



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 our 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 non-violent 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)



The militarized police raid the encampment and shut it down.

Standing Rock Final Days

by Barry Riesch

Veterans For Peace has maintained an ongoing presence at Standing Rock since last fall. With word out that the big camp “Oceti Sakowin” was to be forcefully evacuated on Feb. 22, 2017, veterans were asked again to redeploy and act as a human shield between water protectors and militarized police.

Chapter 27 members Craig Wood, David Cooley, Tom Bauch and I drove out on Feb. 21 to show support and help out at camp. It was clear to us that we needed to avoid felony charges, especially for David Cooley who would lose his prisoner visiting privileges as an Amicus volunteer.

We were stopped at a road block at Cannon Ball on a public highway running through Indian land by Morton County police. We were allowed to proceed after a brief encounter when our driver asked about jurisdiction and probable cause and a request to search our car for a tent. We were told that we’d have to turn around if we didn’t consent to an inspection.

At camp we met other vets, networked

with them and worked to organize leftover food and gear. The population of the camp had clearly dropped since our last visit in December, when up to 15,000 people were present.

While efforts had been made to clean up and organize camp, clearly the time frame before the police would clear the area would not allow that. We did dig in even though it was becoming apparent to us that our efforts would be in vain; heavy equipment was slated to come in and bulldoze the whole camp in a couple of days. It was not a pretty sight to see: wet and muddy terrain, and fires burning—some as symbolic gestures, some ceremonial and some because people just didn’t want their things touched by the invaders.

On eviction day we spent the morning taking down a tent for an activist and doing what little we could to clean up. We were told in advance to be out of the Rosebud camp by noon or to risk being arrested and possibly charged with a felony. With Rose Bud camp (across the Cannon Ball River on Indian land) also being threatened, we headed for Sacred

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Notes from the President

by Dave Logsdon

*“They call us all extremists
because we’re out here in the streets,
how unpatriotic, Veterans For Peace!
They say they’re going to watch us like never before,
because there’s nothing more dangerous
than Veterans against war!”*
Pat Scanlon, *Veterans For Peace*

Yes indeed, we are out in the streets and in the classrooms! I’m very proud of our chapter’s participation in so many protests and actions this past winter. We stood, worked and prayed at Standing Rock in solidarity with the Water Protectors, always respectful of the Tribal Elders. Our Veterans For Peace flag flew proudly with the flags of all the Tribal Nations. We also joined in with various Twin Cities peace and justice groups in Women’s marches, immigrants rights marches, and of course, anti-war marches.

Here I go again

I know I am guilty as charged with preaching way too much the “Showing Up” sermon. But the first step to activism is showing up. In the last year we’ve had new members grabbing an oar and jumping in the boat. David Cooley made the journey to Standing Rock and now is a very involved member of our group. He came with energy and ideas. Lyle Steinfeldt recently helped us find a website designer to improve our antiquated website. Carson Starkey became our first Iraq veteran to hold office at our chapter, bringing youth and computer know-how to the group as our new vice-president. With our new meeting time (the second Sunday of the month) we hope to give more opportunities for participation. This is actually a return to the way it used to be.

Sowing the seeds

“The violets in the mountains have broken the rocks.”
Tennessee Williams

Speaking truth in an informed and strong voice is something we do well at Veterans For Peace. Our perspective as veterans seeking peace in ourselves and in the world is one of the most important things that we do well. And pushing the boulder of peace up that mountain of hate and disinformation can be a daunting, frustrating experience. Our VFP

visionary, Steve McKeown, has spearheaded what I think are some of the more positive, affirming actions I’ve ever experienced. The ringing of the bells 11 times represents the day the battlefields went silent to end the “Great War;” when soldiers laid down their weapons and went home, these bells brought sadness and joy. We ring these bells to bring a reflective solemn note to various occasions, especially on Memorial Day and Armistice (Veterans) Day.

World Citizen, a St. Paul peace group founded by the late Lynn Elling, has designated various participating churches and institutions as “Peace Sites.” Steve and I thought, “What if we went to these institutions that have applied for this designation and held rededication ceremonies at these sites?” The events would feature food, music, bell ringing, speakers, and a presentation of the Kellogg-Briand Treaty. Our first attempt at this ambitious task will be April 19th at the Gandhi Mahal restaurant in South Minneapolis. There will be music, buffet, speakers, bell ringing, and a presentation of the Kellogg-Briand Treaty to the owner. Food will be served at 6 p.m., with the program starting at 7 p.m. Suggested donation is \$10.

We are all Bozos on this bus

*“Just jump on the bus, Gus,
you don’t need to discuss much,
Just drop off the key, Lee
And get yourself free.”*

Paul Simon

We bought a bus! Now the fun begins! What in heaven’s name am I talking about? Well, once upon a time there was this bequeath left to our chapter by the estate of Harold Nielsen, a long-time member and frequent benefactor of our chapter. This bequeath in the amount of \$20,000 was given to us “to purchase a building for a peace activities center.” After long discussions among ourselves and his family, we agreed that a mobile peace activities center would be the only feasible solution given the amount of the bequeath. After another year of how to actually purchase and convert a bus, *good* has finally prevailed over *perfect*! Our vision for the Harold and Louise Mobile Peace Activities Center is a roving mini-education unit inside and an eye-catching, dramatic outside. We will have a bell inside so that someone could ring in remembrance of a loved one and log into a book their thoughts. We could drive it all over the state, at

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Standing Rock, from page 1

Stone. We briefly visited the new Cheyenne River Camp on the way and met one other vet.

At Sacred Stone we found the vets' tent and were warmly welcomed with hot coffee and oatmeal with peanut butter, strawberries and cream. We stayed there until the 2 p.m. eviction time and participated in a ceremony in front of the Sacred Fire with other vets and later followed them down a muddy path toward the Ocenti Sakowin Camp, where some planned to stay for the eviction. Others found good observation points on a nearby hillside where other media had set up to film the eviction. After watching until about 4 p.m., we decided to abandon camp. We heard later that a few had been arrested, but the big invasion was put off. Instead, the police were particularly hard on media people and arrested a number of them.

