



# VETERANS FOR PEACE NEWS

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL VETERANS FOR PEACE, CHAPTER 27

Veterans For Peace News is published quarterly by Mpls./St. Paul 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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Frank Fuller, editor;  
Tom Dooley, Pat Downey, Jennie Downey, Jean Heberle, Joan Johnson, Mike Madden, Steve McKeown, Mary McNellis, Barry Riesch.

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



Protesters in Jeju hold a peaceful demonstration against the Navy base in front of police.

## Local delegation protests US base in Jeju

by Barry Riesch

Last December, I joined a 12-member delegation of VFP members in international solidarity with the people from Gangjong village on the island of Jeju with their ongoing struggle to block a U.S. Navy base being built on their land.

The base is being built by the Korean government and will be used as the home port for the Aegis Missile Destroyer fleet, a part of the U.S. missile defense strategy. The U.S. will also use the base because the U.S. strategy is now pivoting into the Asia Pacific, which will require more airfields and ports-of-call for U.S. war planes and ships in that part of the world. This strategy will ultimately and provocatively surround China. Any wonder that China would feel threatened by this and

feel the need to further arm itself with high-tech weaponry?

The delegation was organized by Bruce Gagnon, who has been actively involved with Gangjong for several years, and Tarak Kauff, a national VFP board member. It was not heavily promoted to help prevent the possibility of being turned away by the South Korean government. This has happened in the past to other members. Tarak was delayed for 45 minutes in Seoul, but with persistence he was allowed to pass. Members came from states all across the U.S., from Maine to Minnesota to California and Hawaii.

Largely Vietnam War veterans, we were fortunate to have two young Iraq and Afghanistan war vets, and one 86-year-old Korean War vet, Stanley Levin. Stanley per-

Jeju, Continued on page 2

# Jeju, from page 1

formed night missions in North Korea during the Korean War and was determined to be on this trip, in spite of his age and the need for help in getting around. We were also privileged to have with us Ann Wright, former Colonel and Ambassador to Afghanistan, who has traveled many times to Gangjong.

I was first impressed with the strength of people on Jeju several years back after viewing the documentary *Ghosts of Jeju* at a VFP national convention put on by the filmmaker Regis Trembly. I remained concerned, but I did not have a chance to go to Jeju until this year. Even though I was interested in going to Jeju, it still took some urging by local activists for me to make the trip. Thanks to them for that push. The trip challenged me on many personal levels and was very meaningful. I am glad I made it.

Jeju Islanders have a long history of being oppressed but persevering in the face of that oppression. Following WWII, after being liberated from the Japanese, many Koreans wanted a unified Korea. But a divided government was put in place with a U.S. puppet leading the South. The people wanted a national election. Toward that end, there was a democratic uprising in 1947 in which six protesters were shot, and that became the roots of an eventual massacre.

Called the April 3rd Incident, Korean and U.S forces killed about 30,000 Jeju villagers (about a tenth of the population of Jeju at the time) and 100,000 on mainland Korea. Mostly civilians, they were shot, hanged or buried alive. The main reason for the massacre was to end the organizing for the national election.

In 2005 the massacre was recognized as an atrocity by a Truth and Reconciliation Commission that was based on the South Africa model. The dead were finally honored and the island was declared "The Island of Peace." A Wind of Peace Park was established that commemorates the lives of all the unnamed civilians who died. Each year, on April 3, people gather to remember this incident.



*The police move in on the demonstrators.*



*The author being led away by police at the demonstration.*

**BarryRiesch will be speaking about this trip on March 26 and 30 and on April 11. For details, see calendar page 14.**

## Notes from the President

by Dave Logsdon

*"If my thought-dreams could be seen...  
they'd probably put my head in a guillotine..."*

-Bob Dylan

All aboard! Chapter 27 is on the move! After two and half years on the West Bank, the stars have aligned, and we'll be headed down Cedar Avenue to 4200 Cedar. I pushed hard for us to move to the West Bank and I don't regret our time there. There were many reasons for moving now, including the lack of parking, the stairs, and the high rent. The office was under-used, and that helped make our decision an easier one.

Dave Bicking and his wife Jan, who owns the building at 4200, are life-long activists. We will be in this building along side WAMM, Anti-War Committee, MIRAC (immigrants rights), the Minnesota Green Party, Welfare Rights, and Community United Against Police Brutality. Being in the same building will help us communicate and work together!

### Synchronicity

On the very same night that Dave Bicking made me an offer we couldn't refuse, Ellen Abbott, our legal go-between

with the Harold Nielsen estate, called with exciting news. Our proposal to use the Nielsen \$20,000 bequeath to convert a bus/RV to a mobile "Peace Activities Center" was accepted by the family! This could be a game changer for our chapter. Elmer Duncan, bus committee chairman, wants to start a Kickstarter campaign, using the \$20,000 as starter. We want this to be a first rate vehicle, capable of traveling around the state and beyond. Coming to a neighborhood near you!

### Blood, Sweat, and Tears.....

*"My candle burns at both ends,  
it will not last the night,  
but ah, my foes, and oh, my friends-  
it gives a lovely light"*

-Edna St. Vincent Millay

We can't do it all by ourselves. We need to all pull together to fulfill our mission statement. Whether it's showing up to various actions, supporting Barry Riesch when he presents his Jeju experience, partnering with other peace and justice groups, creating art, supporting art projects, or working with theater groups. We need people to be part of our Speakers Bureau. We have VFPers like Dick Foley and Michael Orange who go into classrooms and speak their truth. Now, more than ever, we need to loudly speak our truth to power. We are on the precipice of a special time. Let's make a difference! All aboard!

