At the peak of excitement she stopped and said, “I'm tired. I'll finish it tomorrow.” The King begged for completion, but each night Sheherazade did the same, continuing her “tune in again tomorrow” tales for 1001 nights, slowly building in elements of how to reign with justice, until finally the now educated king could not imagine his former self, and totally changed the way he lived and ruled.

George Gerbner, well known media violence researcher and former Dean of the Annenberg School of Communications, used to say, “*We must get the stories into the hands of those with something to tell, not just those big corporations with something to sell.*”

I submit that we, as Veterans for Peace, are the ones with something to tell. We have no financial power like the big defense contractors, but when we forcefully tell our stories, with reason, to our elected leaders, we are educating, in the tradition of Sheherazade, potentially ending the worldwide reign of terror, perpetuated by those “profiteers” wishing to attack Iran.

This War Business: Women war mongers

by Tom Dooley

The women in combat question brought to mind the Virginia Slims cigarette slogan, of a few decades back: “You've come a long way, baby.” In one case, it referred to a woman fighter pilot whose nickname was KC, which stood for Killer Chick!!!

When the Secretary of Defense ruled that women could be in combat, there was great enthusiasm (but not from Code Pink). Much of the focus seemed to be on the “career” opportunities. A Career in Killing???

A few years ago at the annual Mayday Parade down Bloomington Ave. to Powderhorn Park, the late Myron Fossum, a Veterans For Peace member, carried a sign which read:

NO GAYS IN THE MILITARY,
NO STRAIGHTS IN THE MILITARY,
NO WOMEN IN COMBAT,
NO MEN IN COMBAT,
NO PEOPLE IN THE MILITARY,
NO MILITARY IN THE PEOPLE.

The sign got great cheers and applause.

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

Reflections on gun control

by Barry Riesch

So let's talk about "Gun Control." Please keep in mind that these are my own thoughts and not necessarily those of Veterans For Peace.

Is the matter just about someone's right to bear arms, a right guaranteed by the second amendment?

I understand people being concerned about wanting to protect themselves and their families and feeling safer with a gun. I have those same fears but choose not to arm myself to allay my fears.

I also understand that people hunt and have a right to do this. Even though I don't support this sport, my concern is not to take that right away.

I understand that people fear our government taking away their arms.

I understand that it is not the guns that do the shooting but rather the individual possessing those arms. And that sometimes these guns get into the hands of people who have psychological and other issues and use them for violent means.

My concern is with the proliferation of arms in our American culture. I am 64 and have experienced a lot in my lifetime, but never have there been more armed atrocities happening in this country than in the recent past.

I believe that the arms industry is a money-making venture, and just like the Military Industrial Complex we now have the local arms trade wanting to arm every individual in this country. I believe the arms industry has infiltrated the National Rifle Association and corrupted its purpose. Will armed guards in all our schools make them safe? Will arming every teacher and student?

While in high school, I was a rebel and belonged to gangs and actually liked a little violence. I even went into the military not exactly opposed to war and its making. At that time, though, teens generally protected themselves without guns. An incident with someone walking into a school and shooting the place up was unheard of. Was it because there were no people with psychological problems in our society? No troubled youth? I say that in part we didn't have these incidents because arms and especially automatic assault type weapons were not readily available.

I don't claim to have all the answers to our problems,

but I know for myself that, after my military experience and after getting beat up enough times with physical violence, this is not the answer. I choose to lay down my arms, quit being a "tough" guy and work instead on becoming a less violent person. I too have fears. I live alone and worry about someone entering my home while I am asleep, but there is no material possession that is worth risking my life for.

So I say "Take what you need and close the door behind you." I will never again pick up arms to protect myself. A world or country with everyone armed is not the kind of world that I want to live in. The days of the Wild West are hopefully behind us.

I don't claim to have all the answers to our problems, but I know for myself after my military experience and after getting beat up enough times with physical violence that this is not the answer.

Gun statistics

Since the Sandy Hook Elementary School mass shooting on Dec. 14, guns have killed 2,520 Americans (as of 3/10/2013).

Guns have killed more Americans (through murder, suicide and accidents) since Robert Kennedy's assassination in 1968 than have died in all of America's major conflicts. From June 4, 1968 through the end of 2011, guns have claimed the lives of 1,384,101 Americans.