On Thursday, Feb. 23, the camp was invaded by armed police and military assault vehicles. They swept *en masse* through the camp entering tents and other structures with loaded assault rifles. They showed no respect for tepees; they cut them open with knives and also destroyed a sacred sweat lodge that they had promised to preserve. It was truly heart-wrenching to watch this scene, realizing that it was happening in the U.S. Might as well have been Iraq. Approximately 45 were arrested, including veterans who refused to leave the camp. Four veterans groups have been represented at Sanding Rock: VFP, IVAW, VeteransRespond and Veterans Stand with Standing Rock.

Saying goodbye (for perhaps the last time) was very sad. So many truly great people and positive things occurred



during this historic occupation. For the Standing Rock Sioux to be arrested on their own land and treated as criminals for wanting to protect their water is truly an outrage.

This all happened while Energy Transfer Partners continued to drill under the river as documented in January through drone footage by VFP member Bill Perry. This is now being confirmed, as oil is predicted to be flowing any day now, truly not enough time to have finished laying the pipe under the river. This along with the fact that from the beginning Energy Transfer has never complied with federal law. All this and law enforcement and military overlook the real lawbreakers. Our justice system is truly broken.

The battle isn't over and continues in the courts: divestment and organizing. One of our small group will be joining the battle in DC from March 7-10 with lobbying and street actions.

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events in the Twin Cities, tabling and growing our message of education and hope. There is still a lot of sweat equity between where we are and when the rubber meets the road, but we have the talent and will to get this done!

Let us not forget

"Patriotism is the virtue of the victorious."

Oscar Wilde

Barry Riesch, chapter 27 member and past President of the National Veterans For Peace, brought something to my attention and I actually listened. Barry has been to Standing Rock seven times and to D.C. for the Indigenous Women's

March. He reminded me of where our focus must remain on this whole spiritual journey as Veterans For Peace. Yes, the pipeline and the environmental implications are indeed worth paying attention to, but the plight of the Native people, these invaded, conquered people, is where our focus should remain. I remember Clyde Bellecourt, AIM leader and Wounded Knee survivor, speaking at local fundraiser saying that, even though he never was in the military, that he was a veteran. Indeed, Wounded Knee was a military event and he was defending his country. That coming together of the tribes at Standing Rock, the peaceful prayerful gathering were violets in the mountains for sure.

It is Spring, let's sow those seeds. See you in the streets!

Will efforts to privatize the VA be stepped up?

Ed. note: The national's winter newsletter had two excellent articles on continuing efforts to privatize the VA. We are excerpting one by Dr. Anne Jones, who was the keynote speaker at last year's convention and spoke on this subject. For the full articles, go to https://www.veteransforpeace.org/files/6614/8916/3305/VFPNews_W2017.pdf

by Dr. Anne Jones

This is what we have yet to take in: today, the United States is the most unequal country in the developed world, and the wealth of the plutocrats on top is now so great that, when they invest it in politics, it is likely that no elected government can stop them or the lucrative wars and “free markets” they exploit. Among the prime movers in our corporatized politics are undoubtedly the two billionaire Koch brothers, Charles and David, and their cozy network of secret donors. Despite their extreme neo-libertarian goal of demonizing and demolishing government, they reportedly did not hesitate to pocket about \$170 million as contractors for George W. Bush's wars. They sold fuel (oil is their principal business) to the Defense Department, and after they bought Georgia Pacific, maker of paper products, they supplied that military essential: toilet paper.

It is no secret that the VA enlarged its hospitals, recruited new staff, and tried to catch up, but it has been running behind ever since. It is no wonder veterans' organizations keep after the VA (as well they should), demanding more funding and better service. **But they have to be careful what they focus on.** If they leave it at that and overlook what is really going on—often in plain sight, however disguised in patriotic verbiage—they can wind up being marched down a road they did not choose that leads to a place they do not want to be. Even before the post-9/11 vets came home, drug-making corporations had gone to work on the VA.

By the end of 2001, this country was at war, and Big Pharma was looking at a gold mine. They recruited doctors, set them up in private “Pain Foundations,” and paid them handsomely to give lectures and interviews, write studies and textbooks, teach classes in medical schools, and testify before Congress on the importance of providing our veterans with powerful painkillers. In 2002, the Food and Drug Administration considered restricting the use of opioids, fearing they might be addictive. They were talked out of it by experts such as Dr. Rollin Gallagher of the American Academy of Pain Medicine and board member of the American Pain Foundation, both largely funded by the drug companies. He spoke against restricting OxyContin.

By 2008, congressional legislation had been written—the Veterans' Mental Health and Other Care Improvement

Act—directing the VA to develop a plan to evaluate all patients for pain. When the VA objected to Congress dictating its medical procedures, Big Pharma launched a “Freedom from Pain” media blitz, enlisting veterans' organizations to campaign for the bill and get it passed.

Those painkillers were also dispatched to the war zones where our troops were physically breaking down under the weight of the equipment they carried. By 2010, a third of the Army's soldiers were on prescription medications—and nearly half of them, 76,500, were on prescription opioids—which proved to be highly addictive, despite the assurance of experts such as Rollin Gallagher. In 2007, for instance, The American Veterans and Service Members Survival Guide, distributed by the American Pain Foundation and edited by Gallagher, offered this assurance: “[W]hen used for medical purposes and under the guidance of a skilled health-care provider, the risk of addiction from opioid pain medication is very low.”

Consider Concerned Veterans for America (CVA). The group's stated mission is “to preserve the freedom and prosperity we and our families fought and sacrificed to defend.” What patriotic American would not want to get behind that?

The problem that concerns the group right now is the “divide” between civilians and soldiers, which exists, its leaders claim, because responsibility for veterans has been “pushed to the highest levels of government.” That has left veterans isolated from their own communities, which should be taking care of them. CVA proposes (though not quite in so many words) to close that gap by sacking the VA and giving vets the “freedom” to find their own health care.

The 102-page proposal of CVA's Task Force on “Fixing Veterans' Health Care” would let VA hospitals treat veterans with “service-connected health needs”—let them, that is, sweat the hard stuff—while transforming most VA Health Care facilities into an “independent, non-profit corporation” to be “preserved,” if possible, in competition “with private providers.” All other vets would have the “option to seek private health coverage,” using funds the VA might have spent on their care, had they chosen it. (How that would be calculated remains one of many mysteries.) The venerable

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Whack-a-Mole Pipelines



Thousands assembled in Washington, D.C., to protest pipeline construction.

by Tim Wulling

Popular objection whacked the Keystone XL pipeline; it won't be built. However, by then the Dakota Access Pipeline had popped up. Now Dakota Access is a done deal except for court challenges. But Enbridge's Line 67 "Alberta Clipper" pipeline has popped up and needs a Presidential Permit for a larger size at the Canada-U.S. border crossing. Almost without popping up at all, a larger replacement for Enbridge's Line 3 border crossing was built, and — surprise! — it is carrying Line 67 oil not Line 3 oil. It goes on.