## 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.

*"you can fool all of the people some of the time,  
you can fool some the people all of the time,  
but can't fool all of the people all of the time,  
I think Abraham Lincoln said that,  
I'll let you be in my dream, if you let me be in yours'  
I said that"*

-Bob Dylan

## **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**

## Eradicating trauma, one strong woman at a time

by Larry Johnson

Last August, members of Chapter 27 returned from our National Convention talking about a book, *The Wounds Within*, featuring members of the Lucey family who spoke at the convention. Jeff Lucey had joined the Marines, deployed to Iraq, and took his own life in 2004. The family decided to speak out about Jeff's experience and about the care he did or didn't receive. That activism thrust them together with Veterans For Peace in Boston, and ultimately Mark Nickerson, the veteran and therapist, who worked with them and wrote the book.

I missed the VFP convention, because I went with Elaine to the International EMDR conference in Philadelphia, to support her fight to make EMDR therapy available to veterans in Minnesota. Weeks before I heard about the VFP convention, Elaine had been reading to me from Nickerson's book, and at the banquet she introduced me to him as immediate past board chair for EMDR International.

My own experience, and that of many I know, is that EMDR surpasses anything out there for trauma, be it sexual assault, domestic abuse, severe traffic accidents, or PTSD, yet it is generally not available to veterans. During the 60s, I faced the draft with a spiritual conviction that would not allow me to deliberately kill, even in war. I signed up, willing to "be a medic, but not carry a weapon," and I believed my job was to get people back home where they belonged.

My attitude has always been we should all work as hard as we can to create far fewer veterans. But if someone ends up a veteran, they should get the best care possible. It should be unconscionable that veterans comprise the biggest percentage of homeless people, that 22 veterans a day take their own lives, or that military sexual assault still occurs. I have zero tolerance for people who shout "support the troops" as they vote down veterans benefits or vote for those who do. The slogan is too often a lie, code for "support the profit motive for perpetual war."

Mark Russell, a retired Navy commander, and now EMDR therapist in Washington State, wrote an article in Huffington Post (1/7/16), "Who Cares? Veterans Denied Access to Top PTSD Treatments." In it, Russell argues vehemently for treatment modalities like EMDR, saying,

*I have zero tolerance for people who shout  
"support the troops" as they vote down  
veterans benefits or vote for those who do.  
The slogan is too often a lie, code for "support  
the profit motive for perpetual war."*

"Despite significant evidence of leadership failures, public deception, and wrongful policies that potentially harm thousands of veterans and their families, there has never been an investigation, ceremonial firings, media outrage, or congressional hearings as to why the nation has failed again to meet the mental health needs of the warrior class."

This is why we're organizing WORLD STORYTELLING DAY this year as a benefit for Veteran Resilience Project ([www.resiliencemn.org](http://www.resiliencemn.org)), the nonprofit Elaine founded to keep EMDR available to veterans.

In 2003 I helped a group of storytellers worldwide organize World Storytelling Day, and every year, on or around March 20, there are events in about 25 countries at

[www.freewebs.com/world-storytellingday](http://www.freewebs.com/world-storytellingday). There is a worldwide theme each year, but always the inherent mantra, "If I can hear your story, it's harder for me to hate you." In 2014, when 11 veterans made Armistice

Bells on a State Arts Board grant, our event was BELLS RINGING FOR PEACE at Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis. Last year, when the theme was "Wishes," we did SEVEN STORIES I WISH THEY'D TELL ABOUT THE WAR IN VIETNAM at Macalester Plymouth United in St. Paul. This year, with a worldwide theme of "Heroines," our program is STRONG WOMEN TELLING STORIES ABOUT STRONG WOMEN, March 22 at St. Paul's Landmark Center.

Some of those strong storytellers are:

**Elaine Wynne** – Founder of Veteran Resilience Project. I happen to know she is telling a story she is frequently asked to tell to medical personnel training to work in disaster areas.

**Judy Brooks** – Landmark Center Programmer who helped us provide the platform for Captain Paul Chappell, author of *The Art of Waging Peace*, and for the Hiroshima/Nagasaki truth exhibit.

**Peggy Flanagan** – Director of Children's Defense Fund in Minnesota

**Renee Weeks-Wynne** – Augsburg student selected to be at Hiroshima Peace Institute last August. She will tell the story of Sadako, a call for an end to nuclear weapons.

**Chante Wolf** – member of Veterans for Peace, who you know will not hold back on the truth.

continued on next page

## From previous page

This evening is, of course, co-sponsored by Landmark Center, Veteran Resilience Project, and Mn. Alliance of Peacemakers (to which VFP 27 and 115 belong). Co-sponsors also include ERA Minnesota, Women Veterans Initiative, and Women's Congress for Future Generations-Future First MN. What good does it do if a woman can now choose to be a soldier, then come home and earn considerably less than a man, even if she's raising a family by herself? Julia Ward Howe was a strong woman when she proclaimed the original Mother's Day as a declaration against war. Share your strength with others and reserve your seats now for 7 p.m. March 22 at 612-747-3904 or [larryjvfp@gmail.com](mailto:larryjvfp@gmail.com)

## Kellogg Briand Essay Contest

by Steve McKeown

The West Suburban Faith Based Peace Coalition out of Chicago is once again sponsoring a Peace Essay Contest with a \$1000 award to the winner, \$300 to the runner up, and \$100 for third place. Essays will have to be directed to a person who can help promote knowledge of the Kellogg Briand Pact and from whom a response is expected. Essays will be judged not only on the quality of the essay, but also on the impact of the response. Everyone is eligible to participate, and essays need to be in by April 15, 2016. For rules and instructions contact [frankgoetz@comcast.net](mailto:frankgoetz@comcast.net)



## Book reading and signing

David Swanson will discuss the new edition of his book *War is a Lie* June 11 at 7 p.m. after a potluck supper at Macalester Plymouth United Church Social Hall, 1658 Lincoln, and at 9 and 11 a.m. just before Mass at St. Joan of Arc's, 4533 3rd Ave. S., Mpls. on June 12.

