



# 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)



VFP at this year's MayDay Parade.

## A simple gift at the Mayday Parade

by Doug Drews

How many times have I walked in this parade down Bloomington Avenue with fellow dreamers of a better society? I suspect many walk this street to express who they are for one day. Many of us walk it to express our hope to change a society that for us falls short of the Preamble of the Constitution. Society no longer works for the general welfare of the people.

Over the many years that I have walked the parade route and other actions, this has been expressed to me many times in many ways. People come from all over to be a part of the expression. As we all know, working to make workers' lives better takes a lot of work and many lives.

This year I decided not to walk the entire

distance . . . maybe bail out out at 31st Street, so after we passed Lake St., I was looking for an exit from the walk, when a young girl about six years old came out of the crowd with a flower. She asked me if I would like to take it. One girl, one old man, one flower. I said, "Of course I would," and put it on my coat.

Such a simple gift of acknowledgement for action can renew your commitment to continue to do the right thing! We know this from our experiences from marches and trips to Ft Benning and other military bases. I decided to walk the rest of the route.

An action by a child can renew your faith in original human understanding. Children don't know about capitalism! They are taught it! Capitalism breeds imperialism. Imperialism breeds war!

## Notes from the President

by Dave Logsdon

“There is no greater agony  
than bearing an untold  
story inside you.”  
-Maya Angelou-

As Veterans so many of us know the agony of carrying that untold story inside of us. It almost seems like a theme for us this year at the Chapter; telling our stories.

Thinking back about the marvelous evening of song, bell ringing and stories in March at the Bell Project event held at Plymouth Congregational Church, I thought this is the important thing we can give to the greater community for the greater cause of world peace. Our stories entertain, enlighten, inspire, and provoke deeper reflection. We have a talented group at Chapter 27, dedicated to bringing these stories to the people and with our ongoing education, arts, and collaboration with schools, churches, and other peace and justice groups, we are making it happen.

As your president, I promise to match your enthusiasm as we venture forward, speaking “our truth” to power! The universal peace movement is a noble effort and we at Veterans For Peace are willing to put our shoulders to the wheel.

There is an exciting summer ahead of us with Peacestock, the National Convention in Ashville and Kellogg-Briand Day and with your help we can keep this momentum for peace rolling down the highway!

**THE FLOODS ARE COMING!  
SAVE AMERICA!**

Do your civic duty  
and help sell canoe raffle tickets.

**The War Crimes Times**

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**[www.warcrimestimes.org](http://www.warcrimestimes.org)**

## *This War Business:* ... and Memorial Day

by Tom Dooley

*Mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa.  
Through my fault, through my fault, through my most  
previous fault. (from The Confiteor)*

Is there any leader anywhere who ever takes responsibility for sending soldiers to kill or be killed, or do they just hide behind the flag and nationalism?

I began saving Memorial Day obituary pages about 60 years ago, I guess to have evidence. I’ve been puzzled to see the time energy and money spent. The Memorial Day “Remembrance” pages have hundreds of thousands of insertions costing millions of dollars. Very expensive.

The typical commemoration includes parades, graveside gatherings, prayers, flags, speeches, rifle volleys, taps, tears and flowers.

Politicians, military officials, priests, ministers, rabbis and imams mourn and praise the departed but what do they say about ending war so there would be no more dead or suffering veterans?

Depending on who you ask, war is basic to human nature therefore unavoidable. But what if it’s caused by human behavior? If it’s in our “nature,” there’s a big problem. If it’s “behavior,” we can change it.

Does Memorial Day promote war or just make it more acceptable?

*A bayonet is a weapon with a worker at each end.*

## Movie night

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

These movies are scheduled every Wednesday following Chapter 27’s general meeting on the second Sunday of each month. The next scheduled showings are July 16 and August 13. All are welcome; spread the word.

## Duluth Superior VFP chapter threat to Memorial Day Parade

by Steve McKeown

The VFP Chapter 80's float was barred from the annual Memorial Day Parade in Duluth by the Northland Veterans Services Committee that operates the annual event. This ban is for eternity, according to the committee, which maintains that VFP is "too political and disruptive." The threatening theme of this year's float is "HONOR the Fallen, HEAL the Wounded, WORK for PEACE" as seen in the photo at right.

In a letter to the *Duluth News Tribune*, Chapter 80 member Tom Morgan writes: "The purpose of Memorial Day is to honor and remember people who lost their lives in service to the country. Count us among those who believe in honoring the fallen. Many people have worked to expand and protect the freedoms we enjoy in this country. These struggles were fought by peo-

ple in our legislatures, courts, and streets. Many have given up personal wealth and comfort, and some have even lost their lives: abolitionists, suffragettes, civil rights workers, voting rights activists, labor union organizers, whistleblowers, peace marchers, and of course members of our armed forces. Our attitude is that the best way to honor people who died for us is to work for peace."

The chapter later held its own remembrance at Lake Place Peace Plaza, and rang bells. I spoke to chapter member John Pegg, who said there was great support for the



chapter on this issue, and over 125 people joined them in their remembrance.

In the past I have sent a small donation to help their float travel around Minnesota. I am sending another one, and encourage others who can to do likewise. I believe it is better money spent than all of the fly-overs in anytime or place. Encouragements and donations can be sent to: VFP Chapter 80, P.O. Box 16, Duluth, MN 55801. Comments can also be made on their Facebook page

### ***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**

# Everything is coming up peace bells

by Larry Johnson

Long ago people learned to make bowls of clay to eat and drink from. Accident and experimentation taught them that tapping the bowls made sound, and metals, especially bronze, made better sound. An inverted bowl became a bell to sound danger or a call to meal or meeting. In times of war, too many bells have been melted down to make weapons of violence to further, in a paraphrase of Eisenhower's famous quote, a theft of food from the bowls of too many people of the world.

Thanks to the State Arts Board and the voters of Minnesota, veterans and activists worked with sculptor Gita Ghei this year to make their own bell of peace. Our long, hard work of restoring the peaceful symbolism of the 1918 Armistice became the backdrop for this. Over six months we built a solid community as we drew designs, made wax molds, mixed and poured plaster casts, and finally poured the bronze that became each bell. Bruce Berry, Matt Bockley, Heinz Brummel, Stephen Gates, Ted John, Larry Johnson, Steve McKeown, Lorrie O'Neal, Jim Ricci, John Thomas, Chante Wolf, and Craig Wood all did the peaceful, meditative, artistic work of creating their own bell to ring out peace. I also can't thank our great treasurer, Tim Hansen, enough for managing all the finances of the special arts grant. The message and the symbolism is so important, but it falls out of sight if the support work fails. Tim makes it work.