Business-as-usual presses hard to get dirty oil out of the Alberta tar sands and the North Dakota Bakken field. Chapter 27 members Barry Riesch, Dave Cooley, Tim Wulling, and Steve Clemens were at the latest skirmish on March 7th in Bemidji.

The U.S. State Department held a "hearing" to receive comments on their draft of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for increasing the size of Line 67 at the border crossing. It was a hearing such as none of us had seen before.

But first we were inspired by the Solutions Summit at the Rail River Folk School. Eighty people on MN350 busses from the Twin Cities and more on the Duluth bus

joined Water Protectors and 100-150 others.

We heard about the threats from pipelines and mining to Minnesota's remaining clean water; the wonderful work of the Rural Renewable Energy Alliance bringing renewable energy to low-income families; and the Leech Lake Reservation's program to switch to renewable energy.

Inspirational stories came from the Water Protector's "Rolling Resistance," Winona LaDuke, and voices from individuals not often having a mic and platform.

A two-mile march through a blizzard got us to the convention center. In the outdoor free-speech area, native drummers and dancers warmed everyone up.

Inside, no one from the State Department was there to listen. Instead, we had available a comment sheet in packets for writing, two computers for typing, and two stenographers for speaking our comments. A few posters, a projected summary, and several consultants were available to inform us.

Although security at the entry prohibited everything from backpacks to handbags, Barry got the VFP flag in and drummers and dancers got drums and jangles in. They brought the free-speech area inside where it should be. Chants, music, dancers, stories, and advocacy made for a great time!

Hypocrisy, demonization, and distraction

by Mike Madden

It seemed we had reached the epitome of hypocrisy on March 2, 2014, when Secretary of State John Kerry scolded Russia on national television saying, “You just don’t, in the 21st century, behave in 19th century fashion by invading another country on completely trumped-up pretext.”

Those words, spoken without a hint of irony, had their desired effect. Rather than bringing shame upon the Secretary of State whose country had launched an invasion against Iraq in 2003 based on lies, they served as a distraction from the role that the United States had played one week earlier in the overthrow of the democratically elected government of Ukraine. They also successfully demonized Russia for an invasion that never occurred. Russia did send additional troops to its bases in the autonomous Republic of Crimea but did so at the request of local authorities who feared the coup government and the neoNazi paramilitaries associated with it. This bloodless protective action allowed for a democratic referendum, which in turn authorized the annexation of Crimea by Russia; a peaceful change in national boundaries in accordance with the United Nations Charter, which respects the principle of self-determination of peoples, and the Helsinki Accords, which allow for a change of borders by peaceful internal means.

So what to do in the wake of emails released by WikiLeaks that damaged the Clinton campaign by showing collusion with the Democratic National Committee to tip the primary election against Bernie Sanders, and Clinton’s subsequent defeat suffered at the hands of a candidate commonly thought to be unelectable in America? Take hypocrisy to a new level and blame the Russians for hacking the election!

Setting aside the fact that U.S. intelligence services have yet to show proof that Russia provided the emails to WikiLeaks, let’s examine the meddling history of the country that’s calling the kettle black. The Central Intelligence Agency was created in 1947. It immediately went to work to influence the 1948 elections in Italy. Wishing to block the Communist Party from winning at the ballot box, the CIA collected money from private Wall Street sources and tapped U.S. Treasury funds earmarked for the reconstruction of Europe to provide millions of dollars to the Christian

Democratic Party and its candidates. The Christian Democrats won handily, and formed a government exclusive of the communists. This disruption of democracy was seen as an early CIA success, and the practice of passing satchels of cash to Italian politicians friendly to American interests would continue into the 1970s.

Bribery has not been the only tactic employed to insure foreign countries remain compliant with American interests. In 1953, the CIA orchestrated a coup against Iran’s first elected prime minister, Mohammad Mossadeq, after he nationalized his country’s oil reserves. This time, CIA slush funds were used to buy votes in the parliament, buy the loyalties of military officers, and pay street thugs to riot, loot, burn newspaper offices, and sack government buildings in Tehran. All the while, CIA propaganda demonized

Mossadeq as a communist, an enemy of Islam, and a traitor. The coup succeeded when the Shah’s Imperial Guard was directed by the CIA to attack Mossadeq’s home.

Over 300 people died in five days of violence and Iran’s brief experiment with democracy ended with the installation of the American puppet, Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi.

Later efforts by the CIA to overthrow democratically elected leaders would require increased levels of violence and military intervention. In 1954, the CIA moved against Guatemala’s President, Jacobo Arbenz, after he enacted

There have been more than 50 U.S. overthrows, or attempts to overthrow, foreign governments since WWII. Some countries have been targeted more than once (Syria, Iraq, Ecuador, etc.). Others were targeted continuously for decades.

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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/

VA, from page 4

VA operates America's largest health-care system, with 168 VA Medical Centers and 1,053 outpatient clinics, providing care to more than 8.9 million vets each year. Yet, under this plan, that lame, undernourished but extraordinary and, in a great many ways, remarkably successful version of single-payer lifelong socialized medicine for vets would be a goner, perhaps surviving only in bifurcated form: as an intensive care unit and an insurance office dispensing funds to free and choosy vets. Such plans should have marked CVA as a Koch brothers' creation even before its front man gave the game away and lost his job. Like those pain foundation doctors who became self-anointed opioid experts, veteran Pete Hegseth had made himself an expert on veterans' affairs, running CVA and doubling as a talking head on Fox News. The secretive veterans' organization now carries on without him, still working to capture—or perhaps buy—the hearts and minds of Congress.

And here is the scary part: they may succeed.

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land reforms considered hostile by U.S. multinational corporations. The U.S. Navy blockaded Guatemala, U.S. warplanes bombed Guatemala City, and government leaders were targeted for assassination.

On September 11, 1973, the Marxist president of Chile, Salvador Allende, fell after the CIA spent three years and \$10 million undermining his government. Allende died in the coup, and the U.S. backed military dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet that followed murdered more than 3,200 people and jailed and tortured tens of thousands of others.