## *This war business*

# war heroes, war criminals, conscientious objectors

by Tom Dooley

The brave war heroes get 99 percent of the attention but the tiny number of brave heroes who refuse to be killers get no mention or are ridiculed for refusing to obey. Veterans For Peace should show respect and admiration for those brave enough to face the scorn and ridicule of friends, neighbors and even some family members

Alice Lynd, daughter of the life-long peace activist Staughton Lynd, has written a 44-page essay with the help of her father, titled "Moral Injury And Conscientious Objection: Saying No To Military Service." VFP members will recognize Brian Wilson, Canilo Mejia and several others whose lives are examined. Page 18 of the national quarterly, Fall 2015, is a full-page write-up. Copies are free, except for postage, at Quaker House 223 Hillside Ave., Fayetteville NC 28301. Phone: 910 323 3912.

### War Heroes

German soldiers who invaded France in WWI and WWII were war heroes to the Germans and war criminals to the French. U.S. soldiers who invaded France in WWI and WWII were war heroes to the French and war criminals to the Germans. Japanese soldiers who invaded Manchuria in 1937 and the Phillipines in 1941 were war heroes to the Japanese and war criminals to the Chinese and the Filipinos.

### War Criminals

U.S. soldiers who invaded Vietnam in 1965 were war heroes to Americans and war criminals to the Vietnamese. Years later, some members of Vietnam Veterans Against War considered themselves war criminals.

How about the many thousands of U. S. soldiers who attacked/invaded Panama, Grenada, Haiti, Iraq, Afghanistan and other nations over the years? Were we war heroes or war criminals?

### Trump Tops Himself

When asked if he would bring back waterboarding, he said, "Yes, and some things even worse."

# VFP member combats violence locally and nationally

by Joan Johnson

Veterans For Peace Chapter 27 member Andrew Henderson is not asleep at the wheel. He is “always on the alert” and encourages us all to do likewise. For starters, he produced a top-notch eye-opener film entitled *Rise of the Paramilitary Police*, which was shown to a receptive audience last July

at Peacestock. It documents the disturbing trend of arming our local police forces with military-style weaponry, supplying them with vehicles (including tanks) and then training them in military tactics. If you haven’t seen it yet, I recommend your viewing it on YouTube.

More recently, Henderson was in the news after exposing St. Paul police Sargent Jeff Rothecker’s January 16th social media comments. In the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* story about a Martin Luther King Day march planned by Black Lives Matter, Rothecker, writing on Facebook as “JM Roth,” encouraged people to run over peaceful Black Lives Matter protesters with their cars. He called the protesters “idiots” and also gave advice on how to cover up the intentional crime.

Upon making this disturbing discovery, Henderson wasted no time taking action. He took screen shots of the posts, then contacted St. Paul police, who put him in touch with the station’s Internal Affairs staff. Henderson’s meeting with Internal Affairs staff members can also be viewed on YouTube. His discoveries have subsequently been shown on national websites like Gawker and CNN, and were shown in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and on Good Morning America.

“Rothecker has a long history of disdain, hostility and aggression against protestors,” Henderson lamented, as he had been following earlier postings by him, and added, “Law enforcement officers are supposed to serve and protect people, not incite violence against them.”

Henderson is encouraged by the fact that he was listened to, treated respectfully and taken seriously by St. Paul Police staff in this situation. As a result of this action, Rothecker was suspended from the police force, was forced to apologize, and his social media account was disabled. On Jan. 17, Rothecker resigned from the St. Paul Police.

In addition to working a full-time job as a welder,



**JM Roth** Run them over. Keep traffic flowing and don't slow down for any of these idiots who try and block the street. Here is the deal, you continue to drive and if you hit someone make sure you call 911 to report the accident and meet the cops a block or two away and you can justify stopping further away because you feared for your safety since in the past people in this group has shown a propensity towards violence. Since they are trying to block the street and/or cross where there is no crossing you should not be charged with anything. Now, these idiots could try and sue you in civil court, but remember that it will be jury trial and so most likely it will come out in your favor.

*The Facebook post written by “JM Roth” that Andrew Henderson found and recognized as written by Jeff Rothecker.*

Henderson’s other “full time job” is to expose the injustices he sees locally and nationally, and he continues working hard to right the wrongs. On the national scene, he is outraged by the torture that is taught at the SOA in Fort Benning, Georgia, where he walked away from his own basic training, and continues speaking out about it.

He has also been busy building his own training program, which is available to anyone who is interested: “Know your Rights” and “Cop Watch.” He asserts that citizen-filming of police is critical, but, in his training sessions, cautions people in several ways: staying 15 to 20 feet away and keeping your hands out of your pockets, for example. In fact, he recently bought a former police car and has turned it into an official “Know Your Rights” and “Cop Watch” vehicle! If interested in learning more about his training program, you can contact Andrew by email at [thedrewks@gmail.com](mailto:thedrewks@gmail.com).

Andrew Henderson’s passion and drive to change things is an inspiration to me personally, because it shows me how an “ordinary citizen” just following his/her conscience can make extraordinary changes for making this a better world.

## WORLD BEYOND WAR

VFP members Leah Bolger, Bruce Gagnon, and Paul Chappell are among the impressive International Speakers Bureau headed up by David Swanson.

It is worth CHECKING out and SUPPORTING this bureau.