Stephen Gates, veteran and bellmaker, said, "After spending years in denial about the meaning of my military experience, I landed on the desire to create peace on earth. I'm a visual artist, but always wanted to do some casting. This project allowed me to do that, helping to make some sound ripple into the pond of peace."

I'm not a visual artist, and would not have signed on to this, except for what it was about. I'm a storyteller, a "word artist," so my own bell has a simple design, good sound, and the words "Ring Out Light." I researched the songs and stories, the history of bells. The Liberty Bell (bell of freedom) was cast three times, and each time it cracked, thus Leonard



*Dale Rott in front of Kellogg Exhibit he created at Festival*

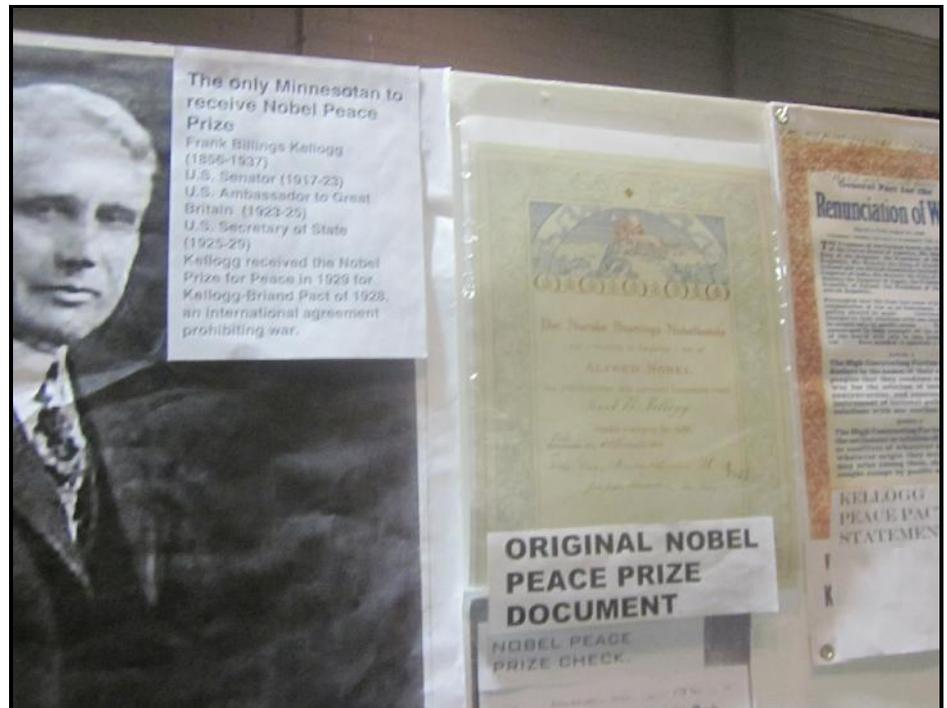
Cohen's song, "Ring the bells that still can ring; forget your perfect offering. There is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in." I was thinking of the saying, "First casualty of war is truth," and the New Testament saying, "Know the truth that will make you free." When someone says, "Thank you for fighting for our freedom," I say, "I'm fighting for the truth that makes us free; the light that shines into the darkness." My bell rings out the light of truth.

The peace bells grant called for a culminating public event, so we staged an evening on March 20, World Storytelling Day, at Plymouth Congregational Church. World Storytelling Day grew from an earlier 1990s annual event in Scandinavia, and began in 2003, as the United States was preparing to invade Iraq. Every year since then, on or around March 20, there are events in 25 or more countries worldwide, all in the spirit of, "If I can hear your story, it's harder for me to hate you."

Our event began with the Plymouth Bell Choir, led by Cammy Carteng, playing Dona Nobis Pacem. As we gave a Kellogg-Briand Pact banner to Plymouth Minister Jim Gertmenian, we were still putting down extra chairs for the over 125 people who filled the room. Steve McKeown told the history and deep meaning of our work with Armistice Peace Bells. VFP member Wes Davey rang a bell made from a World War I artillery shell. We had failed at getting discarded shells to melt into the mix that our bells were cast

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from, so this contribution from Curt Oliver, former music director at Macalester Plymouth Church, added that element. Jack Pearson, musician/storyteller, led us in "If I Had a Bell to Ring," and played music on a jaw harp made from melted down pieces of a crashed B-17. Rose McGee, storyteller/musician, told the story of her father, African/American World War II veteran, coming back into life, and Elaine Wynne, storyteller, told the Irish Folktale, "Peddlar of Ballaghadreen," with the old Peddlar's deliberate "putting one foot ahead of another" to get where St. Patrick said he needed to be going, so reminiscent of the hard, painstaking work it is to make peace happen. The inspirational evening ended with words of meaning from the bell-makers, who then rang the bells they made, simultaneously, 11 times.



*Part of the Kellogg exhibit at the Festival of Nations.*

We thought March 20 was our closing, celebratory event, but even as we were planning it, we were asked to be a part of the annual Festival of Nations at River Centre in St. Paul. The Festival of Nations is an enormous event, with two days for students and teachers, and two open to the general public. It's organized by the International Institute each year, and draws thousands of visitors from the five state area. The theme this year was "Peace Among the Nations," and Linda DeRoode, Festival Director, asked us to have a Peace Bell Exhibit and to ring Bells of Peace each day at 11 a.m. Dale Rott, retired Bethel College Professor, and Festival mainstay, found our work on the Kellogg-Briand Pact, and asked Steve McKeown to help build a Kellogg exhibit at the Festival. He also built an indoor Peace Garden with Walter Enloe of Hamline, and asked Elaine and me to tell the Sadako story we have told for many years at the August 6 Hiroshima Remembrance at the Lake Harriet Peace Garden. We asked, "Well, then how about the Frank Kellogg story too," so three of the four days we told, each hour, either the story of Sadako, the young girl in Hiroshima who inspired the world to fold cranes for peace, or the story of Frank Kellogg, the only Minnesotan to ever receive the Nobel Peace Prize. The other day, Margi Preus, of Duluth read her children's book about the Duluth Peace Bell.