These are but four examples of the United States “meddling” in the affairs of other democracies. According to William Blum, author of *Killing Hope: U.S. Military and CIA Interventions Since WWII*, there have been more than 50 U.S. overthrows, or attempts to overthrow, foreign governments since WWII. Some countries have been targeted more than once (Syria, Iraq, Ecuador, etc.). Others were targeted continuously for decades (China, Cuba, and North Vietnam survived those attempts). The demonization of others requires the creation of an exceptional image of self. Distraction is intended to prevent any critical examination of one's own faults and failings. Unchallenged hypocrisy is the successful result of both.

The peace index

The new aircraft carriers

by Frank Fuller

Trump wants to build a larger Navy, including two more aircraft carriers, along with the planes and the support ships needed for a carrier strike force. This is projected to cost about \$50 billion. This, of course, is part of his campaign promise to increase defense spending because, apparently, all the money spent during the last 16 years did not strengthen the armed forces. We still spend more on defense than the next eight countries combined, but to Trump and his supporters, all that money has been very badly spent.

To many of us, however, that is dangerous and wasteful spending. A lot of domestic programs could use that money. Here are a few ideas.

Fix the nation's crumbling infrastructure. We could spend \$50 billion and create about one million construction jobs to fix infrastructure that would pay an average of \$23/hour. Trump campaigned on fixing the nation's infrastructure, but it doesn't look like he will get to this problem anytime soon, if at all. Right now there are plenty of projects that could use this \$50 billion, including roads, bridges, water and sewer systems, etc.

Fund Amtrak. Amtrak is continually neglected in the federal budget and in Trump's budget blueprint funding for its long distance trains is eliminated. \$50 billion could fund all of Amtrak for over 30 years. It could also buy new cars and locomotives, some of which have been in service for over 30 years.

Fund the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The CPB could be funded for over 100 years with \$50 billion.. Its budget is only \$485 million per year and most of that goes to local stations.

Fund the Legal Services Corporation for over 100 years. The Legal Services Corporation provides legal services to the poor by funding over 9,000 legal staff nationwide. In 2015 it served 1.8 million people. All that for only \$386 million a year.

Fund The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which helps people pay heating and cooling bills. It could be funded at its current levels for about 15 years. Its current levels are down, however, from previous levels and don't fully cover the program. \$50 billion could help a lot of people stay warm. Trump cut this program from his budget completely.

Finally, \$50 billion would buy every person who voted for Trump **an 11-year subscription to the liberal online paper The Guardian.**

Being the older activists who mentored us in the 60s

by Larry Johnson

In the 60s, much activism was driven by media coverage of blatant, violent, unjust treatment of African American citizens, and the fact that virtually everyone faced the prospect of the military draft. Environmental concerns were waiting to be touched off by the first Earth Day in 1970. Many of us were young, but old enough to realize things weren't right, and it was up to us to change it.

Today, 50 years later, some progress has been made, but too much remains to be done. Younger people are again out in numbers, standing up to forge the world we all want to live in. I hear people saying "How can we get them to join our organization?" but I think a more appropriate question is, "How can we stand by and strengthen the energy and commitment of young people to carry on long after we are gone?" I was at the University of Minnesota when working for peace became important to me, so I was inspired and mentored by people like Mulford Sibley and Father Harry Bury, who, when this article appears, will have just spoken at ECAPC.

Good education is starting where people are, and I'm more interested in being where young people are already being peace activists, or listening to what they have to say. For the annual meeting of Mn Alliance of Peacemakers (MAP), we organized a panel of younger, 30 and below, individuals doing significant work, with the idea of listening and thinking how can we work and learn together. Not everyone fighting for environment understands the impact of war on same. Not everyone fighting for peace gets the importance of making young environmentalists and those fighting for racial justice an ally. Back then, too many of us wouldn't listen to older folks, and now many of us have gotten so good at what we do, we think no one can do it as good as us, but we must. I'm listing the young people that came to MAP in December only as examples. There are many of them out there, and all of us, learning to work in concert, have the potential to create the gigantic worldwide force that pushed many nations to ban war in 1928. Today we need that people-force to push nations to enforce and abide by the rules of warfare, racial and environmental justice already agreed upon. Here are some young allies:

ROSLYN HARMON is an enthusiastic pastor and mental health practitioner who has championed mental health to bring racial, social, and economic disparities to the forefront of community healing.

MARK VAN DER LINDEN and his partner, Sarah, started Minnesotans for Syrian Refugees to combat Islamophobia and negative stereotypes of refugees.

ANDY PEARSON is Midwest Tar Sands Coordinator for MN350. His U of M degree is in Environmental Communication, with a published thesis on building a climate change movement.

KAILA ABRAHAM and **TIMON JONES** are Minneapolis South High students, leaders in the Peace Tigers student group, working toward peaceful school, peaceful world.

Talking in schools, as Dick Foley does regularly, and others of us occasionally, is also important. When the draft was on, we had little choice, though we deserved to have. If students today are considering the military, they deserve to hear, from us, the side of the story that rarely comes in the glorified view from the recruiter. This is also the important part of VFP's significant support for the MAP Peace Essay contest. It gives them incentive to look for the missing parts of the peacemaking story as presented by those who want people to think that having bigger bombs than everyone else is how you keep the peace. I, as a VFP member am still organizing the effort, and our chapter provided one fourth of the money for scholarship awards for winners. Last year's winner, Lauren Wieber of Northfield, is just completing five months of peace and justice service in the Dominican Republic, funded in part by her \$1000 Peace Essay Prize. Such overseas duty is infinitely more valuable toward world peace than is training to kill in foreign lands.

This year's winners, recognized at the March 21 **WORLD STORYTELLING DAY EVENT AT LAND-MARK CENTER** in St. Paul, were:

FIRST PLACE: Grace Keller-Long, St. Paul's Open World Learning Community, wrote about creating a school play about social justice and peacemaking. To do so, they researched the history of peaceful protest, presented the play, then "went back to ordinary life with strong desire to create peace."

SECOND PLACE: Whisper Urrutia, South High in Mpls., wrote about creating the Peace Tigers at South, a student group dedicated to helping school become a place where fights don't happen, students aren't bullied, violence is prevented, and peace happens.