In all the major conflicts, including The Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, The Mexican War, the Civil War, the Spanish American War, WWI, WWII, the Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War, Afghanistan War and the Iraq War, 1,171,177 American soldiers died.

Kellogg-Briand Pact update

by Steve McKeown

When Larry Johnson and I spoke to a gathering of Interfaith Peacemakers, it was suggested to us that we make the Kellogg-Briand original single-page **Renunciation Of War** document more available to the public and Congress, perhaps even making framed copies.

This would be in line with the Minnesota Nobel Peace Prize winner (that Kellogg Blvd in St Paul is named after) Frank Kellogg's writing on the document: "I will not be satisfied until every home, school, office, factory, church, and public building has a framed copy. Your desire expressed will be Law and Gospel to millions; speak out. HOLD NOT YOUR PEACE!"

As of this writing, we have 4,500 signatures from 163 towns and cities on paper petitions in Minnesota calling for a National Holiday on Aug. 27th, the day the pact was signed. We are planning a celebration in St. Paul on that day, the 85th anniversary of the pact's signing, of Frank Kellogg, who is the only Minnesotan to have won the Nobel Peace Prize.

We also met with Rep. Keith Ellison and asked for his support on this. His answer was an unequivocal "Let's do it!" He directed us to his staff in order to best work this out. We have met with one of them, and his advice was to work at it incrementally and build off of each step, and they would help us. We submitted a proposal for Ellison to look over, in order to read it into the Congressional Record. He is going to get back to us.

Along with gathering more signatures at our canoe events, we plan to hand out copies of the pact, which 84 countries, including the U.S., have signed. The U.S. State Department recognizes Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran as signers to this pact, which states in Article 2 that "conflicts of whatever nature or whatever origin they may be, which may arise among them, shall never be sought except by pacific means." In short, it is a crime to go to war.

The flag, from page 1

slaughtered in Lebanon as they slept under the flag that flew over their barracks, I developed an opinion about Ronald Reagan. He had ordered them there, guarded by sentries with unloaded(!) rifles. I started to experience a sour taste in my mouth when I saw the flag.

As the years passed and I saw other liars, thieves, and war criminals send good people to be killed while wrapping themselves in the flag, that taste became bitter cynicism. I'd see the flag and feel powerless, somehow realizing that the symbol of what should be best about our country was now owned by the aforementioned criminals who used it for their own ends.

One day, as I was preparing to join a peace rally and march, something broke inside of me. I had an awakening: "It's my flag, too." I took an old flag to the rally and was roundly criticized by a lot of people who still had that bitter taste. In reply, I heard myself saying, "There are people who claim this flag for empire and war. When I carry it, this flag stands for peace." In repeating that to many people, maybe you at one time or another, I walked deeper into the conviction that we can take the flag back from the traitors who have abused the trust of my fellow citizens.

There are millions of people who, when they see the flag at an event, automatically grant credibility to the event and the organizations sponsoring the event, thus opening their minds to the message being communicated. Of course, with the act of reclaiming the symbolic power of the flag, comes the responsibility to earn and reward the trust of our people. Our people, who also have felt powerless about who they think "owns" the flag. Our people, who, like me when I was a boy, believed the lies fed to them with the flag in the background. Our people, who have never been presented with the concept that "This flag stands for peace!"

As I work in the community with urban agriculture, men's groups, mentoring teenage boys, I'm grasping how deeply patriotic, in service to our country and Our People, this work is. When we plant community gardens, challenge the war machine, speak truth to power, march for peace, we are upholding the finest traditions of service and we are, dare I say it, Patriots. Even as I write that, I feel an ache inside. This is part of the process of releasing old beliefs and embracing a new way of being.

With all this in mind, when I work with others to plan events, I request that we have a flag present. After all, as we take charge of the powerful symbolism, "This flag stands for peace!"

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

In memoriam Elmer Zoff, 1913-2012

by Sarah Martin

Elmer Zoff, World War II vet and longtime, proud member of Vets For Peace, died on Dec. 30th 2012 at the age of 99-1/2. He would have been 100 on July 4.

