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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)



Signs welcome kyong juhn on her walk for hope and peace.

Walking 330 miles for hope and peace

The background

by Joan Johnson, VFP associate member

Korean-American photographer kyong juhn (who chooses not to use capital letters in her name) from Rochester, MN, first came up with the idea for a "Walk for Hope and Peace" as she reflected on her mother's walk from North Korea to South Korea during the Korean War. She pursued and won a grant by the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council to replicate the 330-mile distance Choe Young Sook, her mother, walked to escape N. Korea.

From May 5-25, kyong's walk from Rochester to Bemidji raised public awareness about past and present issues faced by Korean people. She remains hopeful that there will soon be a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula, especially in light of the much-anticipated leaders' summit (as of this writ-

ing). She photographed and interviewed people along the way, and on August 3-17, an exhibition of her photographs will be on display at Rochester Community and Technical College.

The following essays were written by a few of the many people who supported this effort. "It took a village" to make this walk happen, from arrangers and planners, to walkers, hosts, supporters, meal-providers and those who donated money, food, space and supplies. The heroic sag wagon drivers Craig Wood and Dave Logsdon definitely deserve our kudos too!

View kyong's journey, dates and destinations at vfpchapter27.org or visit Facebook at [walkforhopeandpeace](https://www.facebook.com/walkforhopeandpeace).

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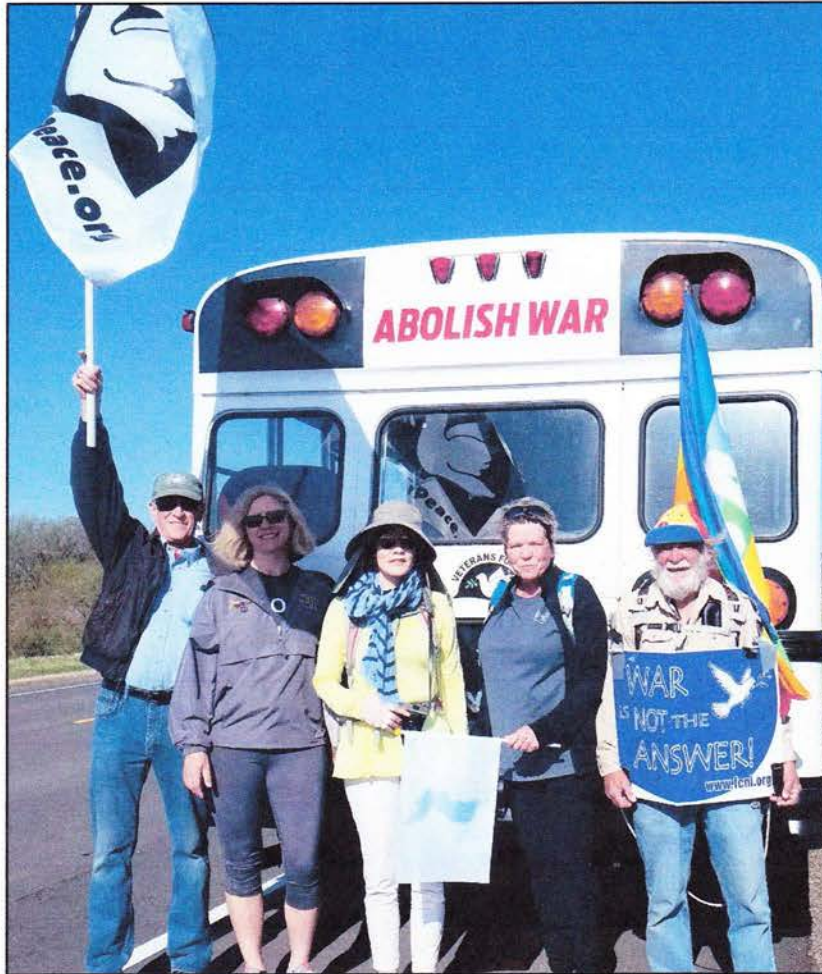
Origins of VFP involvement

by Larry Johnson,
US Army medic

Last winter, VFP member David Cooley was contacted by kyong juhn, who knew him through a mutual Chicago-based artist friend. She asked him if he knew of any people in Minnesota who might be able to assist her in her “Walk for Hope and Peace” from Rochester to Bemidji. David asked if I would meet with kyong, knowing I had done “short” long walks, like the 70-mile “Beating Weapons into Windmills” walk in 2016. After that meeting, I asked VFP Chap. 27 president Dave Logsdon to assist in getting kyong on the agenda for our VFP March meeting to see how we could support her walk. Thank you to all who rallied behind her cause, because look at all that was accomplished!