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Protesting the Effects of Perpetual War

by Ann Wright

It's been a long time since so many Americans have taken to the streets in protest of government policies. Last I recall was 14 years ago, to be precise, during the weeks before President George W. Bush launched the misbegotten war on Iraq, a war over which I resigned from the U.S. government. Since then, the reality of American "perpetual war" has become normalized, made fully bipartisan, and carried out by three consecutive (Republican and Democratic) administrations, with military actions confronting rather than resolving international concerns. A shocking number of foreign nations have been targeted. U.S. drone warfare alone has killed people in seven countries: Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Pakistan, Somalia, Syria, Yemen.

Though protesters against the Trump administration express anger and distress about myriad issues, perpetual war on the global battlefield doesn't seem visible among them. Some opposition to the Trump administration even has produced dissidents seeking greater military intervention in foreign countries, dangerously including other nuclear superpowers such as Russia and China.

Yet, many of the problems people are worried about actually stem from our nation's endless wars. For instance, many of the refugees and immigrants clamoring to enter Europe and the U.S. are escaping their war ravaged homelands, bombed and decimated by U.S. intervention. Years of American "regime change" operations in the Middle East have toppled a number of governments that the U.S. didn't approve, creating not democracies but dangerous vacuums filled by extremists. Destabilization campaigns contributed

Older activists from previous page

THIRD PLACE: Juan Sarenpa, Venture Academy in Mpls, wrote about loving the fun times with his Aunt, but disagreeing with her when she looked down on people who were different. "At my school, we learned about racial equity, and a world where we might be different, but can be appreciated for our differences."

In the future we hope to couple promotion of the Peace Essay even more with our speaking in schools, from our perspective, always valuing the significance of students early on being encouraged to research and think TO LEARN WAR NO MORE, whether it be in the immediate community, or the broader community of nations.

to bloody struggles for power among different ethnic and religious factions, to civil wars, and to the growth of ISIS and other extremist groups.

Little hope exists in ever bringing down the national debt or having enough money to adequately fund the domestic programs Americans really care about unless our costly ongoing military adventures can be curtailed. **Anyone who cares about climate change must learn that the U.S. military is the largest burner of fossil fuels on the planet.** Since 9/11, the national debt has almost quadrupled, going from around \$5 trillion to nearly \$20 trillion with no end in sight. If, instead of continually expanding the national debit card balance, the IRS would send bills to citizens for the tens of thousands of dollars each taxpayer is now calculated to owe for these post-9/11 wars, individuals would see and feel the reality. The resulting outcry could end the costly interventions immediately.

Fourteen years ago, I resigned from the U.S. State Department as an act of conscience fearing the unjustified war on Iraq would be disastrous for the people of the United States, as well as for the people of Iraq. This has proven to be so. Since my resignation, I've lectured, lobbied, protested and agitated for peace in the United States and in conflict-burdened areas of the world: Israel, Palestine, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Cuba. I've visited Okinawa and Japan and joined with Women Cross the DMZ in North and South Korea. I've participated in Gaza Freedom Flotillas. International audiences are among the most receptive to opening diplomatic channels and relying on the rule of law, rather than resorting to the war machine.

The post-9/11 wars have lasted longer than our involvement in Vietnam debacle, proving once again how wars are easy to start but notoriously difficult to end. The American public appears to be pushed ever deeper into the war-making hole. The only way to begin climbing out will be to stop listening to the war-hawk politicians who were so wrong 14 years ago and who continue to be wrong today. As we climb, we must raise our voices.

Ann Wright, a 29-year veteran of the Army and Army Reserves, retired as a Colonel. In 1987, Wright became a U.S. diplomat, serving as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. embassies in Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Micronesia and Mongolia, also serving at U.S. embassies in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Grenada, and Nicaragua and with the United Nations in Somalia. She resigned from the Department of State on March 19, 2003, in opposition to the Iraq war.

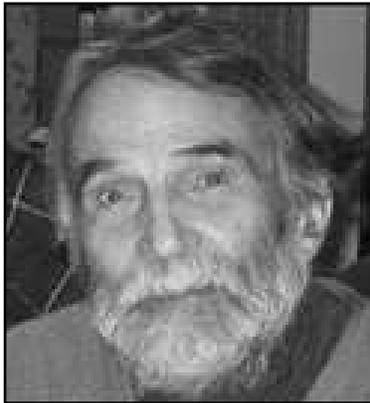
In memoriam

John Landgraf - *presente*

12/29/28 to 2/13/17

by Bill Barnett

A long and loyal member of Minnesota Veterans for Peace, John E. Landgraf has died. Born on Dec. 29, 1928, in Highland Park, Michigan, John died peacefully on Feb. 13, 2017, at Our Lady of Peace Hospice in St. Paul, of brain cancer. Preceded in death by two siblings, he is survived by his life partner Elizabeth Burr of St. Paul; his brother-in-law Douglas Heidenreich of St Paul; his adopted son Samir Hanef of Durham, NC; his step daughter Hilary Thompson of Raleigh NC; and his nephew Eric Hansen. John graduated from Michigan State College in 1950 with a B.S. in Botany, then earned an M.S. in Horticulture there in 1952.



John was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1953 and he served with the Medical Corps in Washington D.C. until 1955. In 1962, he completed his doctorate in molecular biology at the University of Tübingen in Germany and continued doing graduate study at Tübingen in Biblical Archaeology, History, and Theology. From 1965 to 1980, he lived in Jerusalem as an archaeologist and unofficial social worker. In 1980, he published a major study on the ceramics of the Byzantine period. John was a man of high intelligence, integrity, generosity, and compassion, with a deep social conscience. He participated in the third civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965. A devoted supporter of the Israeli nuclear whistle-blower Mordechai Vanunu, he regarded the U.S. government's one-sided favoring of Israel as a danger to world peace. The first Gulf War of 1991 led John to become a war-tax resister. He was a member of the 1996 Voices in the Wilderness delegation carrying medicines to Iraq. Until the end of his life, he maintained an active interest in ancient ceramics, he was strongly committed to justice for the Palestinians, and he remained dedicated to anti-war efforts and environmental

protection. John will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Memorials preferred to Minnesota Veterans for Peace, Women Against Military Madness, or Our Lady of Peace Hospice and Home Care.

Dan (O'Neil) Gallagher

8/16/47 to 12/26/16

"What's real is the price of war, and soldiers pay the price. But veterans live to still pay more, they can't recover what they have lost."

by Barry Riesch

The veterans community lost a great leader and advocate on Dec 26, 2016, Dan Gallagher.