Elmer's justice and peace activism dates back to the 1930s when he opposed the Japanese invasion of China and Germany's takeover of Europe. He and his first wife Dorothy, who died 18 years ago, both worked avidly for peace. According to Phyllis Cohen his second wife, who died in 2012, "We were opposed to the Korean War, the Vietnam War, all wars."

In 1999 Phyllis and I began a weekly bannering in downtown White Bear Lake against the US/NATO bombing of Yugoslavia. She invited Elmer who drove up from his home on South Robert Street. (They had known each other in their youth and had reconnected.)

This vigil continues today and until just a couple of years ago, Elmer and Phyllis rarely missed a day. We held signs opposing the endless U.S. military interventions, including sanctions on Iraq, the bombing of Afghanistan, the 2003 invasion and occupation of Iraq, U.S. funding of Israel's occupation and assaults on Palestine, U.S. NATO war on Libya and others.

As the years went by we were all struck and heartened by the changing response to us and our messages. At the beginning there were mostly negative, sometimes very harsh and disturbing, yells and gestures. Elmer was never intimidated. He often took them on with a clear and precise rebuttal to their backward thinking. Now the positive reactions way outnumber the negative. This, of course, reflects changing U.S. public opposition to the wars. We also had great political discussions to which Elmer brought an enormous wealth of knowledge and history. He was a voracious reader and clear and radical thinker.

Soon after founding the White Bear vigil, Elmer and Phyllis began going to the Lake Street Peace Bridge Vigil. They were fixtures on the northwest corner on the Minneapolis side. Through the Bush years at both vigils, Elmer carried his sign which said "There's an empty Warhead in the White House." It had a picture of an empty warhead with the head of GW tilted against it. It became very tattered and faded but he carried it until Bush was out of office.

"Wars don't accomplish anything," Elmer said for a *Voices of Resistance* publication. "They're mostly for the benefit of corporations. These corporations have a strangle-

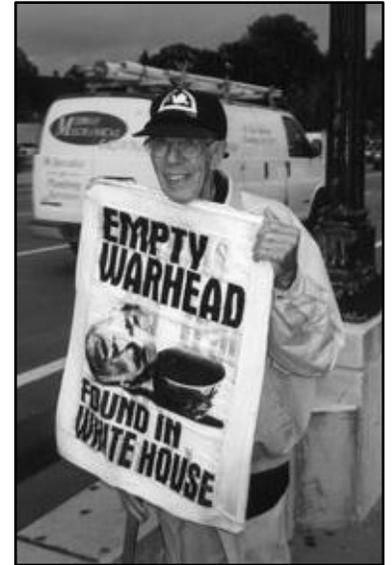
hold on society."

In 2007 as part of a History Center Greatest Generation documentary project, Phyllis and Elmer were featured in a marvelous piece "Their Own Drummer" by Jyni Koschak and Mike Johnson. Phyllis knew Jyni through folk dancing, a life-long passion of hers. Elmer grew to love it also.

Tom Larson, who continues to go to the vigil in White Bear, said, "I have his most profound answers to the questions I know he posed for himself and all of us. I shall miss his words of resolve and encouragement but shall always remember his conviction, hope and vision of peace. Perseverance personified. I feel much richer for having met him."

He is indeed greatly missed but his persistent and steadfast activism are an enduring inspiration and challenge.

Elmer said, "My hope is in the long run, a little idea may finally take hold: the idea that there is no need for war; that war is outrageous."



Help for homeless veterans

by Steve McKeown

At our last monthly VFP Ch. 27 meeting, Dave Culver informed us of a VA Community Resource and Referral Center in downtown Minneapolis at 1201 Harmon Place that provides a host of services aimed at assisting veterans who are homeless or who are at risk of homelessness or serious mental illness.

The site also includes a primary care clinic, multipurpose room with kitchen, laundry, showers, and a computer lab. This is one of 17 VA Centers nationally that are aimed at ending homelessness among veterans.

When I told the front desk person that I heard good things about the center and was checking it out for our newsletter, she said, "All of it is true."

It is open weekdays from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 612-313-3240. From what I saw, I think she is right. I hope when all the talked-about cuts come, that this place stays open, and the military flyovers several blocks away above Target Field cease.