At that time, I arranged for kyong to host a “Walk for Hope and Peace” table on March 20th at the St. Paul Landmark Center’s “World Storytelling Day” event, allowing her to make early awareness and logistics connections for the walk. She later commented, “When I heard the stories about why the war in Vietnam should not have happened, I got a much deeper understanding of what I had set out to do.”

I also contacted Robin Monahan, a friend who had walked across the U.S. with his brother Laird in 2010. Supported by “Move to Amend,” they were calling attention to getting big money out of the U.S. government’s political process. As it turned out, Robin was able to attend kyong’s send-off in Rochester as our lone VFP representative there, then walked 33 miles the first two days with her, and joined



The VFP sag wagon with kyong jung in the center.

in the walk six more times after that.

When I saw the route was going through Kenyon on May 6th, I called our friends, Karen Olness and Hakon Torjesen, Kenyon residents and international leaders in refugee health care. They gave the walk brochure to their friend from church choir, Terri Washburn, who is the “Kenyon Leader” newspaper editor. She called kyong in early April and later wrote an excellent front-page article about the meaning of kyong’s walk, and invited the public to attend a special picnic and program Vets for Peace planned to honor Harold and Louise Nielsen, and to welcome kyong upon her arrival in Kenyon.

Since deceased, the

Nielsens, who were Kenyon residents, had funded our VFP Mobile Peace Center—a beautifully restored school bus—which became kyong and walking companions’ sag wagon (carrier of supplies and gear). Many VFP members and supporters attended the gathering at Kenyon Depot Park, joining with Kenyon residents and kyong’s family. Speakers included the Lutheran Church minister, kyong, her daughter, and Dave Logsdon, with Bill McGrath providing music.

I wanted to do the whole walk with kyong but knew my schedule wouldn’t allow it. I first walked May 8th on the Northfield to Rosemount leg. Most notable that day, I learned how kyong had first contacted David Cooley (through the Chicago friend) and decided to ask VFP for help. Prior to this, she said, “I had never heard of Veterans for Peace.” Thin threads? God Moment?

As of this writing, I also plan to walk on May 24th and 25th into Bemidji, accompanied by my wife Elaine Wynne, who grew up there.

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Walking the talk

by Craig Wood

You can see some surprising things and meet interesting people walking from Rochester to Bemidji in Minnesota. For starters, a farmer who had read Terri's "Walk" article in the "Kenyon Leader" greeted us with a \$20 bill as his show of support. Later, we met a young lad from Rosemount on the way to school, who stopped his bike and wanted to know what the VFP flag represents. Also in Rosemount, there was the chance meeting with a Palestinian activist runner and an 86-year-old working farmer, both curious about the purpose of the peace walk.

It's tough to know what you'll see over the next hill or who you'll meet while listening to the nesting cries of red-wing blackbirds and following dandelions and crocuses north in May. Maybe a Trumpeter Swan or another farmer retrieving letters from a mailbox on a dirt road outside of Clear Lake, who is anxious to talk about losing a brother in Vietnam—an occasion when it soon becomes apparent that it's time to listen more than talk.

Other times you do most of the talking, explaining our mission while handing out information to restaurant workers, motel clerks and curious onlookers. Occasionally some offer to make donations or buy coffee. Thankfully, I heard no reports of anyone starting an argument or responding negatively. A lot of people returned our hand waves, especially truck drivers and motorcyclists. Community outreach works in mysterious ways.

Camaraderie on the open road seems to bring out the best in people bound by a humanitarian idea. Examining road-side trash, like a froot loop bracelet and a shoot-up drug kit, and taking amusing timeouts added to the levity.



kyong jung and Shin Oh.

Many who walked enjoyed a lively interchange of ideas with kyong juhn and her walking companion Shin Oh, both fun to talk with, yet serious about commemorating kyong's mother's escape route from North Korea to South Korea in 1950.