[www.worldbeyondwar.org/speakers/](http://www.worldbeyondwar.org/speakers/)

## Letter from Roy Bourgeois to VFP

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# S.O.A. Watch

P.O. Box 3330

Columbus, GA 31903

(706) 682-5369

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VETERANS FOR PEACE, CHAPTER 27  
ATTN: MARY MCNEELIS AND WAYNE WITTMAN

FEB. 7, 2016

My dear friends in Veterans For Peace,  
Thanks so much for your good letter and very generous gift of \$500 for our on-going work at the SOA Watch. I sent your gift to our national office in Wash., D.C. and you really made them happy. Know that we all appreciate all you have done for our movement over these many years.

In my files, I come across the enclosed letter. It wasn't long after this action that the Veterans For Peace in Minnesota came to Fort Benning with all those doors (with thousands of signatures) that said "SHUT THE DOOR ON THE U.S. MILITARY SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS!" Then you brought the bus-loads of people to our November Vigil every year. Words cannot express our gratitude for all you have done for the SOA Watch. You always gave us hope in the struggle.

We are now looking forward to seeing you at the Vigil on the U.S./Mexico border.

Love and Solidarity!  
Roy and All at  
SOA Watch

# Waiting For Godot

by Ron Staff

In the Veterans For Peace statement of purpose we note that as an organization we work to increase public awareness of the costs of war, and work to end the arms race and reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons. We are not alone in this work. There are many other organizations in this effort. Among them is Nukewatch.

In the late 1980s they produced a book telling how to get to each land-based missile the United States Air Force maintained out on the prairie. I played a very minor role.

John M. LaForge and Arianne S. Peterson have revised this very solid report on the United States of America's Nuclear Heartland. When one gets done reading this slim and simple record of the efforts

to bring attention to the truckloads of tax dollars being literally poured into holes in the prairie, the only close cultural parallel is Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*.

It is stunning to behold the whole enormity of hundreds and thousands of Air Force service men spending their whole careers waiting to push the actual buttons to end human existence at this point in our evolution. That the authors have been able to produce this clear-cut volume while maintaining their sense of a daily routine is just astounding. But of course, we have all participated in building this huge and expensive monument to nukes, death and wholesale destruction.

Hundreds of instruments buried in the ground, lying around Air Force bases and hiding on nuclear submarines at the bottom of the ocean (somewhere), their only function is to be shot to some other part of earth to create round, green glass lakes where there used to be towns with humans in them.

How is this not Never Never Land?

Millions of human beings are being led by the best and brightest to such a star of wonder. Dragging our tax dollars into holes, with us cheering them on. Who wouldn't want to

join such a happy crowd?

And we wait, ever hoping that nothing happens.

Veterans For Peace, Chapter 27, has joined the groups pointing to these absurdities and asking if others don't recognize what has been happening as we all approach the "spiritual death" that Martin Luther King once pointed out is the natural result of this use of our tax dollars.

On April 7, John LaForge will be promoting *Nuclear Heartland* at Garrison Keillor's Common Good Books store across from Macalester College on Snelling and Grand in St. Paul.

*It is stunning to behold the whole enormity of hundreds and thousands of Air Force service men spending their whole careers waiting to push the actual buttons to end human existence at this point in our evolution.*

Get a copy. Tell us that you can read about the Keystone Kop events happening in our continental midsection with these toys of mass destruction and not wonder how you ended up

living in our absurd democracy. The updated version is jammed with new scoops about the amounts of money pouring into this Department Of Defense activity and a few of the most egregious missileer actions, which never should have happened.

The bare skin is on the wall. Just look at it.

And wait. Wait with the rest of us.

And wonder. Wonder how much longer the misadventures can go on before someone goofs.

Then shake your head and make breakfast. Get to work. Wake up the kids. Wash the clothes. Do what needs doing. And wait.

Watch the wondering; though. To see the absurd is to know it. And know that we have and will live it for a while yet.

The crowd is mesmerized.

There is a hush. Eyes open and ears alert, everyone waits, not just Godot.

The play has been produced and criticized more than once. But, if the shoes fits...

A million here, a billion there, a trillion here, when is moral death?

How absurd can it get?

John and Arianne have the scoop for us. They did the digging and kept a straight face while recording the facts. Just the facts. And it is remarkable that one can read about the decades of piling up shiny new bombs with more to come in such a common book. With all the scoop; one sees the image that so mesmerizes our public officials. Just vote

## Changing Address?

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 Thank you



for the next defense budget. Just do it.

Nothing bad will happen. They are certain of this because it hasn't, yet, so why should it?

Let's hope we never hear, "I told you so," from either John or Arianne.

There is a whole literature of nuclear war scenarios that have gathered dust on the back shelves of libraries and been played out in unlikely *Mad Max* movies of some post apocalyptic world with unlikely-to-be-around humanoid-like creatures.

But it's our tax dollars. They're not going for nothing... Are they?

One is reminded of Mark Twain's dicta that his "War Poem" not be published in his own life time.

How odd. The master story teller of this nation (studied in post-graduate programs, whose autobiography just appeared because 100 years have passed since his death) did not want to face the imperialist public, if they saw his thoughts on the war in the Philippines.

Message carriers need to be careful of what they tell and to whom they tell it.

We are in this position with John, Arianne, Nukewatch, The Progressive Foundation and others. We agree to use only non-violent means. John has more time in jail for doing his work against nuclear weapons than I had time in the

United States Marine Corps.

Remember, we are just waiting.

While in this hiatus of waiting, go on over to Common Good Books on April 7, meet John, a fellow traveler on this road to a more humane world, and arm yourself with yet more awareness of the costs of war that the Nukewatch folks have put together for us private civilians. Add it to the message you carry into conversations with your friends and family.