In Memoriam Connie Fuller, 1948-2012

by Joan Johnson

Connie Fuller, sister of our newsletter editor Frank, immersed herself in peace work. She wasn't afraid to speak out about issues of social justice and peace, even in the presence of those who would vehemently disagree. Correction: "especially" in the presence of those who would disagree. "So Jack, how about that war in Iraq?" was Connie's opening line with a family member, after being warned NOT to broach that subject with him. I admire this kind of courage and how she would confidently make known her convictions.

I first met Connie at the Lake Street Bridge on Wednesday afternoons, during the earlier years of our peace vigil. Afterwards, when we'd go out for coffee/supper, I liked hearing her insights into political and social issues and appreciated her sense of humor too.

At that time, I was fairly new to the peace movement and all of the related issues. I once recall observing a debate that Connie and a few other vigilers were having with a young man who commented on soldiers' injuries and fatalities.

"They get what they have coming if they're stupid enough to join the military," he exclaimed. Connie was part of the group who countered his angry cynicism. She matter-of-factly pointed out several factors that caused young people to join: economic and social pressures, the manipulation and lies of recruiters, family and peer pressures, to name just a few.

In the past, I probably would have gone along with the young man's point of view, but after listening to Connie's argument, I began to grasp the complexity of the issues, and I appreciated the wisdom and compassion she showed. Recently, I learned how Connie had helped scare off military recruiters at Sabathani Center, and I was not a bit surprised to hear this! (to read the whole story, visit www.worldwidewamm.org, or pick up a paper copy of the WAMM newsletter: Vol. 31, No.1, Feb. 2013).

Connie's funeral was a beautiful tribute to her life through the singing of songs, remembrances and prayers spoken, special music, poetry and other readings, and many photographs. Next to a bouquet of yellow flowers, Frank's wife Susan read a poem she had written, which centered on the theme of Connie's love of yellow flowers, and really captured so many wonderful things about Connie. "Down by the Riverside" was sung towards the end, and I felt like Connie was smiling through the music as we sang. Veterans For Peace member Barry Reisch spoke of his friendship



with Connie since grade school. He was then joined by other VFP members as they rang the bell 11 times to honor Connie's work for peace.

On the Wednesday after Connie's funeral, her family members, along with peace vigilers, held a special remembrance service on the Lake Street Bridge, where Connie had spent so much time being a presence for peace. We spoke of how she had touched each one of our lives. We thanked her for all she had meant to all of us, and all she had done to make this a better world. We grieved together and honored her legacy of building a more compassionate, just and peaceful world. She will be sorely missed by her family, by us in the peace community, and by many, many people from all different walks of life and from many different persuasions.

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.

Women in Combat! Is This Really Equality?

by Chante Wolf

So, it is now official, women can serve in combat and gain all the heroic accolades, badges and medals the men get for killing other human beings that our government deems to be a threat to our National Security.

Isn't what this is really all about? Badges, medals and command-ship? They aren't just now allowing women in combat, we're doing it already. What this really comes down to is that women in positions of power ~ officers ~ can get promoted easier now with the 'Combat Infantry Badge' label. I am not aware that this label helps the enlisted grunt who will actually do most all of the killing. They may get rank, but certainly not to the level of General.

Are women officers now more willing to serve as combat commanders for our country just so they can break through the 'glass ceiling'? The answer is 'yes', according to some veterans I have heard talk about it. Not sure how that is equality, or at least the type of equality I would strive for; to use the Patriarchal system's rules just to get ahead. I don't consider that a feminist approach.

Do women in the military honestly feel that, with the label of 'combat,' they will gain the respect they want for doing a good job? Is that what mothers want to tell their children that they did in the war? If it bothers the men, some to the point of suicide (now 22 a day), how is it that killing won't affect the women too? When did we become null and void with the aversion to killing other human beings?

Recently a friend emailed me asking my opinion of this new development, and I responded. He then forwarded me an email with another man's opinion: that the women who want to go into combat in the first place are all lesbians. Really? I am a lesbian who is vehemently opposed to killing other humans and animals and to the destruction of the planet. My response to that gentleman is: so, does that mean that the men who want to go into combat are gay?