It was an amazing experience which we could not have planned. We talked with many teachers with interest in having us come speak, or help them do their own November 11

Armistice remembrance. Some talked of having a kiln in school and of engineering their own casting of peace bells. Steve arranged for us to give copies of David Swanson's book *When the World Outlawed War* to a number of teachers who clearly had the interest and commitment to use it in their teaching and share with others in the school. Chante created a beautiful photographic table display of the bell-making process, and all in all, we were well received. Our message, framed by the visual of casting bells for peace, was delivered in the spirit of a 1929 speech by President Calvin Coolidge at Arlington Cemetery on Memorial Day. Coolidge, President when the Kellogg-Briand Pact was signed, said, "**We are gathered to remember those who gave their lives in service to the country, and there is no greater tribute we could pay than to do everything possible to keep such wars from happening again.**" Elaine worked the table a couple days and said, "So many students asked about the bells. When I said veterans made them because they're looking for better ways to solve conflict than war, they said, 'Cool. Just like Gandhi.' Many were clearly from countries torn by war, and their faces brightened to learn that veterans of war were trying to turn that around."

Dale Rott gave us multiple comp tickets for workers to enter the festival. I won't try to name them here, but thanks to all the members who came to be at our exhibit and talk to festival visitors about what we do and why. I hope you all

**Continued next page**

## VFP SOAW BUS TRIP set for Nov. 21-24

by Mary McNellis

For the 24th year, the School Of America Watch will hold its annual protest and vigil to close the SOA/WHINSEC at Fort Benning, GA. The rally and vigil at the gates of Fort Benning is a valuable place for groups to network, organize, and mobilize as well as opportunity for personal learning and growth.

The purpose of the vigil is to put pressure on our government to close this school (formerly called School of Americas AKA School of Assassins, now officially called WHINSEC: Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation). This school, funded by U.S. taxpayers, trains foreign military personnel, most of whom are Latin American, in subjects like counter-insurgency, military intelligence and counter-narcotics operations. SOA graduates have included some of the worst and most notorious human rights abusers in Latin American history, have led military coups and are responsible for massacres of hundreds of people.

SOA graduates were responsible for the Uraba massacre in Colombia, the El Mozote massacre of 900 civilians in El Salvador, the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero and the massacre of 14-year-old Celina Ramos, her mother Elba Ramos and six Jesuit priests in El Salvador and hundreds of other human rights abuses. Since its inception in 1946 more than 60,000 members of Latin American militaries have attended the SOA.

VFP Chpt. 27 is once again chartering a bus from Minneapolis to the gates of Fort Benning for participation in Saturday's celebratory rally (music, puppets, speakers and more). After the rally the bus will drop the group off at the downtown Columbus Marriot hotel for a comfortable night's stay and opportunity to attend activities across the street at the convention center, which will include workshops, caucuses, cultural and musical events. Sunday morning the group returns to the gates for the powerful, solemn vigil during which the names of the many victims of SOA graduates are recited: *PRESENTE!*

The bus leaves Minneapolis at 8 a.m. Friday, Nov. 21, and arrives at Columbus GA late Saturday morning. The bus will return after the vigil ends on Sunday and arrive in Minneapolis Monday afternoon, Nov. 24. The bus ride itself is part of the experience. On the bus, VFP members will be screening DVDs, sharing their thoughts and experiences relating to the SOA and other peace efforts and encouraging riders to do the same.

For specific info about the bus trip please email ques-

tions to Wayne Wittman: waynecwittman@gmail.com. Or call 651-695-5297.

To register, please email vfpsoaw@yahoo.com requesting a registration form. Confirmation and specific details will be sent upon receipt of payment. There is a maximum of 48 passengers; registration will close when this number is reached. Let's fill the bus and shut down the SOA!!

If payment is received by Oct. 20, the price per person for bus and shared double room is \$275. There are also early and late registration rates, and options for rooms with one, three or four persons.

The earlier you register, the less you pay. The first figure in each line below is the price per person if payment is received by 9/20. The second figure is the price per person if payment is received by 10/20. And the third is the price per person if payment is received by 11/20. Here is the rate schedule: bus/one person per room: \$330, \$350, \$390; bus/two persons per room: \$260, \$275, \$310; bus/three persons per room: \$238, \$250, \$285; bus/four persons per room: \$226, \$240, \$270.

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## Peace bells, from previous page

got to also get out and visit the festival. The day I managed that, I found many wonderful stories from around the world. Taiwan's exhibit focused on Kinmen Memorial Park, where they have a Peace Bell made from shells fired at them in a 1958 battle. Italy showcased St. Francis, and Maria Montessori, who built an outstanding educational system in Italy, but was chased out when she refused to let it serve the fascism growing up in Europe. Wherever she went, she sowed the seeds of educating children to be "whole" creators of peace, and when government systems didn't want her, she moved on, hoping her efforts would secretly keep growing. Czechoslovakia highlighted Václav Havel, the great artist/leader, whose "velvet revolution" had a whole lot more to do with the end of the Berlin Wall than did the supposedly famous Reagan "Tear down that wall" speech. When Havel died, candles burned all over the country, and then some artists gathered all the wax and built a seven-foot candle, celebrating Havel's leadership. As a writer/playwright, he said many memorable things, but as an activist leader of his country, he said things like "I really do live in a world where words are more powerful than 10 military divisions." May our Bells of Peace keep ringing out such light.

## Mortal sins and nuclear weapons

by Steve McKeown

In the mid eighties some of us who were involved in the Honeywell Project for nuclear disarmament wrote letters a number of times to over 500 Catholic priests in the metro Archdiocese inviting them to join us in actions protesting at Honeywell's headquarters. We focused on the Catholic Church because we were Catholics, and the Bishop's Pastoral on nuclear weapons didn't seem to be taking hold in many parishes. It was during this time I had a conversation with the late VFP member Bob Giesen who was a part of our group along with his wife Susan. Bob was a Deacon in the Church, and he said very succinctly "I think building nuclear weapons is a mortal sin." Recently I spoke with Susan about this and we both agreed that he meant it.

Now, with the welcome development of 40 bishops that are revisiting the whole nuclear question of why isn't there more nuclear disarmament, I think Bob's statement should be a priority for them to consider. Additionally the promotion, design, and sale of these deadly "idols" should carry the same judgement.

This does not and should not be limited to the Catholic Church. In fact, this begs to be an ecumenical movement that isn't in the abstract. Biblically speaking it is written that when Jesus was confronted by the Apostles questioning how others not in their group were casting out demons, he responded ..."those that aren't against us are for us."