One tidbit from page 28: "Professor Seymour Melman, chairman of the National Commission for Economic Conversion and Disarmament, pointed out in a December 17, 1999, column published in the *New York Times*: From 1947 to 1987, according to the Federal Government's own estimates, the United States spent \$7.6 trillion on the military, a sum roughly equal to the total value of the nation's plant and equipment, plus the value of its civilian infrastructure. This means that since 1947, our military has used up resources sufficient to rebuild nearly everything that is man-made in the United States."

And that was 29 years ago.

Be careful with how you handle the information in John and Arianne's revised edition. Remember Mark Twain.

Finally on page 82 you will find the small part played by this writer.

Semper Fi.

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## Pocket sized military spending facts card available

One strong argument against America's unending wars is economic: they are bankrupting the country. The problem, however, is that most people are unaware of how much tax money goes to war and how all our lives would be improved if that money were spent closer to home.

Now there is a small, index card-sized handout available online that can spread this message far and wide.

It points out, for instance, that if you make \$50,000 a year, you pay \$247.75 for Defense, \$235.81 a year for Medicare, \$36.82 a year for Food Stamps, \$6.96 a year for Welfare, \$3.98 a year for FEMA, and a whopping \$4,000 a year for corporate subsidies.

Other facts on this card: U.S. Military spending accounts for 34 percent of the world's military spending.

And did you know that the \$1.66 trillion cost of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan would have provided universal health-care for all Americans for 14 years?

This card was created by End War Committee of WAMM with help from VFP member Tom White, and it can be easily downloaded and printed and placed in coffee

shops, libraries, etc.

For easy to follow instructions on downloading, go to [www.mapm.org/postcards.htm](http://www.mapm.org/postcards.htm) or [www.womenagainstmilitarymadness.org](http://www.womenagainstmilitarymadness.org)

### Also from this card

The statistics on this card are always at your fingertips and you can give the card to anyone, even those relatives who insist Fox News tells the truth. Here is another interesting statistic from this card:

54 percent of the FY2015 discretionary budget (\$610 billion) will go to DOD and the other 21 departments/agencies will split the remaining 46%.

That translates to:

**DOD: \$610 billion.**

**Health/Human Services: \$78 billion.**

**Dept. of Education: \$72 billion.**

**Dept. of Justice: \$24 billion**

## The Peace Index

# Do overseas bases make us safer?

by Frank Fuller

Do all of our overseas bases make us safer in a world filled with terrorists? Or do they make us more likely to go to war somewhere?

David Vine, a writer and associate professor of anthropology, has studied this issue extensively and says they make us more likely to go to war.

“By making it easier to wage foreign wars, bases overseas have ensured that military action is an ever more attractive option -- often the only imaginable option -- for U.S. policymakers,” he wrote. “Ultimately, bases abroad have frequently made war more likely rather than less.”

He recently wrote *Base Nation: How U.S. Military Bases Overseas Harm America and the World*. He has been studying and writing about this issue for many years and he believes that the U.S. is spending over \$100 billion annually for overseas military bases in over 80 countries.

He says that there are about half as many bases now as there were in 1989, but the number of countries hosting a U.S. base has doubled since then, from 40 to about 80. He adds that if you include embassy guards and military trainers and advisors, we have a military presence in 160 countries.

What he concludes is simple: “Our overseas bases have made us all less secure, harming everyone from U.S. military personnel and their families to locals living near the bases to those of us whose taxes pay for the way our government garrisons the globe.”

So what else might \$100 billion buy that might actually make us safer and more secure?

Here are a few ideas.

**A child care tax credit tied to income** for preschoolers. According to a Center for American Progress proposal, a tax credit could provide as much as \$13,000 per year per child to a parent earning poverty-level wages. The credit would go down from there as income went up, and it would be paid directly to the child care facility of the parents' choice. Estimates of the cost of a program like this vary, but they range from \$40 billion to \$100 billion a year.

**The state of Minnesota spends about \$140 million a year on public defenders.** Nationally, the amount spent on public defenders has remained fairly steady since 1986, at a little under \$10 billion per year. Compare that with the amount spent on police and corrections: over \$100 billion

on police and over \$80 billion on corrections. Both those figures represent five-fold increases since 1986. Given that a good lawyer is necessary for anyone facing criminal charges and that even those in the middle class could go bankrupt hiring a lawyer, \$100 billion could make the justice system a little fairer.

**The National School Lunch Program** feeds 31 million students a year for \$16.3 billion. \$100 billion would fund this program for over six years. If the program included all students, \$100 billion could fund it for over two years.

**It costs about \$40,000 annually to take care of one homeless person who is on the streets.** These costs are due to things like emergency room visits, arrests for various offenses, and long-term health issues of untreated drug problems. Providing permanent housing for a homeless person reduces that cost about nearly 75 percent. In 2013 HUD estimated that there were 600,000 homeless people living on the streets nationwide. \$100 billion could buy each of those people a \$160,000 home.

The Congressional Budget Office projects that **veterans' health care costs will increase 45-75 percent** by 2020 over 2010, amounting to \$69-85 billion. These increases will be due to aging veterans and increased health care costs in general, not to an influx of veterans from our recent and continuing wars. \$100 billion could easily pay for these increases, and a little more as well. (See previous page for summary.)

You know, if Congress and President Eisenhower had been honest in their efforts in 1954, they wouldn't have changed Armistice Day to Veteran's Day, they would have called it Cannon Fodder Day.

-Mike Madden

## Full disclosure - still going on

by Ron Staff

**D**oug Rawlings is still seeking mail to be placed at The Wall in Washington, D.C. on Memorial Day this year.

This activity delivers a counter point to the millions of tax dollars the Department of Defense has set aside to attempt to convince citizens that their money was “well spent” killing the people of and poisoning the country of Vietnam for lo those many years. It is much like what is being perpetrated on the ancient country of Afghanistan today.