Good-hearted people across Minnesota quickly got on board and opened their homes or facilities to walkers. Some of the welcoming meals were said to be better than most restaurant food, delicious homemade cereal, fresh fish or venison. On the other hand, Bruce Berry and I had a bag of potato chips for our meal in Little Falls. That's the open road for you! Some say traveling is the best education. I doubt that, but I'm glad kyong juhn decided to go for a 330-mile hike and that I got to be part of it.

kyong is an inspiration

by Dick Bernard

I have been profoundly moved by this walk, from the time I learned about it in April via David Logsdon, a good friend of mine, until finally meeting kyong juhn in Minneapolis. The Walk for Hope and Peace symbolized all the best in response to an awful time for those who were victims of the war on the Korean peninsula; from kyong's parents and others who felt a need to flee to the south from

Continued on next page

what is now North Korea; to veterans whose lives were changed forever by the awful battles of 1950-53, including a relative of mine who served in Korea and whose demons led to his suicide on his 21st birthday.

I alerted my sister Flo Hedeem about kyong, and out of that came two nights' stay for kyong and companions at my sister's home in Park Rapids, preceding the difficult walk on the North Country Trail. I also passed the word along to Jeff at the Franciscan Sisters in Little Falls, which may have had something to do with kyong being shown some Franciscan hospitality there.

While I generally walk a great deal, I wasn't able to do the long route, so met kyong at the Minnehaha Falls event. She was inspiring! Whatever the participation capacity, kyong gave us all a marvelous example. My own walk was measured in feet, not miles, but nonetheless, it was quality time and certainly very memorable. I am so pleased that she accomplished her goal in honor of peace.

Reflections on kyong's walk

by Carol Weiler

On May 14, kyong juhn visited us in St. Cloud. What she had to say was so insightful! She and her walking companion gave us an idea of what it was like to be a refugee from North Korea. So many of the experiences correlate with those experienced by many other refugees from around



Walking along River Road in Minneapolis.

the world. We discussed the future of North and South Korea talks.

Thanks to Julie Busta for home hospitality and transportation for the walkers. Dave Logsdon, from Veterans for Peace, drove their bus to provide support for the walk. Many thanks to Atonement Lutheran Church for giving us access to their facility.

Safe travels kyong juhn!

A nature trail experience

by Florence Hedeem

We were delighted and enriched by hosting kyong, Shin Oh, and Craig overnight May 21 and 22 in Park Rapids. On Tuesday, they took a 13-mile hike with me

and another hiker friend Barb K, on the North Country National Scenic Trail between two lakes in Paul Bunyan State Forest near Laporte. It was an ideal day for hiking and for photography in nature. The walkers acknowledged that a natural dirt trail in rolling hills was more challenging than the road walk, but they did the distance with great valor. At Nelson Lake we were greeted by two eagles soaring over the lake and two loons swimming and diving. The cool water of the lake refreshed us before the trip back to Park Rapids.

It was a real gift to us to host people on the "Walk for Hope and Peace," and their SAG support from Craig Wood of Veterans for Peace. We just may add this hike each May

Continued on next page

to our regular hiking schedule which includes a Hike for Hope each first Sunday in October, remembering the 911 tragedy, victims, and rescuers, and our elected officials for a peaceful world as they make decisions on our behalf.