There is a lot to say about all of this and women especially should be engaged in much debate about this change. I thought the feminist movement was about equality as far as the same rights under the Constitution, like voting, the right for equal pay and access to jobs as the men, but now to kill with the same male phallic symbols, well, I am not so sure they are really thinking about it, other than wishing to stroke their egos and bank accounts.

I really thought the feminist movement was also about stopping the violence against women and children, like bringing to light the ever increasing instances of military sexual trauma of those women serving their country. How

twisted that women service members see this opening to combat roles as an equality while fighting to stop the violence against them. Kinda like swimming in quicksand in my opinion.

Do you see what I am saying? They are saying, "Stop military sexual trauma! But give us the right to kill other women, children and others deemed to be threats to America! Liberate those other women to Allah!"

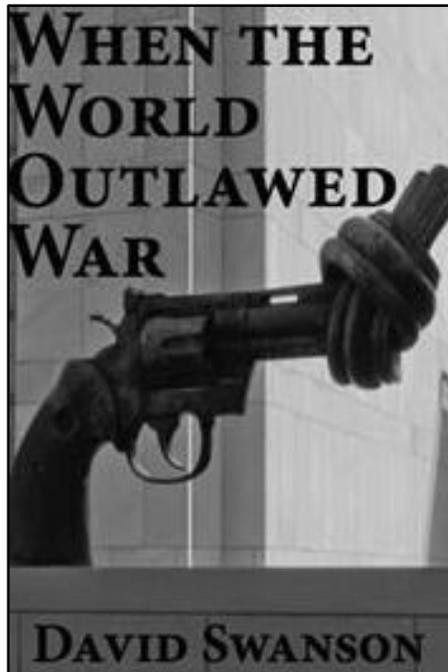
There is a new book out, *Kill Everything That Moves* by Nick Turse. (An interview with Turse is available at: www.npr.org/2013/01/28/169076259/anything-that-moves-civilians-and-the-vietnam-war.) In his researched book using classified accounts from the National Archives about the Viet Nam war, Mr. Turse explains that such incidents as My Lai were not isolated occurrences, but rather "quite common." On what a Vietnam vet told Turse about his first day in the field:

"He told me . . . he watched the point man — the lead man of his patrol — detain a young girl and molest her, and he thought to himself, you know, 'My God, what's going on here?' And over the ensuing months, he watched a litany of atrocities take place: a young boy executed for no reason; an old man who was used for target practice; a prisoner thrown off a cliff; a man who was held down to be run over by an armored personnel carrier. ... And when he first spoke up about brutality, his life was threatened and even his friends came up to him afterwards and said, 'Listen, you better keep your mouth shut or you're going to get a bullet in the back during a firefight.'"

Now women will be able to do the same thing. Is that the type of equality women strive for while fighting violence against women? Do they not understand whom they will be killing and possibly torturing? Will they too bring home the ears and breasts of the other women and men they killed in order to be treated with respect from the men in our country? Will they really receive that dignity and respect or will they be shunned even more because of the sheer violence they were willing to commit to get that respect? Or will they have men fear them so they will be left alone?

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

Please let us know if you
want to receive our newsletter by email.
Contact: chantewolf7@gmail.com



Background

Most people understand that war is destructive, but not that it is illegal.

On August 27, 1928, many countries signed a treaty called **the Kellogg-Briand Pact**, which outlawed war.

After ratification by the U.S. Senate the following year, this pact became the supreme law of the land in the United States and 65 other countries.

How can we respect the law if most of us are ignorant of it?

Members of the peace community have decided to educate the public on why this law was passed and encourage insight and creative expression on how we can bring our country into compliance.

Frank Goetz
 213 S. Wheaton Ave.
 Wheaton IL 60187
 phone: 630-510-8500 ext. 102
 frankgoetz@comcast.net

Peace Essay Contest

How Can We Obey The Law Against War?

Top Prize: \$1000

Peace Essay rules

In 800 words or less answer the question:

How can we obey the law against war?

Please include your: name, age (if under 19), mailing address, phone number, email address, and year and school that you first learned about the Kellogg-Briand Pact.