Any thoughts members or others associated with Veterans For Peace have about the era of the American war in Vietnam are being sought. After all, as Michael Herr posited in *Dispatches*, “Vietnam, Vietnam, Vietnam, we are all veterans of Vietnam.” Pull out your journals, turn on the computer word processing program, go through those old letters you wrote to Susie and your pals, dig down in your soul and find the counter point to an “heroic endeavor.” Record it and send it off to Doug.

Help build the inexpensive, but archived historical context to leaden the official effort to make that war ring out and draw-in the next set of conscripts or economic volunteers for killing others to make our world safe for Wall Street.

Full Disclosure offers up the site for our million different stories. I recall the Marine “Grunt General” being sent back to Vietnam and paraded around our northern posts promoting that those going home needed to tell those at home how important it was for us to win the war. Quietly, I thought to myself, at the time, that the country was in big trouble, if anyone thought that the returning troops were going to “turn the tide” of public opinion with their observations about being “in-country.”

I doubt that even one Marine within ear shot of Lew Walt said anything that he would have liked to heard, once that Marine was out of the service.

Serve up your thoughts. Get them to the national office



*Photo by Ellen Davidson from vietnamfulldisclosure.org*

in St. Louis or directly to Doug or Michael or Tarak or to our local chapter or go to [vietnamfulldisclosure.org/index.php/memorial-day-2016-event/](http://vietnamfulldisclosure.org/index.php/memorial-day-2016-event/).

### The Monsanto Lady and the Death Penalty

by Steve McKeown

Presidential candidate Hilary Clinton has said she is against the death penalty except for heinous crimes. She has accepted \$335,000 from Monsanto in speaker fees who was one of the war contractors for Agent Orange that has caused hundreds of thousands of deaths, illness, and deformities. Her campaign advisor is Jerry Crawford, a long time lobbyist for Monsanto. FFI google Food For Democracy.

## In memoriam

### Wayne Wittman

by Mary McNellis

**T**hursday, February 25, 2016: Last night I got a phone call informing me Wayne Wittman was in the hospital, unresponsive. It was serious; the family requested no visitors. This morning another phone call; Wayne didn't survive the night. He'd had a heart attack while riding the MTC bus home from a union gathering. He was rushed to the hospital but never regained consciousness. That's the extent of my knowledge at this point in time; more details will come, but not in time for publication in this newsletter.

Much more will be written, but I would like to share my feelings of sadness at losing a friend, a mentor, a role model, a comrade in the peace movement. I am relatively new to

VFP. Wayne, on the other hand has been involved since 1987. He was elected to the National VFP Board for three terms and served in numerous capacities and offices in the local chapter, most currently as treasurer. In 2014 he was awarded the National VFP Howard Zinn Lifetime Achievement Award.

As I gradually worked my way into the inner circle of the chapter, I began having more interactions with Wayne. We were both active in the Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers. The last time I saw Wayne, I was seated next to him at the February 6th MAP retreat. He mentioned he had to leave early to attend another civic function; he quietly slipped out of the room before I had a chance to say good-bye.

We collaborated for three years on the SOAW Fort

continued on next page

### Lynn Elling

by Larry Johnson

**L**ynn Elling went to eternal peacemaking on Valentines Day, 2016. I met Lynn Elling in 1986 when Mary Schepman, principal of Longfellow International Fine Arts school in Minneapolis, asked me to work there as a specialist, teaching students to tell stories and to make their own video, particularly videos sent back and forth between countries as International Video Exchange. Mary had been in Russia on an educator's exchange during the nuclear freeze effort, and she connected me with Lynn because our school was to become the first Minnesota Peace Site, an effort of the World Citizen organization Lynn founded. Because I knew the new Minnesota Commissioner of Education from a previous job, I went with Lynn and, in amazement, watched him sell this high level person on the idea of endorsing the peace site concept. I was accustomed to most people at high levels being afraid to talk about peacemaking, unless it had to do with keeping the peace by



having more missiles than anyone else.

After his experience as an officer during World War II, Lynn was a successful insurance salesman, and during that time and especially his long retirement, he dedicated much of his time and money to build a large network of schools and other institutions, committed to conflict resolution at home and to more peaceful negotiation at a larger world level. He could be pushy, in keeping with the stereotype of being a salesman. He also could have chosen to do retirement work that would have given him broader recognition in a world that still values war more than genuine peace. Lynn was a member and contributor to Veterans for Peace. His experience of the horrors of modern warfare, and the conviction that we must find a way to end it, stuck with him and pushed him to help many others dare to admit the same. I know he will keep pushing all of us from his place of rest, that is, if he rests.

Benning VFP bus trip. This past Monday he phoned me to proudly report that an outstanding debt from the trip was finally getting paid and he could relax. It was the last time we spoke.

We collaborated on updating our VFP mailing list, a source of constant frustration to both of us. Today in the mail I received an envelope with address updates, the last letter from him I will receive.

I always appreciated Wayne, but as they say, you never know when the last time you will see someone will be the last. Although I didn't get to say good-bye, I trust Wayne knew how much I loved and respected him.

I describe Wayne as a gentle Lion. He was brave enough to tackle anything, never backed down from a challenge. Mostly quiet - until he got angry - which was rare. He would quietly make his point, but then shut up, not one to argue an issue to death. He exemplified cooperation and collaboration; willing to go with majority rule, "go along to get along" as long as it didn't betray his values. Not a mean bone in his body, his gentle humor went a long way in calming any situation. He was a model of grace and good manners, unfailingly polite, dignified and humble. Other words that describe him: amazing, inspiring, energetic and passionate.