Long time Peace activist Dan Berrigan has said that many of our troubles stem from the Church of hem and haw that has shrunk from calling things by their right names and bows before Lord Nuke. I believe Bob and Dan are both right, and what is needed is spiritual leadership that proclaims constructive and immediate repentance on the matter of these weapons. Veterans For Peace is straightforward in calling for nuclear disarmament. It is not too much to ask and expect each and every Church to do the same.

## Project seeks memorials

The 8030 Project is seeking individual memorials to honor veterans lost to suicide. Every day 22 veterans commit suicide. This project asks those interested to select 22 items to represent those 22 lives and photograph them.

Then email the photo to [8030project@gmail.com](mailto:8030project@gmail.com). All images will be exhibited online and in gallery spaces. The goal is to reach at least 365 participants. For further information, contact [8030project@gmail.com](mailto:8030project@gmail.com).

## Walking with Bob

by Jean Heberle

The WAMM walk held June 7th is an annual event that I have attended in the past, generally because someone invited me to walk and it was a good cause and an excuse to get a little exercise with like-minded friends. This year, however, I also felt compelled to walk with my late husband Bob in mind since he was an avid supporter of justice and peace and for all who work for them and for the abolition of weapons of war. Bob died last year on Sep. 6, our 55th wedding anniversary.

So many issues that he enthusiastically embraced have come to light for me these past months, and I kept them in mind as I walked: the senselessness of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and the many other countries that the United States has sent our young men and women to fight and die for to "keep us free;" the innocent citizens, especially children, of those countries who have died; Bob's vehemence against the trade agreements NAFTA, CAFTA and the latest, TPP: the questionable Trans-Pacific Partnership we are asked to trust in (even though the parties developing it have signed a confidentiality agreement to share proposals only with individuals that are part of government's "domestic trade advisory process"); the Military-Industrial Complex in which the economy of our nation has become dependent on the manufacture and sale of weapons of war; and finally, Bob's belief that organizations like WAMM and VFP are absolutely necessary for spreading truth and enlightening the electorate.

When Bob and Roger Cuthbertson were arrested on Lake Minnetonka a few years ago for attempting to crash a fundraiser and ask Dick Cheney what the invasion of Iraq had accomplished, I became a bit worried. Bob, however, seemed perfectly at peace when he finally arrived home late that night. He believed he had done the right thing, and jokingly replied that in our roles as husband and wife, he did the important stuff like trying to keep our elected officials honest and fighting against unjust war, while I did the little things like deciding where we live, what we eat and how we spend our money.

This is why I walked in Bob's honor. I miss him!

### NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

Please let us know if you  
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Contact: [chantewolf7@gmail.com](mailto:chantewolf7@gmail.com)

## VFP Memorial Day observance gets better each year

by Dick Bernard

After the annual Vets For Peace Memorial on the Minnesota Capitol Grounds Vietnam Memorial, I went home to try to reconstruct my attendance at these events over the years. Almost certainly they go back to 2003, which was about when I was becoming an activist for Peace, and was a new member of Vets For Peace. I didn't make all of the Memorials. Sometimes I was out of town, but if in town, I'd be there. Ditto for Armistice Day each November 11, most often at the USS Ward Memorial in the same neighborhood; the first one, though, at Ft. Snelling.

This year's observance was better than last, which was better than the year before, and the year before that.... Slowly, surely, the observance grows in attendance and in quality.

My friend, Ehtasham Anwar, from Pakistan and a Humphrey/Fulbright Fellow at the Human Rights Center at the University of Minnesota, counted 150 of us at the observance.

From the first Pete Seeger song by Bill McGrath of Northfield, to "Taps" at the end, the one hour event was its usual quiet, powerful self, with memories, both of the structured sort (reading the names of the fallen in Iraq and Afghanistan), to individuals recalling their own victims of war, both living and dead.

Jim Northrop, Objibwa author and Vietnam vet, spoke powerfully about his personal family history with the Vietnam War. It began with memories of watching Albert Woolson, the last survivor of the Civil War in parades in Duluth, "surrounded by pretty girls," pretty cool for young Northrop. Then memories of the War itself, abstract demolished by reality. Seeing John Wayne appear and as imme-



*The annual Memorial Day observance takes place each year at the Capital Grounds Vietnam Memorial*

diately disappear in a cameo appearance on a battlefield somewhere over there.

One of the vets rang a hand-made bell eleven times, remembering 11 a.m., on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, when Armistice was declared in the "War to End All Wars."

We adjourned, quietly, and went our separate ways.

There were no gun salutes. It was all about Peace.

At the wall, at the end, organizer Barry Riesch and I found that we both knew, in different ways, one of the names on the wall, Joseph Sommerhauser, killed 1968. He was Barry's classmate and he's my barber's brother.

So it goes with circles; only through gatherings like this can dots be connected.

# Memorial Day

by Chante Wolf

I agonize over Memorial Day. I despise the fly-overs, 21-gun salutes, barbecues and blowout sales that make it all seem so cheap and so easy to forget until next year. I want to throw up, sob, run away and hide. Then comes the anger over our never-ending wars and never-ending deaths, and I don't know what to do next.

So, instead of shopping, I want to remember those who died in the military during my time in the Air Force, 1980 to 1992:

Two Airmen who were murdered and buried behind their Security Police Squadron after they turned in most of their squadron members for doing drugs.

My friend, Carmen, a Spanish woman who sat next to me at the switchboard in Zaragoza, AB, Spain, who was beaten to death with a champagne bottle and dumped into the Ebro River by her USAF MSgt. boyfriend.

SrA. Armstrong who was on guard duty at the front gate late one night and put his M-16 in his mouth.

TSgt. Wilson who sat in his idling car with a hose running from the muffler into the back seat.

The whole Roberts family, including three children, who suffocated to death from a leaked butane tank.

My friend, Sgt. Ben Andrews and 15 others who died when their C-130 plowed into the side of Mt. Moncayo in Spain.

My friend, SSgt. Betty Holms, and two other sergeants who were killed when a Spanish military bus filled with drunk soldiers flipped into the air and landed on three cars of U.S. military members driving into work. Betty managed to use her body to shield her 3-year old daughter, saving her life.

My friend, SrA. Claude Atman, who attempted suicide only to die later of cancer.

The Challenger Explosion. Our base was the alternative landing site and many of us had gotten to know the ground crew as they prepped the runway. I never saw so many grown men openly sob in my life.