Mail your Peace Essay, postmarked by April 14, 2013, to:

Peace Desk, 213 S. Wheaton Avenue, Wheaton, IL 60187

Peace Essays will be judged by members of the West Suburban faith-Based Peace Coalition (WSFPC) (www.faithPeace.org) based on:

Knowledge of the Kellogg-Briand Pact;
 Insight into how the Pact influences U .S. foreign policy;
 Creativity in recommendations regarding compliance; and
 Quality of the Peace Essay prose.

The author of the best essay will receive \$1,000. Also, if the award winner identifies the school where she/he learned about the Kellogg-Briand Pact, David Swanson's book *When the World Outlawed War* will be donated to the school library. The WSPFC will also send the best Peace Essays to key members of the U.S. Congress.

**For more information please contact:
 Frank Goetz at frankGoetz@comcast.net**

Everyone who respects the law should work for Peace.

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/Marshall Ave. Bridge vigil.

OTHER EVENTS

Saturday April 6, 2013. Stop the Wars! Ground the Drones! 1 pm GATHER Lake Street & Hiawatha Ave. (along the sidewalks on Lake Street from 22nd Ave. South to Hiawatha) Minneapolis 1:45 pm MARCH. 2:15 pm PROGRAM at St. Albert the Great Catholic Church 2836 33rd Ave. S., Minneapolis This is one of many actions held across the U.S. against the growing use of drones as an instrument of U.S. military intervention around the world. Join the April 6 protest in Minneapolis to say no to U.S. wars and interventions and no to drones. Initiated by Minnesota Peace Action Coalition Initial endorsements: Anti-War Committee, Twin Cities Peace Campaign, Veterans for Peace (chapter 27), Women Against Military

Madness. For more information 612 522-1861 or 612 827-5364

Tues. March 19 7 pm. CIA Whistleblower Susan Lindauer, who was arrested and imprisoned under the Patriot Act and held WITHOUT TRIAL for a year for exposing Government lies about the need for war on Iraq. St. Paul Labor and Professional Bldg, 411 Main, St Paul, Mn. Presented by the St. Paul Regional Labor Federation. Chap 27 is a co-sponsor

Sat. March 23 10 am to 1 pm. Former National VFP President Leah Bolger will speak about LIVING UNDER DRONES: A report from the Delegation to Pakistan, of which she was a part of. St Frances Cabrini Church, 1500 Franklin Av. SE Mpls. This is WAMM's annual meeting and VFP members are welcome. Also that evening for VFP members and associates (place to be announced) a 7 pm gathering. Call Larry Johnson(612 747 3904) if you can be there.

Wed. Apr 3 6-8 pm.. A Report on U.S. Drone Policy with U.S. Rep Keith Ellison and guest panel experts with time for questions. UROC bldg. 2100 Plymouth Av. N., Mpls. VFP will be spreading the word on this especially within the Muslim communities. Free and open to the public. FFI: Keith Ellison's office 612 522 1212

ask for Bass Zanjani or bass.zanjani@mail.house.gov

Apr 8-10. SOA actions in D.C.

May 3. 7 pm. Going With God Against the Swords. Mayday Book Store, 301 Cedar Av., Mpls, 612-333-4719

Mon. May 27. Memorial Day VFP program Vietnam Wall State Capitol approach. FFI: Barry Reisch 651 757 8012

Sat. July 13. Peacestock at Paul and Trudie Schafer's farm near Hager City, WI. 10 am VFP upper Midwest Regional Meeting. invited speakers: Kathy Kelly and Dennis Kucinich. FFI: Bill 651-388-7733.

Aug 6-11. VFP National Convention Madison, WI. (If your National membership is due, please renew to one of the most active peace organizations oin the world.)

Tues Aug 27. Kellogg-Briand Celebration. St Paul. Details in next quarterly issue.

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

"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"

TOUR de PEACE

Cindy Sheehan will lead a Bike Ride for Peace beginning April 4, 2013, nine years after her son Casey was killed in Iraq. The tour will begin at Casey's grave in Vacaville, California and end July 4th in Washington, D.C. You can find the complete route and more information at <http://tourdepeace.org/index.html>

Drones, from page 12

parked cars.

ARGUS simplifies all this by making it much easier and much cheaper. Its low cost and low-manpower needs can make it extremely attractive to police departments.