We had developed an easy relationship. When we met he always appreciated getting a kiss (being one of the few women in the group a privilege I uniquely enjoyed). After he gave up driving, my husband and I always made sure he got a ride home from meetings. During those rides I learned a little about his life as a boy, experiences we had in common. He lost his father at a young age and had to take on tremendous responsibility. He developed compassion for the poor because he had been there. He'd spent three and a half years in a VA hospital with tuberculosis and therefore had tremendous compassion for his clients when he worked as a rehabilitation counselor.

Wayne served as a medic in the Navy from 1948-51 including duty off the coast of Korea during the Korean War. Although he had planned to make a career of the Navy, he received a medical discharge when he contracted tuberculosis. Wayne was proud of his military service, but in



1967 realized our government was lying and became critical of our country's actions in Vietnam and felt "we were intervening in another country's political situation." At that point he "came out of the closet" (his words), and joined the peace movement. He describes it as a turning point in his life. Born on September 11, another of his pet crusades was exposing the lies told about 9/11 and other false flag events.

At our 2013 Lake Superior retreat I remember being regaled by his many tales of adventure traveling to SOAW and South America and the people he'd met. Both mornings when I got up, Wayne was sitting quietly in the corner doing his daily Bible and spiritual readings. Besides his family, he was devoted to his

church. He was very proud of being a deacon. I typically sat next to him at VFP meetings; his eyes closed, he often appeared to be snoozing. I'm not convinced he wasn't actually meditating. He was pro-life in the best sense, advocating for all life, not just the unborn. Although a deeply spiritual man, you wouldn't know it by talking with him. He was far too respectful to impose his religious beliefs on anyone. In short, he walked the talk.

Besides VFP, Wayne was active in the Labor movement since 1958 in various capacities. MN AFL-CIO President, Shar Knutson, referring to Wayne's track record of union volunteerism and leadership, called him the "conscience of the labor movement" in the Twin Cities.

My husband, Steve, says Wayne made him proud to be involved with peace and social justice, "he put a good face on it, made it seem so noble." Because of Wayne's involvement with unions, Steve even has a better opinion of unions. "He was always kind to everyone. No hazing with Wayne. If you're involved, he's with you. If you're not, he would listen to you explain. If there was any judgment, he didn't show it."

One of Wayne's favorite sayings was to "encourage people to do as much as possible, but praise and thank them if all they do is wear a VFP hat in public." Wayne wore his faded VFP hat everywhere. And did so much more. To say he will be greatly missed is a huge understatement.

## Swanson book talk and book signing

RootsAction.org campaign coordinator David Swanson will speak about the latest developments in the telling and the debunking of lies about wars. He will answer questions and sign copies of his new book, *War Is A Lie: Second Edition* at 6 p.m. on June 11 at Macalester Plymouth Church Social Hall, 1658 Lincoln, St. Paul (located near Grand and Snelling avenues near Macalester College) and on June 12 at 9 and 11 a.m. at St. Joan's, 4533 3rd Ave. So., Minneapolis. There will also be a peace pole dedication at 2 p.m. at St. Joan's.

David Swanson is an author and activist who has dedicated himself to challenging the repetitive falsehoods generated by those in power to justify armed conflict. *War Is A Lie* is a handbook of sorts, an engaging, always informative manual that can be used to debunk future lies before new wars have any chance to begin.

For this edition of the book, the original 2010 version has been updated and expanded with material on lessons from the United States' most recent wars, more pointers on what can be done to end warmaking, and an epilogue that analyzes new trends in war propaganda and ways to resist it. No one to whom you give this book can claim they haven't been warned!



**America has been at war  
222 out of 239 years  
since 1776. Let that  
sink in for a moment.**

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### ONGOING EVENTS

At the time of printing we are moving our office. Please contact 612 821 9141 for monthly meeting times.

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

### OTHER EVENTS

March 21, 6:30 p.m., "Nonviolence in an Era of Endless War," speech by Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer, St. Joan of Arc (Potluck followed by talk and Q&A) 4537 3rd Av .S., Mpls.

March 22, 6-9 p.m., "Strong Women Telling Stories of Strong Women," Landmark Center. 75 W. 5th St., St. Paul (See article on page 4.)

March 26, 2 p.m. Report from JeJu Island by Barry Riesch at MayDay Books, 301 Cedar Ave., Mpls

March 30, 7 p.m., Report from Jeju Island by Barry Riesch, Unity Church Unitarian, 733 Portland Ave. (at Grotto), St.Paul.

April 7, 7-9 p.m., *Nuclear Heartland*, John LaForge speaking about the revised Nukewatch book at Common Good Books, 38 Snelling Av. S., St. Paul (See article on page 8.)

April 11, 7 p.m., *Ghosts of JeJu* with talk by Barry Riesch, WAMM film night, 4200 Cedar Ave., Mpls.

May 30th, 9:30 a.m., VFP Memorial Day Observance, South State Capitol Grounds near Vietnam Memorial.

June 11th, 6:30 p.m. potluck dinner, *War is a Lie* talk at 7 pm with author David Swanson speaking about the 2nd edition of his book. Macalester Plymouth United Church Social Hall, 1658 Lincoln Ave., St. Paul. Free will offering.

June 12, 9 and 11 a.m., David Swanson speaking just prior to the Masses at St Joan of Arc, 4537 3rd Av. S., Mpls. David will also speak at this Church's re-dedication of their Peace Pole at 2 p.m.