My hearing of the deaths of 28 and wounding of over 100 U.S. Reservists in Dhahran during Desert Storm. Later learning that our smart bombs killed over 1,200 Iraqi women and children in a shelter.

My friend, TSgt. George Simmons, in Desert Storm who died from cancer, most probably due to his exposure to oil smoke and depleted uranium after he went

into Kuwait. He had four daughters.

And of my family: My cousin, Stevie, who served two combat tours in Vietnam and killed himself just after I joined the Air Force. My Uncle Bud who was a paratrooper during WWII and drank himself to death. And my Father who dropped dead of a massive heart attack in 2009; he served in the Navy during the Korean War. His crew was conducting boat boarding missions off of South Africa and came upon a hostile boat crew. His unit killed everyone on board. He never spoke of it nor wore an Ace of Spades on any of his base ball caps either.

And now to remember a few recent deaths:

Chief Warrant Officer, Matthew Lourey, KIA in Iraq, 2005. He was the son of former MN Senator Becky Lourey.

Andy Pelecis, a Vietnam veteran who killed himself in 2002 after a long battle with depression. His daughter, Mara created a documentary about him: *Souvenirs, Healing After the War*.

Lance Cpl. Jeff Lucey, who was ordered to shoot two unarmed Iraqi prisoners. Scared to death, shaking, he hesitated because they were his age. The order came again and he complied. Afterwards he took their dog tags and brought them home with him along with the war. Anguished, angry and telling his sister that he was a murderer, he hung himself with a garden hose in the basement of his parents house on June 22nd, 2004.

Army Spc. Alyssa Peterson, who killed herself by gunshot in 2003 after refusing to participate any further in torture as an Arabic translator at Abu Ghraib, Iraq.

Cpl. Pat Tillman, killed by fratricide, April 22nd, 2004. The Army first reported that he died in a hail of gunfire from the enemy. Lt. General Stanley McChrystal approved Tillman's award of the Silver Star. Tillman was going to speak out against both occupations in Iraq and Afghanistan. He had also participated in the staged rescue of Jessica Lynch.

Colonel Theodore Westhusing, who killed himself by gunshot, June 5th, 2005 and left the following suicide note to his commanding officer, General Petraeus:

"Thanks for telling me it was a good day until I briefed you. [Redacted name], you are only interested in your career and provide no support to your staff, no msn [mission] support and you don't care. I cannot

Memorial Day continued on page11

## *In Memoriam* Nick Eoloff

by Florence Steichen

Veterans, peace makers and workers for justice, people of Guatemala and Palestine, and countless others lost a dear friend and faithful supporter when Nick Eoloff, 84, died on May 24 in St. Paul

Nick Eoloff was a veteran of the U.S. Navy Reserves.

Nick married Mary Lou Bunting December 26, 1955; they are the parents of six children, 14 grandchildren, and one great granddaughter.

Among their many works for peace, Nick and Mary adopted Mordechai Vanunu, in 1996 when Mordechai was serving an 18-year prison term in Israel for revealing the existence of Israel's nuclear weapons program. They visited him in prison, corresponded with him and enlisted friends to write to Mordechai.

Mary and Nick last saw Mordechai in 2005, after his release from prison in 2004, and have remained in contact. Mary phoned when Nick died, and knew that Mordechai could not come to Nick's funeral because his freedom of movement is severely restricted even though he finished his sentence 10 years ago.

Mary and Nick are featured in the 2003 BBC documentary, *Israel's Secret Weapon*, which tells the story of Mordechai's whistle-blowing, his subsequent kidnapping and imprisonment, and the Eoloffs' efforts to support and free him.

As a team they supported and reinforced each other, pursuing numerous opportunities to promote nonviolence and advocate for Palestinian rights. They were active in the Twin Cities and USA chapters of Pax Christi, the international Catholic Peace movement. They could usually find a way to incorporate concern for Palestinian rights into prayer services and programs.

Nick and Mary were instrumental in bringing Sabeel Conferences to the Twin Cities, through Friends of Sabeel, North America. (fosna.org). Sabeel is an ecumenical center in Jerusalem for Palestinian Liberation (Sabeel.org).

Nick was a founding member and long-time supporter of Deir Yassin Remembered and was responsible for Mordechai joining the DYR Board of Advisers. Zionist forces ethnically cleansed Deir Yassin April 9, 1948, by massacring or expelling the 750 Palestinian residents. This was the first of more than 500 villages to be destroyed in the establishment of Israel.

Nick commissioned and dedicated a memorial to Deir Yassin, a bronze statue of an uprooted olive tree adjacent to

the Midtown Greenway Bike Trail in South Minneapolis.

Nick was on the board and active in the Al-Aqsa Institute of Minnesota, a community service organization, of Arab-American peoples, Muslim and Christian alike, that promotes and works for a positive, well-informed awareness of the Middle East focusing attention on Palestine, its history, its people, its culture and its reality.

Its members seek to identify with oppressed peoples and to embrace victims of oppression, to resist discrimination, racism and the degradation of human life and rights and to be an unrelenting instrument on behalf of human dignity. They, in particular, seek recognition and validation of the human narrative to vindicate the suffering of the Palestinian people to render them part of an inclusive human history.

Its members believe that the time has come for Muslims, Christians and Jews to begin to dialogue, to pursue new avenues for peace with justice, and to discover the common denominator on which their shared humanity can act for peacemaking.

This description well describes Nick's passion for justice. Rest in peace, Nick.

## *In Memoriam* Bob Giesen

by Steve McKeown

Bob was a member of VFP, having served in the U.S. Army. He died at the age of 74 from complications of Alzheimer's. He is survived by his wife and former WAMM director Susan, six children, 14 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. The first time I ever met Bob was in 1985 when Susan, I, and others were on trial for trespassing at Honeywell Headquarters protesting nuclear weapons. After we were found guilty, Susan was hauled away immediately to the workhouse, probably because she had a prior conviction. Later that evening Bob came to our house to return something. I met a man who was totally at peace even though he now had six kids to look after by himself. He firmly believed in what Susan and the rest of us had done.

Bob was a Deacon in the Catholic Church, and a talented man in business and athletics. He was also a dedicated family man. I hadn't had much contact with Bob since they moved to Michigan several years ago, but prior to that on many occasions of social, family and peace action we

**Continued next page**

would invariably talk. He despised arrogance and hypocrisy, and had a good sense of humor especially if it involved irony. I don't remember him calling attention to himself that much, and truly was a person for others. I was glad to know him and also Susan who has been one of the most creative people I have run across in the Peace Movement.