Good conversation and cultural exchanges

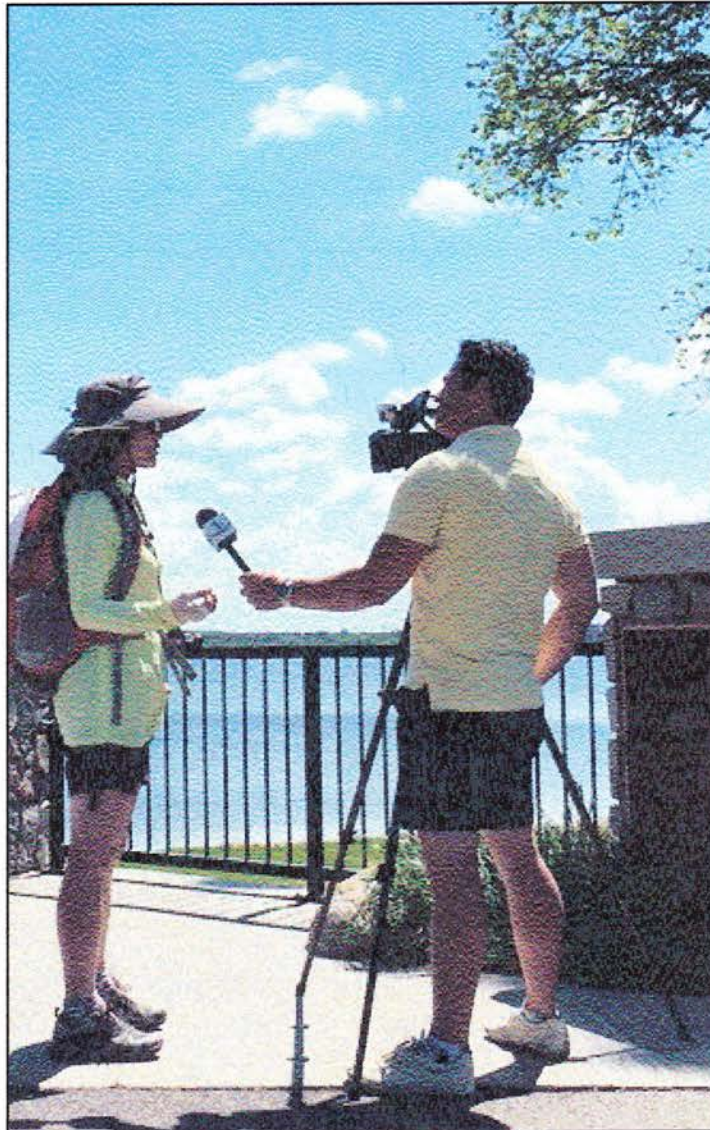
by Robin Monahan, as told to Joan Johnson

Having the support of Veterans for Peace made a world of difference to kyong, she told Robin Monahan as they walked together. kyong had also expressed this deep gratitude for VFP's support as she spoke at her send-off event in Rochester. The crowd responded with loud applause, and Robin says that he felt proud to be holding the VFP flag, being the only VFPer at her send-off. He said he wished everyone in VFP who had helped out could have been there to share in that special moment. There were many people willing to walk with kyong, Robin said, providing support, relief and camaraderie.

"It was not an easy walk," he emphasized. Inclement weather, uneven terrain and the gusts from passing semi trucks were some of what the walkers were up against.

Robin reflected on the many meaningful and insightful conversations he had along the way—with kyong, with her two Korean-American companions Shin Oh and Hanna, and with other walkers. There were cross-cultural exchanges, as they compared different perspectives of life and political views, and they talked about transformational moments in each of their lives.

They also had discussions about wild and domestic ani-



kyong was interviewed in Bemidji at the end of her walk for hope and peace.

mals of Minnesota, especially those encountered along the way—for example, gophers and dogs. Hearing about one walker's anxiety over meeting dogs, Robin shared tips on how to read a dog's body language. Together, the walkers figured out the difference between llamas and alpacas, having observed both groups along the route!

Walking with kyong the first two days, the last two, and four days in between, Robin recounted how grateful they felt upon being greeted by 25 people (and the media) gathered at beautiful Lake Bemidji, their ending point. It truly was a celebratory moment for all!

End of the trail

by Larry Johnson

Two months ago, when kyong's route was first set, my wife Elaine and I had planned to be there for the last two days of the walk. We had also organized lodging for the walkers with our

friend Karen Johnson in LaPorte, and for Elaine to see family in Bemidji. We were all shocked and saddened when walker David Cooley suddenly collapsed on Thursday and needed to be airlifted to a Fargo Hospital. Craig Wood was with him and did a great job, pre-EMT. (Dave received a pacemaker, and he is doing well.)