July 9, Peacestock at Red Wing. Tickets avail at 612 821 9141

Aug 11-15 VFP National Convention UC Berkeley Campus

## Peacestock scheduled for July 9

We have had another bout of winter weather but summer will be just around the corner and so will Peacestock 2016. A committee of Veterans For Peace, Chapters 27 and 115 are planning this year's program. Peacestock 2016 will be held Saturday, July 9, 2016, at the Hobgoblin Barn west of Red Wing, MN, where it has been for the past two years.

The committee decided on a theme and we chose "Terrorism: Definitions, Causes and Effects." In this 2016 Presidential race, terrorism has been an important topic but just what is terrorism, who is a terrorist, and why do they exist. No one seems to address or attempt to answer these questions so we want to explore these issues by getting dynamic speakers to help shed some light on this. Maybe

some solutions to these problems might come forth during our discussions.

Peacestock will again be a full day of education and fun. The Wild Colonial Bhoys have decided to return to Peacestock with some new songs. Ticket prices remain \$30 for individuals, \$50 for couples and \$10 for students. Tickets also include an evening meal. Tickets will be available soon from VFP 115 and 27 members. You can also go to the website, [www.peacestockvfp.org](http://www.peacestockvfp.org) to get information or call me, Bill Habedank, at 651-764-1866.

More information will be available in our summer newsletter (June 2016).

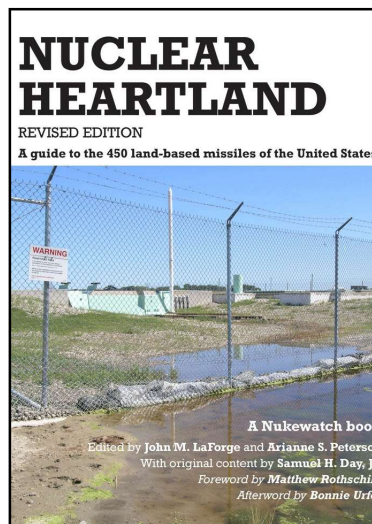
# BOOK TOUR

**JOHN LAFORGE**

Anti nuclear activist - Nukewatch

**NUCLEAR HEARTLAND**  
**Revised Edition**  
**A guide to the 450 land-based**  
**missiles in the United States.**

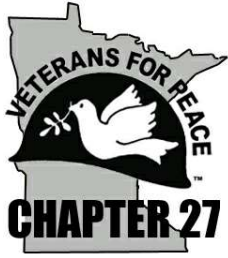
Common Good Books, 38 S. Snelling Ave., St. Paul  
 Thursday, April 7, 2016, 7 pm



"...a frightening book; one every American should read. It raises the question of who are the real terrorists of our age and demands that we... rid ourselves of the mentality that clings to the idea that nuclear weapons increase our security."— Marie Braun, End War Committee of Women Against Military Madness  
 "Nuclear Heartland... makes one feel that the over 400 missile silos that remain should be dismantled. This publication is a very real asset giving hope that this can actually be accomplished.— Steve McKeown, founding member Chapter 27 Veterans for Peace

"One of the most frightening books that I have ever read."— Dr. Helen Caldicott, Physicians for Social Responsibility  
 "The heartland of the US should be used to grow needed crops, not harbor weapons of mass destruction. ... As political elites pursue a new cold war and the menace of nuclear weapons continues to build, Nuclear Heartland: Revised Edition reliably extends our horizons for renewed nonviolent resistance."— Kathy Kelly, Co-coordinator of Voices for Creative Nonviolence

**Presentation and discussion sponsored by Nukewatch, Veterans For Peace Ch. 27, and Women Against Military Madness. Free and open to the public. All are welcome.**



**Veterans For Peace Chapter 27**  
4200 Cedar Av. S., Suite 7  
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## **SUPPORT THE TROOPS! BRING THEM HOME ALIVE NOW!**

As of Mar. 2, 2016:

At least 6,876 dead in Iraq and Afghanistan;  
over one million injured veterans (see below).

An estimated 22 veterans die from suicide each day,  
amounting to over 24,090 over the past three years.

## **Strong Women Telling Stories of Strong Women**

**“If I can hear your story, it’s harder for me to hate you”**

March 22nd, 6-9 p.m. Landmark Center, 75 West 5th St., St. Paul  
[www.landmarkcenter.org](http://www.landmarkcenter.org)

Every year since 2003 there are World Storytelling Day events on or around March 20th, in more than 25 countries listed at: [www.freewebs.com/worldstorytellingday](http://www.freewebs.com/worldstorytellingday).

This event is a benefit for the Veteran Resilience Project. [www.resiliencemn.org](http://www.resiliencemn.org)  
Suggested donation is \$10.

Tabling and information networking at 6 p.m.  
PLEASE RESERVE YOUR SEAT(S) AT:  
612-747-3904 or  
[larryjvfp@gmail.com](mailto:larryjvfp@gmail.com)

Program Begins at 7 with Seven Storytellers:

**Judy Brooks**, Landmark Center Director of Community Programming

**Peggy Flanagan**, State Representative 46A, and Director of Children's Defense Fund

**Catrina Huynh-Weiss**, Writer/Producer; Immigrant to U.S. after the 1975 "Fall of Saigon"

**Rose McGee**, Social Justice Activist; Creator of Sweet Potato Comfort Pie Initiative

**Renee Weeks-Wynne**, Augsburg Student; Kawase Fellow at Hiroshima Peace Institute in 2015

**Elaine Wynne**; EMDR Therapist, Founder of Veteran Resilience Project

**Chante Wolf**, Persian Gulf War Veteran for Peace; Activist with the Women Veterans Initiative {WVI}

Cosponsors: ERA Minnesota, Landmark Center, Mn Alliance of Peacemakers, Veteran Resilience Project, Women's Congress for Future Generations-Future First MN and Women Veterans Initiative