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## *In Memoriam* Ed Mucha

by Larry Johnson

Patricia Mucha called in April to let Ed's friends in Chapter 27 know he was gone. She said, "I don't know if you knew how much his involvement with Veterans For Peace meant to him." We did. Ed, a veteran Navy Pilot, flew for Delta here, and was active with Chapter 27, most notably getting us to organize the Creating a Culture of Peace Nonviolence Training with Janet Chisholm and Elliott Adams. When Delta moved him to Atlanta, he stayed in touch because he found little Veterans For Peace type activity there. Ed was most recently with us at the SOA protest, even while battling the pancreatic cancer that finally took his life.

When he had to quit flying altogether, Ed and Patricia moved to Knoxville, Tennessee, so she could be close to family. Ed's newspaper obituary there said, "Ed spent many years devoted to country, first as a Navy Pilot, and then five years ago picked up the activist banner of Veterans For Peace, dedicated to abolishing war through exposing its true and full costs. Ed believed our true nature is compassion, but somewhere along the line we got sidetracked." Perhaps because we couldn't be there to ring bells, Ed died at 11 a.m. on April 21, I know with Armistice Bells ringing in spirit. Goodbye Ed. We'll miss you, good friend.

### 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 so please let us know. Thank you

## Peacestock 2014

1984: Big Brother is Watching You & You & Yes, You. The 2014 theme is "The Surveillance State" and features as keynote speaker Ben Wizner, director of the ACLU Speech Privacy, & Technology Report and counsel to Edward Snowden.

Additional speakers are Jeff Nygaard, Chante Wolf, Melissa Hill, Thomas R Smith and music by the Wild Colonial Boys

It will take place Saturday July 12, from 9 a.m. until evening at the Courtyard Pavilion (which is air conditioned) in Colvill Park, Red Wing, Minnesota. This park is on the banks of the Mississippi River.

Supper and evening music are included in the ticket price, and free camping is available at Windbeam Farm.

Tickets are \$30 for individuals, \$50 per couple, and students are \$10

Buy tickets in advance and save, but no one will be turned away for inability to pay

To purchase tickets, for directions or more info go to: [www.peacestockvfp.org](http://www.peacestockvfp.org) or call Bill at (651) 764-1866. Or email: [whabedank@yahoo.com](mailto:whabedank@yahoo.com). Or contact Mike Madden or Wayne Witman at VFP Ch. 27. (Office phone: 612-821-9141)

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## Memorial Day, from page 9

support a msn that leads to corruption, human right abuses and liars. I am sullied no more. I didn't volunteer to support corrupt, money grubbing contractors, nor work for commanders only interested in themselves. I came to serve honorably and feel dishonored. I trust no Iraqi. I cannot live this way. All my love to my family, my wife and my precious children. I love you and trust you only. Death before being dishonored any more. Trust is essential; I don't know who to trust anymore. Why serve when you cannot accomplish the mission, when you no longer believe in the cause, when your every effort and breath to succeed meets with lies, lack of support and selfishness? No more. Reevaluate yourselves, Cdrs [commanders]. You are not what you think you are and I know it. Life needs trust. Trust is no more for me here in Iraq."

If war really worked, then why do we still build more memorials, expand veteran's cemeteries and study about it so much in schools, universities and think-tanks? Isn't it time to build shrines for the peace-keepers, study good communication skills and work diligently on reconciliation instead?

# The missing anvil: freedom without discussion or debate

by Mike Madden

As part of a year-long series, “Legacy of Justice: The 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,” The Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota invited Condoleezza Rice to deliver the 2014 Distinguished Carlson Lecture on April 17, 2014. Her honorarium of \$150,000 was paid by a gift to the School from the late Curtis L. Carlson.

Rice has been credibly accused of war crimes; specifically aiding and abetting torture and planning and promoting a war of aggression against Iraq. To laud her “great love of America and her faith in its core values” as did the event announcement, one must pretend that military aggression and torture did not occur under her watch, or that they are not relevant.

Is this what the University is now doing?

In mid-February, Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) began to spread word of the lecture through the Twin Cities’ Peace Community, calling for a protest to coincide with Dr. Rice’s appearance. They also initiated a resolution for consideration at the April 3rd meeting of the University Senate calling for the invitation to be rescinded. And alumnus Charles Turchick met with his the Humphrey Schools communications director, Kent-Love Ramirez on March 28th.

## The Missing Anvil

Although Turchick sent Love-Ramirez documentation showing Rice’s role in torture and promoting a war of aggression, Love-Ramirez responded in an email, “We will not consider rescinding Dr. Rice’s invitation to speak.” But he added that he would be happy to meet to “allow you time to reiterate your concerns” and then quoted the School’s namesake in support of not rescinding the invitation: “Freedom is hammered out on the anvil of discussion, dissent, and debate.”

Six others, representing SDS, Veterans For Peace, and

Women Against Military Madness, attended the meeting and pointed out that there are precedents, including Paul Robeson being uninvited in 1952 under pressure from University President Morrill. This group left Love-Ramirez with three fundamental questions:

- Does the Humphrey School acknowledge that torture occurred under the George W. Bush administration or see sufficient evidence that it should be investigated?

- Does the Humphrey School believe the U.S. Invasion of Iraq was an act of military aggression or see credible evidence that it should be investigated as such?

- What are the qualifications of Dr. Rice to speak on the topic of civil rights beyond her life experience as an African-American woman growing up in the segregated South?

## The Resolution, the President and the Senate

The resolution laid out the reasons for withdrawing her invitation: her role in misleading the public to war over weapons of mass destruction and her role in establishing torture. It also stated that the University, by not addressing these issues, legitimizes them and those directly responsible for

them.

But President Kaler spoke strongly against the resolution. He stressed the importance of free speech, civil discourse, and the “boundless exchange of differing ideas.” He indicated that Dr. Rice’s personal story, coming of age in the segregated, racist South and overcoming that adversity, was relevant to series about the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Of course, others, like Alice Walker, Barbara Lee, and Angela Davis, also have compelling life stories. Each is a successful black female who endured the indignities of prejudice and segregation. Each has arguably made greater contributions to the struggle for civil rights. Why Rice and not someone like them? It would almost seem that being credi-

## Things she said

I don’t think that anybody could have predicted that these people would take an airplane and slam it into the World Trade Center, take another one and slam it into the Pentagon, that they would try to use an airplane as a missile

*Press conference, May 16, 2002*

This is your baby. Go do it.