Karen had offered to organize a small gathering at her home and promote the event in Bemidji. When it became clear there was to be no Bemidji event, she went all out. Nearly 30 people gathered in her home. I talked briefly about VFP, particularly our Armistice effort, then kyong and

Peace walk, Continued on page 7

Notes from the President.....

by Dave Logsdon

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."
Aesop

Sometimes, when you put out a bunch of small acts of kindness, you get a big, historic act of kindness! On March 18th, the culmination of many small acts of kindness, plus balancing schedules and building relationships, resulted in a benefit concert that sent some amazing Indigenous youth to the Vatican. Their mission: talk to the Pope about abolishing once and for all the Papal Bulls that constitute the Doctrine of Discovery. Those Papal Bulls outline a set of moral parameters that gave permission to the conquerors of the New World to rape, plunder, and enslave the rightful inhabitants of this and other lands.

Special thanks to the wonderful members of the Universalist Church for their enthusiastic work hosting this event. A big shout out is also in order for Mitch Walking Elk and his future Native leaders for keeping us all inspired. Last, but not least, my dear friend and fellow rider, Larry Long, who assembled an All-Star group of singer/poets, including Strong Buffalo (Tom LeBlanc), Max Gail, Prudence Johnson, Dorene Day, Keith Secola, and Joe Savage. They all gave generously of their time to raise money for this trip.

"In everyone's life, at some time, our inner flame goes out. It is then burst into flame by an encounter with another human being. We should be thankful for those that rekindle the inner spirit."
Albert Schweitzer

kyong Juhn is a Korean-American photographer who lives in Rochester with her scientist/physician husband Young Juhn. kyong began a 323-mile walk in early May from Rochester to Pinewood, Minnesota, to mirror her par-

ents walk from North Korea to South Korea. We used our Peace Bus as a sag wagon to assist her along the way. We also had a Peace Celebration in Kenyon at the home town park of Harold and Louise Nielsen who bequeathed a generous donation to our chapter for a peace activity center. A number of members kept kyong company along the way!

*"Skating away, skating away,
on the thin ice of a new day"*
Jethroe Tull

On a recent get-away to San Diego I had the privilege of sailing on The Golden Rule, the ongoing project of national Veterans For Peace.

In the 1950's four Quakers attempted to sail into the United States atomic bomb test area in the Marshall Islands to call attention to this environmental and moral misstep by our government. They were detained before reaching their destination, but garnered enough attention that the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty was signed.

That very boat was rescued from the bottom of Humboldt Bay and restored by VFP members there. Its beautiful sails with a peace symbol on one side and the Veterans For Peace logo on the other side can be seen at air shows up and down the Pacific coast!

The current plans are for a trans-Pacific journey to the Marshall Islands and then to Hiroshima! Donations to this amazing and powerful journey can be made at vfpgolden-ruleproject.org/donate.

As this newsletter was going to the printer, Mike Madden's trial for protesting at the airport was taking place. Mike has always conducted himself in a manner that reflects the core non-violent nature of Veterans for Peace. This whole incident from the airport police to the handling of this case by the judicial system is a slap in the face of anyone who has ever served in the military. We were told we fought and died for this right to peacefully dissent. This case should never have gotten this far!

Notes from Mitch Walking Elk on the trip to the Vatican

We arrived at our meeting with Vatican officials on May 7. We did not meet or see the Pope but there were a total of six officials present including an older woman who was the very first woman to be given some kind of prestige in the Vatican. The meeting was held in English except for those of us who introduced ourselves in our languages.

The Indigenous Youth, of whom everyone at home can

be very proud, presented first, with Akilah Day presenting in Ojibwe then translating to English. He was followed by Nathan Bergland who read a letter from spiritual leader and school superintendent Mike Carlowe Jr., from Pine Ridge.

All other youth followed, Nolan and Nina Bergland,

Vatican trip, continued on next page

Peace walk from page 5

Shin Oh spoke, wowing the crowd.

I have a list of churches who have been ringing Armistice bells with us regularly, but Trinity Lutheran in LaPorte became the first new one I've been able to sign on with our new 100th anniversary Armistice brochure.

We decided in the discussion that night, to move the end of the walk from the "Chamber of



Lunch on the road. Pictured left to right are kyong, Shin Oh, Dave Logsdon, Dave Cooley, Craig Wood and Bruce Berry.

Commerce" to slightly up the hill by the Chief Bemidji statue. Elaine had called a friend and fellow mover/shaker a few weeks earlier, and she got the Bemidji paper to sign on to being there. A guest at Karen's at the Thursday event had called the local PBS station. We were thrilled that both of those news outlets met us at the statue, and interviewed kyong at the end of the walk.