Dan, a combat veteran who served in Vietnam became a strong voice for veterans after being diagnosed with PTSD, a cause to which he devoted the rest of his life. Dan had a love of words, writing, poetry, reading and intellectual debate. These great skills became apparent in his role in the documentary "Beyond The Divide" produced by local film producer Jan Selby.

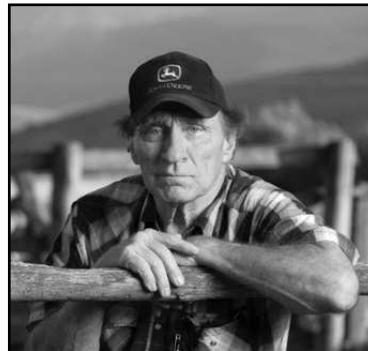


photo courtesy of John Noltner

This is where we at Chapter 27 were fortunate to learn about and meet Dan in featuring this valuable and timely work. In the film Jan showcases the difference between combat veterans and the peace movement. Dan stepped out of his comfort zone into something bigger. He crossed that divide which is so difficult for many of us in communicating with others of differing opinions. Dan showed us how to communicate and build relationships with others and how bonds of love and friendship can evolve as with Betsy Mulligan-Dague from the Jeanette Rankin Peace center in Missoula, who shares the other role. Dan and his example will be sorely missed in our world. We are glad to have known and been able to spend time with him.

Charlie Liteky

2/14/31 to 1/20/17

by Roy Wolff

On 24 January 2017 a headline in the *New York Times* read, “Charlie Liteky, 85, Dies; Returned Medal of Honor in Protest.”

The article that followed traced his life from high school football star to college student, to seminary training for the Catholic priesthood, to his voluntary service as an army chaplain in Vietnam, where on Dec. 6, 1967, in Bien Hoa Province, “his company came under intense fire from an enemy battalion. Despite painful shrapnel wounds in his neck and foot, Liteky carried more than 20 men to the landing zone to be evacuated during the fierce fire-fight. Noticing a trapped and seriously wounded man, Chaplain Liteky crawled to his aid but realizing the wounded man was too heavy to carry, he rolled on his back, placed the man on his chest and through sheer determination and fortitude crawled back to the landing zone using his elbows and heels to push himself along.”



Liteky returning his medal in 1986

For his heroic actions, Charlie Liteky received the Congressional Medal of Honor from President Lyndon Johnson. Only five chaplains are among the 3,500 recipients of that most treasured medal from its beginnings in the American Civil War. The emphasis in the article was on Charlie’s returning the medal in 1986, in a message addressed to President Reagan that was strongly critical of U.S. policy and involvement in the Central America wars of the 1980s.

As old-time VFP members remember, this led to a 47-day hunger strike (held near the U. S. Capitol) by Charlie, Brian Willson, George Mizo and Duncan Murphy. Those four men are the reason our chapter was formed, along with many others.

Several local members knew Charlie “back then” from attending national conventions and from his visits to Minnesota. He spoke here in 1987, and in his remarks he made these points:

“Before we can solve our dilemmas about the Just War

Theory, we will have to rise above the ‘assumptions of our subcultures (family, education, government and especially military training).’”

“We need to avoid being cynical, and not fire back at those we disagree with; in other words remaining nonviolent as best we can!”

“We should not fear death, which is inevitable, nor worry about money, which will come from somewhere, but instead become part of ‘the creative process.’”

“The Vietnam War was launched via the Gulf of Tonkin incident, which never happened but was perpetrated by an outright lie by President Johnson, which led to the death of over 50,000 American lives and millions of others.”

“We need to build another Vietnam Memorial, a wall that lists the two million names of the Asians who perished in that war.”

“The U.S. policy toward Nicaragua and El Salvador is grossly immoral, legally questionable and highly irrational.”

Charlie’s peace activities, and those of his brother Patrick, ranged far and wide during the next 30 years, including holding frightened children in Baghdad during the U.S. bombing of Iraq in 2003, and serving two prison terms for protests at the School of the Americas and elsewhere.

As the old saying goes, Charlie is gone, but definitely not forgotten! Watch for his memoir *Renunciation*, which will be published later this year.

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.

My road less traveled, a road to Peacemaker

by Bill Habedank

On March 2, 2017, I was the keynote speaker at the monthly meeting of the Cannon River Conference, an assembly of clergy from the Cannon River group of the Southeast ELCA Synod. I was asked by my Pastor, Arte Sharot, to speak at this conference being held at First Lutheran Church in Red Wing. It was attended by 20 clergy and First Lutheran leaders as well as a fellow Toastmaster of mine who was there to evaluate my speech.

I chose to speak on my favorite topic: peace, and how I became a peace activist. I began by telling them that it was intimidating for me to be on this side of the pulpit but I welcomed the opportunity. I talked about the past Sunday's sermon at my church where Pastor Arte talked of listening to God and He will be your friend. I asked them to listen to me because I want to be their friend and not their adversary. I said this because peace activists are not always welcome in some churches. I had met many peace activists over the last 15 years. They were not the crazy, idealistic, unrealistic, drugged-up people I envisioned in my younger days. This was so far from the truth. They are very smart, moral people who were very aware of reality.

I proceeded to tell them about VFP and read the VFP Mission Statement as they intently listened.

I told them my story, where I went from being an apathetic, unconcerned college student during the Vietnam War who was able to avoid being drafted because I could afford to remain in college for six years. Watching the movie *Platoon* was the beginning of my attitude change. I realized how wrong that war was and how grossly unfair the draft was and I no longer believed that my country was always the good guys.

My life changed profoundly on September 11, 2001 as did all of our lives but me more so than others but still I was not a full-fledged peace activist until September 24, 2003. I laid in the hospital in ICU after nearly dying the day before in the ambulance. When my family was with me on Christmas Eve I was watching television and listening to the history of Jesus and the Sermon on the Mount. Never before had I listened as intently as when Jesus said "blessed are the peacemakers." It then dawned on me that there was a reason I was still alive. I was meant to be a peacemaker and I would never waiver from that purpose.

I told the pastors how I became so unsettled because so many Christians were clamoring for war in 2003, even though many church leaders gave one-day protests of the coming Iraq invasion. I asked them if it was wrong to go to

war the day before it starts, why is it not after it starts? I then sought out ELCA church doctrine and was led to a document entitled For Peace in God's World (FPIGW), which was created by the ELCA assembly in 1995 and passed unanimously.