And, second, it would not be difficult for ARGUS to find out who those people it recorded from 17,500 feet are. Studies have shown that knowing the zip code of where a person being tracked works and lives, things ARGUS is very good at, will identify five percent of the people recorded. That percentage can jump up to 50 percent with a little refinement. And if a specific name cannot be found, the person being watched by ARGUS can be placed within a group of only 21 names.

ARGUS stores everything. So if it identifies you, it knows everything you have done, everyone you have seen, and everywhere you have been. Truly a nightmare scenario, especially for activists.

But there has been some good news, too. There has been a flurry of activity at the state level to regulate the drone use in 30 states. Significantly, both Republicans and Democrats in state legislatures find drone technology extremely threatening to basic civil liberties and are attempting to enact state laws that would prevent that kind of abuse to privacy and civil liberties that ARGUS repre-



This is an ARGUS-IS image in Virginia, taken from 17,500 feet. The squares represent moving objects - people, cars, etc., - that ARGUS will track and store in computers and whose movements can be easily followed.

sents. Florida, of all places, might be the first to enact laws to limit drone use by law enforcement.

Of course, none of these laws have been enacted yet and a lot of powerful interests with lots of money want drones to be extensively used. But the fact that so many states and so many politicians of differing points of view see the threat in drones and the need to regulate them is kind of hopeful.

SOAWatch update

by Steve McKeown

As this goes to Press Rep. Jim McGovern should have introduced legislation that would require the U.S. government to suspend operations at the School of the Americas. The legislation also calls for an investigation into the connection between U.S. foreign military training and human rights abuses in Latin America. The SOA WATCH is asking people to contact their representatives to support this.

(FFI: www.SOA.org)

Statement on drones from Archbishop Desmond Tutu

On Feb. 13, 2013, Archbishop Tutu released the following statement: "Do the United States and its people really want to tell those of us who live in the rest of the world that our lives are not of the same value as yours? That President Obama can sign off on a decision to kill us with less worry about judicial scrutiny than if the target is an American? Would your Supreme Court really want to tell humankind that we like the slave Dred Scott in the 19th century are not as human as you are? I cannot believe it. I used to say of apartheid that it dehumanized its perpetrators as much as, if not more than, its victims. Your response as a society to Osama bin Laden and his followers threatens to undermine your moral standards and your humanity."



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

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Spring 2013 Newsletter

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SUPPORT THE TROOPS! BRING THEM HOME ALIVE NOW!

As of March 5, 2013:
4,486 dead in Iraq and
2,179 combat deaths in Afghanistan.

An estimated 18-22 veterans commit suicide each day.

The nightmare scenario . . . and some good drone news

by Frank Fuller

In January, the PBS show “Nova” featured a new technology for drones that creates what the ACLU calls “the nightmare scenario.” It’s a nightmare that might be coming to a city near you, and activists should be especially concerned.

It’s called the ARGUS-IS and it’s a 1.8 gigapixel camera that can watch a 15 sq. mile area with enough resolution to pick up something on the ground as small as six inches. It does this while hovering overhead at 17,500 feet. They call that capability “wide area persistent stare.”

Nova interviewed Dr. Yiannis Antoniadis, one of the directors of this project, and he showed how easily this drone camera can watch a city below. It tracks and records everything that moves and stores all that data in computers. Those who own this technology can watch where any individual was, where they went, where they stopped, who they met and what they did. They can watch it live as it happens or they can check on what someone was doing days or weeks ago. All they need to do is touch the image on the computer screen of the individual they want to observe, and a window opens, showing that person. The

images are even detailed enough to show what they are wearing.

The technology for this is not particularly new. It is closely related to the cameras that cell phones use; as Antoniadis explained it, it uses 368 video chips that are basically cell phone video chips. Its development was funded by the Defense Dept.’s DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) and it has been tested in several areas, including Virginia, from where the accompanying picture on page 10 was taken from 17,500 feet.

The ACLU points out several frightening aspects of this technology.

First, it is a more intrusive surveillance than has ever been used before. We Americans have already become used to cameras watching us in cities. On highways, cameras record license plate numbers so police can check on where you’ve been. You also might occasionally see police cars with mounted cameras go down your residential street recording the license plate numbers of all the

Drones, continued on pg. 11