*Regarding directives to the CIA on which torture techniques should be used. Summer, 2002*

Oh, indeed there is a tie between Iraq and what happened on 9/11. It’s not that Saddam Hussein was somehow himself and his regime involved in 9/11, but, if you think about what caused 9/11, it is the rise of ideologies of hatred that lead people to drive airplanes into buildings in New York.

*CBS News, November 28, 2003*

Continued next page

bly accused of war crimes was a bonus in the selection process, a sort of affirmative action for neo-conservative ideology.

Then, just before introducing the resolution in the senate, those backing it decided to change it. Instead of calling for the invitation to be rescinded, the resolution would condemn the invitation.

### The Senate Debate

Despite that change, most opponents of the resolution still considered it censorship, suppression of free speech, or an attempt to “shut down the entire discourse.” The resolution was defeated by a vote of 21-122. The free speech smoke-screen carried the day.

It’s not free speech, however. The core of the problem is that we are not acting like a university when we ask people like Rice to speak. We’re buying into celebrity culture and dishonoring the University’s core mission and values. Free speech does not mean a free pass to escape critical engagement. What we tried to say was that Rice’s record is one we need to engage and not officially pass over. The University is a place for education and critical conversation, not a place for pushing difficult facts to the margins of our collective consciousness.

In an editorial piece written for the *Star Tribune*, Curt Goering of the Center for Victims of Torture said: “[Dr. Rice] would do well to consider many in our state who long believed there is a price to be paid when our government fails to face up to egregious human rights violations. Among those violations are the official policies of torture and cruelty once authorized by the U.S. Government while Rice, as one of President George W. Bush’s closest confidants, served as his national security advisor in the White House. In this capacity, she oversaw the National Security Council when the CIA sought approval for the use of spe-

cific interrogation techniques. These policies were in direct contravention of U.S. and international laws and obligations prohibiting torture. Their consequences have been far-reaching, severely impacting the rule of law, national security and our international standing.”

In a letter to the Humphrey School, Todd Pierce and Coleen Rowley further detailed Dr. Rice’s role in a “systematic regime of torture.” She convened several meetings of the National Security Council’s Principals Committee whose members included Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Colin Powell, George Tenet, and John Ashcroft. They

planned and approved the use of various techniques of torture including waterboarding, sleep deprivation, physical assault, hypothermia, and stress positions.

### Qualifications

The view that Dr. Rice lacked any particular expertise in the area of civil rights was also an issue. Samuel L. Myers, Jr., the Roy Wilkins Professor of Human Relations and Social Justice at the Humphrey School, wrote in an open letter to Dr. Rice published in *Insight News* on April 11th, that she supported the 2003 Gratz vs. Bollinger decision, which ruled the University of Michigan’s admissions policy unconstitutional because it awarded points to applicants who were members of underrepresented minority groups on campus. She was also part of the cabinet of President George W. Bush that weakened the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. He added that he hoped that she would be challenged on her positions regarding the Iraq

War and “the determinants of black-white inequality.” Would the anvil be located, and would the moderator, Dean Eric Schwartz of the Humphrey School, have the gumption

## Things she said

**Condoleezza Rice:** But I don’t remember the al-Qaida cells as being something that we were told we needed to do something about.

**Richard Ben-Veniste:** Isn’t it a fact, Dr. Rice, that the August 6 PDB [Presidential Daily Briefing] warned against possible attacks in this country? And I ask you whether you recall the title of that PDB?

**Condoleezza Rice:** I believe the title was, Bin Laden Determined to Attack Inside the United States. *testimony before the 9/11 Commission, describing the August 6 PDB, May 19, 2004*

In terms of the enhanced interrogation and so forth, anything that was legal and was going to make this country safer, the president wanted to do. Nothing that was illegal. And nothing that was going to make the country less safe. Unless you were there, in a position of responsibility after September 11th, you cannot possibly imagine the dilemmas that you faced in trying to protect Americans. You were determined to do anything that you could that was legal to prevent that from happening again... We were told, nothing that violates our obligations under the Convention Against Torture. And so, by definition, if it was authorized by the president, it did not violate our obligations under the Conventions Against Torture.

*Quoted "Rice Defends Enhanced Interrogations," Washington Post (2009-04-30)*

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### ONGOING EVENTS

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

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

### OTHER EVENTS

July 12. Peacestock. Colvill Park in Red Wing. See article on page 11.

July 23-27. VFP 2014 Annual Convention at U. of NC at Asheville. Hosted by VFP Ch. 99 in Asheville. This year's theme: "Peace or Perish Abolish War on Planet and Poor"

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

## Informal VFP fundraiser

by Larry Johnson

I've been asked to be in another show at Patrick's Cabaret, July 16, 7:30-9:30. I'm sure I will do something like play "Reveille" on a French Shoe Horn and do my TV Exercise Show, PUMPING VIDEO, but I told them mainly I want to tell the story of FRANK KELLOGG. I don't have any specific details of the whole show yet, but there are six acts, dance, music, and spoken word of some sort. Advance tickets are \$8, and can be purchased only from the performers, who keep the entire \$8. Tickets at the door, at 3010 Minnehaha in Mpls, are \$10 and are split between the six performers.

I will do again what I did last time. Whatever tickets I sell ahead of time will be donated to Veterans for Peace Chapter 27. Last time we made about \$150, not a lot, but not a lot of work, except to come to a good show and support the arts, mingling mainly with younger people. You can contact me at 612-747-3904 or [larryjvfp@gmail.com](mailto:larryjvfp@gmail.com) I have to do something, now that I no longer have any responsibility.

## Time of Remembrance 2014

The following events will take place to remember the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and renew our pledge to promote peace and not war. These events are sponsored by the Minneapolis-St. Paul Hiroshima Nagasaki Commemoration Committee and SPNSCC.

**Tuesday, August 5th** 5:30 p.m., Lake Harriet Peace Garden, Music by Greg Herriges: 6 p.m., Commemorative Tea Ceremony

**Wednesday, August 6th** 7:30 a.m. Lake Harriet Peace Garden, Ceremony of the Cranes; 8:15 a.m. Moment of Silence for Hiroshima; 11 a.m. Ceremony of 11 Bells, Veterans for Peace

**Friday, August 8** 7 p.m., Global Harmony Labyrinth at Como Park in St. Paul, Nagasaki Commemoration. The ceremony features a reading of *On That Summer Day*.