I went over some of the words in FPIGW. It began with:

"We of the ELCA in America share with the Church of Jesus Christ in all times and places the calling to be peacemakers. . . . Most importantly, this statement recalls that the basis of the Church's peace-calling is in God's final peace, the peace of God's eternal reign.

"That calling is to proclaim the Gospel of God's final peace and to work for earthly peace. This statement understands earthly peace to mean relationships among and within nations that are just, harmonious, and free from war. It offers direction as we act to keep and to build earthly peace on the eve of a new millennium."

Incredibly it call for the church to be a:

"disturbing presence when it refuses to be silent and instead speaks the truth in times. The Church is this presence when it names and resists idols that lead to false security, injustice, and war, and calls for repentance. We therefore denounce beliefs and actions that: elevate our nation or any nation or people to the role of God;

"find ultimate security in weapons and warfare;

"ordain the inherent right of one people, race, or civilization to rule over others;

"promise a perfect, peaceful society through the efforts of a self-sufficient humanity; and

"despair of any possibility for peace."

After I first read it I began to ask what its purpose was. One Lutheran minister told me in 2005 that "oh that document! It was discontinued because it was too liberal!"

I know it was intended to be used because there was an adult study guide to go along with it. I had my First Lutheran church adopt it for use in our church and was given the authority to conduct two separate adult classes which consisted of 16 hours of discussion. I was dismayed that the participants did not change their opinions about war and some still supported it.

I then told the pastors listening to my presentation what

Continued on next page

From previous page

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German Lutheran theologian, who vehemently opposed the Nazi regime and died for it, said about these issues:

“The church has an unconditional obligation towards the victims of any ordering society, even if they do not belong to the Christian community” and that the church was charged “not to just bind up the victims beneath the wheel, but to halt the wheel itself.”

Bonhoeffer also said: “Christian belief must be joined by ‘responsible action’ in the real world in which we live.”

I then told the pastors that to be a Christian today requires the same level of courage as shown by Bonhoeffer and the early Christians in Rome who were put to death by Caesar. We must return to a message of peace in our church or we are doomed.

I read to them a letter I drafted a few years ago which I intended to send to local clergy.

It read: “I am not naive enough to misunderstand the political implications of taking a stance against war (and violence) both inside and outside your church but it is a risk we as Christians must take. We must not shun from what we deem is necessary to be a Christian. As we all know being a Christian never was the safe road to take but it is the correct and difficult road. Therefore you have a right and an obligation to speak out against war. If we can speak of peace in church we must also speak about war. We cannot simply wish for peace in other countries as if it is their problem but it is also our problem here in the U.S. We need to return to our Christian values as taught by Jesus Christ. If we do not, we will destroy mankind as we know it. I do not believe that is God’s plan. We have a choice.”

I ended by saying this is a conversation I am more than willing to see continued. The question and answer was lively and I do believe I got them to think more about this issue.

My fellow Toastmaster even had these words to say in her evaluation:

“On this day, Thursday March 2nd, I witnessed one of the best speeches I’ve ever heard on a subject I really wasn’t very interested in, Peace activist. And hearing why he became a supporter and advocate for peace and hearing how and when his realization of the destruction of war creates was eye-opening!”

This is why we all in VFP need to get out there and tell our stories!

Speakers Outreach Update

by *Steve McKeown*

Our VFP Speakers Bureau Committee met to strategize and make a new brochure, which Ron Staff put together, that is now available. As we go to print there are some speaking engagements pending, but some of the places we have been are: Dave Logsdon at Anwattin Jr. High; and Dave Logsdon and Michael Orange at the U. of M.; and Ron Staff, Roy Wolff and myself speaking at a men’s retreat at St. Joan of Arc on Armistice Day and why we ring bells. This was also co-organized by Roy. Larry Johnson also spoke at Bethel University at a Peace Studies class as well as at many events regarding MAP’s Peace Essay contest (see his article on page 8). Dick Foley (aka the counter-recruiter) spoke to classes at Highland Park, Cretin Derham Hall and Benilde St. Margaret.

One of the goals from our meeting was to have veterans that haven’t spoken before to be with someone who has, and some did listen in on Dick.

One of the things that I and others find rewarding is the letters we sometimes receive as feedback. Dick shared with us one of the many he has received which I found touching. Here is an excerpt from a student :

Dear Mr Foley,

I thought your talk with our class was one of the most unique talks I have ever had at school. Your story was interesting. Usually when I hear someone talk about their experience in the military even if it is negative they aren’t so forthright about their experience. When I was listening to you I thought about the fact of all the people you lost while over there. Currently my grandma is dying. It’s not that relatable to your situation, but it was pretty much on my mind the whole time while you lectured.

Your story with the woman watching the husbands, sons, and brother get buried in a mass grave was a lesson on how brutal and unbearable war can be. **This was a lesson to me on why I wouldn’t want to go in the military, because to be honest I was thinking about it with R.O.T.C. or one of the military academies.**

The most I will take away from your story is the loss of emotions and morality it is to take a life. I mean I know how bad it is to take a life, but I have never known of someone I have met who has, and the weight it is on them daily for the rest of someone’s life.

Well I would like to finish off with a thank you for your sacrifice.

Peacestock celebrates 15th year

Plans are again being made for the 15th annual Peacestock event set for July 15, 2017. Veterans For Peace, Chapters 115 and 27, are again collaborating to present another great program. As in the past, we have lined up great speakers on topics of current interest. There will also be some great musical entertainment as well as a delicious supper.

This year's theme will be "The Cost of War: Why is the U.S. doubling down on military spending?" To address these issues will be Bruce Gagnon, coordinator of the Global Network Against Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space. Also, Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer, a professor of Peace and Justice Studies at the University of St. Thomas will be a presenter. Nelson-Pallmeyer, a former candidate for U.S. Senate, an author, and the coordinator of the Minnesota Arms Spending Alternative Project will speak on this theme.

For entertainment, Bill McGrath along with Bonnie and the Clydes will play music from the 60s and 70s. Bill has played at several VFP events, and his music is forever popular.

The Fox Wagon will again offer food from 9 a.m. thru 2 p.m. They also provide vegetarian choices.

At the end of the day's events, an evening supper will be provided and more music shared as well. This is always a great time to share what has been said during the course of the day. We encourage attendees to stick around after the meal and meet new friends and renew old friendships.

Ticket prices remain \$30 per person, except students and youth pay a reduced price of \$15. You can purchase tickets from VFP 27 or VFP 115. You can also purchase tickets online at www.peacestockvfp.org. Go to this website to get much more information about Peacestock and how to get there. You can also call Bill Habedank at 651-764-1866 or email him at whabedank@yahoo.com. See you there!

In our last newsletter, we were going to write about Bruce's organization's annual conference. Instead, we are helping to bring him here.

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

ONGOING EVENTS

Monthly meeting, 2nd Sun., 6:30 pm, 4200 Cedar Av. S Please note day change.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar. 28-30. Memorial Day Demonstration (National, DC). Plans underway for large antiwar/militarism/budget Demonstration in DC. FFI Barry Riesch 651-641-1087.

Apr. 19, rededication of Peace Site at Gandhi Mahal restaurant, S. Mpls. See Larry Johnson's article pg. 2.

Memorial Day May 29, 9:30 am. Yearly event on area outside Vietnam Veterans Memorial. FFI Contact Barry Riesch, 651-641-1087.

June 3, Sat., Walk Against Weapons (see below).

July 15, Sat., Peacestock, Red Wing, MN. See article on this page.

Aug. 9-13, Wed.-Sun., VFP 2017 International Convention, in Chicago at the Palmer House.

WAMM ACTIONS

by Steve McKeown

WAMM's 10th Annual Walk Against Weapons will be held again Sat., June 3, rain or shine starting at 10:30 a.m. at the Perkins Parking lot located in Minneapolis at 27th and E. Franklin. Do not Park in the Perkins Lot! This walk will go through the West Bank area with a stop at MayDay Plaza for a brief rally and then return to the Perkins lot. This is also a fundraiser for WAMM. 4200 Cedar Ave. S., Suite 3, Mpls., Mn 55407

The End War Committee of WAMM, which I belong to, is collecting signatures to ban nuclear weapons. This petition will be delivered to all of the Minnesota Congressional delegation including the the two Senators during the anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis in Oct. This will be in support of the 123 nations that have signed up in the UN to ban these weapons. You can also contact VFP to obtain petitions. Out state and suburban signatures are especially desired.

The Things They Carried

by Ron Staff

The Minnesota History Theater put on a one man show *The Things They Carried* based on Tim O'Brien's classic novel and adapted by Jim Stowell. The actor, Pierce Bunting, was very good; scenes quite believable, issues brought to life, and "combat buddy" ethics portrayed well.

The stage was spare. A desk with typewriter, desk chair, low stand/table (to stand or march on) and crumpled up pieces of paper strewn across the floor. Pierce introduced the play and told the audience what was about to unfold. He said he would turn his back to the audience, wait a moment and then when he turned back, the play would be under way.

That "dramatic pause" at the beginning forces everyone into the moment veterans all experience. "What has become of me?" Letting things just jumble out and finally catch on in that effort to explain, brings the core of no longer being a mere civilian; but one with a few combat scenes to carry into their future into focus. What images race over the mental view screen, unknown by non-combat exposed people? Should they be shared?

The author, in Pierce's skin, tells about combat events without the processing, which even then only begins after the actual doings. Thinking, while rounds are zipping passed or bombs are exploding, which do not affect you, being ignored occurs for the previous survivors, who are your seasoned comrades. It is so common and seemingly trivial to speak of trial by fire, but it remains fundamental. Listening to someone die and doing nothing defines war. If they are the enemy, do nothing; if one of us, move the universe and save them.

Pierce inventories the things carried into combat with their respective weights; M-16 (loaded and unloaded), a bandolier of magazines, weight of each grenade, the 81 mm mortar round each person carried, weight of each canteen of water and so on. These assessments connect with those who have done long-distance hiking, assessing every item carried for its utility and weight. Basic cost-benefit evaluations.

Then a recital of emotional comfort items carried: pictures of loved ones, good luck charms in all their variations (rabbit foots, panty hose around the neck [don't ask], New Testaments and others) letters from home, distracting novels; lots of variety.

Then there is memory, which comes back to us at such odd times. Emotion is the driver of the careening roller coaster jerking us around in moments of quiet.

When in that moment, while in-country, the combatant

recalls his acts before going on active duty. How he took off in his auto to northern Minnesota; to Rainy River country and holes up in a small, inexpensive lodge run by an older man. They interact without much life story sharing over days, and then the owner takes him along on a fishing trip up river to the border lake, Lake of the Woods.

While off the shore of Canada in the old man's fishing boat, older members of the audience likely understood that merely going ashore just 20 feet away and staying there could have avoided the whole experience of war. One is not sure the depth of that decision could be made clear to the high school students seeing the show.

Giving up one's citizenship to avoid the experience of war was a huge moral decision thrust on young people about their age. Just the attempt to convey such a life-altering act defines heroic. The actor took us all there. Without asking the high school students in the audience, who represented probably three-fourths of the crowd, one knows they heard issues reviewed and rejected.

In the center section of the audience, combat experienced veterans, their significant others and other adult paying audience members resonated to the thoughts spoken and actions described. From those viewers, confirmation of all portrayed came out in the discussion after the play when Pierce was joined on stage by Jerry Miron, an in-country combat veteran.

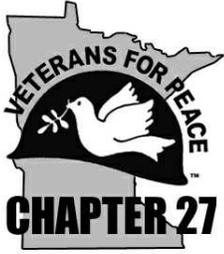
Numerous young people in the group reported family members having been in that war or subsequent ones. Veteran silence about their personal stories was a common theme. With even the Veterans Administration suggesting that those stories be kept within veteran-only groups, one is not surprised by public ignorance of these private costs of war. **The sacrifice of a mere one percent of the population is best kept "private" in order to continue wars of choice. Oh, and maybe for profit.**

The after play talk concluded with a call to end warring. Audience applause endorsed this.

Soldiers: Know Your Rights

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

1-800-394-9544



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

As of Mar. 25, 2017:

**At least 6,910 dead in Iraq and Afghanistan;
over one million injured veterans.**

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

Harold and Louise Nielsen mobile peace center



Thanks to the late Harold and Louise Nielsen's generous donation for us to purchase a Peace Center we now have a small retired school bus which we will begin to outfit for promoting our Statement of Purpose on the road and on the streets. It is not very likely that those of us who pulled guard duty for the military's Motor Pool thought we would ever be doing something like this.