FFI: [www.stpaulnagasaki.org](http://www.stpaulnagasaki.org); Facebook Hiroshima Nagasaki Commemoration; [MSPHNCC@gmail.com](mailto:MSPHNCC@gmail.com); 952-922-0308.

## 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.**

## The missing anvil, from page 13

to lift it onto the Northrop Stage?

### **Academic Freedom as Afforded by, and to, Secretary of State Rice**

Because of her known involvement in torture and aggressive war, many of the dissenters believed that under no circumstances should Dr. Rice be allowed a presence on campus. About 200 University faculty members, in a written statement regarding her visit, did not go that far. While they objected to the circumstances of this particular visit, they welcomed her to campus to engage in an open exchange of ideas. Noting the serious human rights violations that are central to her legacy, they wrote, "Accountability must be central to that open debate."

They also saw Dr. Rice's "policy of ideological exclusion" as relevant, writing: "The State Department she directed from 2005 until 2009 denied visas to numerous foreign scholars that the Administration deemed to be ideologically problematic . . . . On two occasions, large groups of scholars were denied entry to attend a meeting of the Latin American Studies Association. As a result, the Association no longer holds its meetings in the United States."

### **April 17, 2014: The Dean's New Clothes**

On the day of the lecture, the long-awaited answers to the questions posed on March 28th arrived. Mr. Love-Ramirez wrote that tortures, wars of aggression, and lying to the public are not issues "on which the Humphrey School, as an institution, would have a position."

So the chasm had not closed in slightest. There would be no acknowledgement of the most basic facts and thus, no common ground for dialogue. The Humphrey School would continue its fawning tribute to Dr. Rice, with its servile nature on full display.

By 4:30 that afternoon, a crowd of approximately 250 was gathering to protest. Inside of Northrop Auditorium, Rice delivered the expected speech. She tugged at heart-strings with stories of her upbringing. She also used the occasion for partisan advantage. She cited quality education as the civil rights issue of our time and used the issue to promote "school choice." She called the "K-12 crisis" the single greatest threat to national security. She expounded on the virtues of "limited government" and said that to achieve electoral success, Republicans "can't continue to insult

large swaths of the population."

Dean Eric Schwartz was ingratiating in his role as moderator and stumbled for nearly a minute to formulate his question: What was your most significant achievement and what issue would you most like to revisit?

It was such a softball that Rice couldn't help but hit it out of the park. She said history would judge, but that "we stood for freedom" and "kept the country safe" and that they did so "within the law." The event concluded with obsequious praise for Rice and a presentation from Trudy Rautio, the President and CEO of the Carlson Companies. The anvil of discussion, dissent, and debate had obviously been melted down to form the plaque she presented.

### **A Parting Shot at Dissent**

It wasn't enough, however, that Rice got to speak without facing any of her critics.

*Torture, wars of aggression, and lying to the public are not issues "on which the Humphrey School, as an institution, would have a position."*

More than two weeks after the rally, the Office for Student Affairs began an investigation threatening disciplinary action against the organizers, SDS. The complaint stated that SDS "took

no steps to stop the use of amplified sound or to assist UMPD officers in moving the crowd from the east entrance" of Northrop. It was alleged that the actions "created audible noise to those inside the event, and also blocked egress from the building upon completion of the event."

The SDS members were called to a hearing on May 13th. I attended along with Professor Carl Elliot (Department of Bioethics) in support of the students. As an attendee of the lecture, I was able to dispute that any noise was audible inside of Northrop. Many present were able to dispute that the exit from the east entrance was blocked or even impeded. Furthermore, the rally was attended by many people not affiliated with SDS, and if the police saw any thing resembling a public disturbance, it was their job, not the students', to restore order. Fortunately, the University dropped the charges the next day and avoided further embarrassment to itself.

It is ironic that the University would so threaten students acting in the best tradition of civil rights movement while simultaneously celebrating the the Civil Rights act of 1964. It is sadly apparent that President Kaler's University is more interested in maintaining the complacent order of its public relations events than it is in "the advancement of learning and the search for the truth."



**Veterans For Peace, Inc., Chapter 27**  
1806 Riverside Ave., #3A.  
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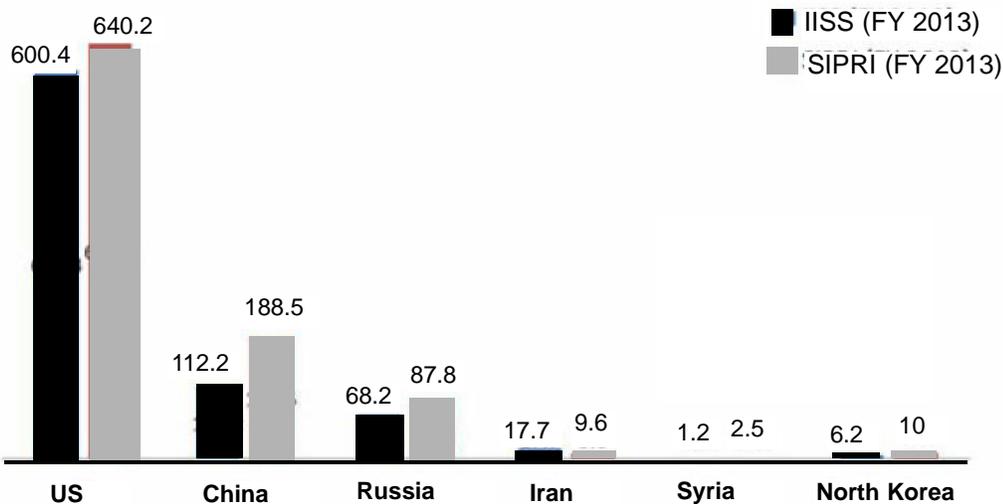
## **SUPPORT THE TROOPS! BRING THEM HOME ALIVE NOW!**

As of June 6, 2014:  
4,486 dead in Iraq and  
2,324 combat deaths in Afghanistan.

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

### **US Military Spending Compared to Presumed Threat Countries Or: Why we can't have nice things anymore**

Data from International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) and  
Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)  
(Bars represent Billions of dollars, 2013 Current Year Dollars)



This bar graph, based on analyses by two different organizations, shows fairly starkly why we can't have nice things like good roads and bridges, good schools, scholarships, etc. Our defense budget dwarfs the budgets of the countries we find threatening.