Vatican trip, from previous page

Rose Whipple, Ruben (Mucho) Santos, Kyle Kennedy, Deondre Whiteface and Amoreina Espinosa.

They talked about historical and inter generational trauma, murdered and missing women, personal impacts of colonization and all of those things that affect us indigenous people.

Dorene Day emphasized Anishinabe prophecies and other issues. Diana Johnson spoke from her personal life experiences being half Oglala and half Cheyenne and growing up in a white world stripped of her traditional ways.

I presented on behalf of my Cheyenne & Arapaho, read a letter of support from our tribal Governor Reggie Wassana as well as my own statement on our tribal histories and how it is today.

Emphasis was placed on the Vatican being the original source of mass colonization and how the Vatican bears a responsibility to act to set things right.

The other delegation, the Hodonosaune, presented following our presentation, giving their history and who they are and issued seven points they would like to see the

Vatican respond to.

Father Zampini responded with: the Church's position on Papal Bulls is they are things of the past and not their focus any longer but acknowledged that we are impacted on past issues.

My opinion is it is good that we came and did this and got a much clearer picture of these issues. All in all, this was a baby step in the right direction. The only miracle on this day is that we accomplished something monumental in achieving this meeting and getting here.

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.

**Were the founding fathers,
the creators of our
Constitution, legal immigrants?**

The Wisdom of the Bells

by Larry Johnson

Every year, on or around March 20, there are WORLD STORYTELLING DAY events in 25 or more countries, listed at www.globalstorytellingday.org. Led by the Scandinavians, Elaine and I helped start this with a group of storytellers around the world in 2003. Since that time I have always organized a local event somewhere, always maintaining the original inherent theme, IF I CAN HEAR YOUR STORY, IT'S HARDER FOR ME TO HATE YOU.

The world theme this year was WISE FOOLS (from the old folktale), and our event, again at Landmark Center in St. Paul, became WISE FOOLS: WISDOM ON THE FOLLY OF WAR. Because the wonderfully produced Burns/Novick *Vietnam* series had just aired on PBS, I invited TPT to have a table at our event, but told them our evening was rejecting the PBS premise. Burns/Novick said, "The War in Vietnam was started in good faith, but mistakes were made."

We said, quoting from the program:

"Our premise is THE WAR IN VIETNAM WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED, HAD WE BEEN ALLOWED TO TELL AND HEAR THE TRUTH AT THE TIME: the truth being that there is a binding, international law making war illegal . . . the truth that the church's JUST WAR THEORY says a war is 'JUST' if no civilians are harmed, and if you do not invade another country . . . the truth that the UNIVERSAL CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE carries severe penalties for many covered up infractions, including rape and sexual assault . . . the truth that the Constitution says only Congress, not the President, can declare war, something we stopped adhering to years ago . . . and finally the truth that Dr. M.L. King finally dared to utter, 'Now I see clearly. We will never solve problems of racism and poverty, as long we keep spending money to send our young people away to kill poor people overseas'."

To their credit, TPT came, and they are publishing all War in Vietnam era stories on their virtual Vietnam Wall. Yes, there are the traditional war stories, and the ones glorifying war, but they are not operating on the false premise that "If you work for Peace, you don't support the troops." There are many intense tales of resistance and peace activism, some from Chapter 27. Please go to www.mnvietnam.org/story/61-and-beyond/ and add your story so all can

see the the stories too often hidden.

Also, because this year is the 90th anniversary of the signing of the Kellogg-Briand Pact, our evening of stories began, honoring FOR, the Friends, WILPF, and the War Resisters League, the four peace groups, still active, from the time when millions pushed to create the international treaty outlawing war. Our August 22-26 VFP Convention, happening here because of Wayne Wittman, will close Sunday morning, August 26, with a public event, at Landmark, focused on the 1928 Kellogg-Briand Pact.

Of course, World Storytelling Day 2018 also opened with Armistice bell-ringing. This is the 100th anniversary of the 1918 Armistice, and Landmark Center will also be the site of our traditional November 11 ceremony of ringing bells and working for peace, so that no more soldiers and civilians are killed in war. Since we did the first Paul Chappell public event there, Landmark, via Judy Brooks, has adopted us, once again honoring us at their annual meeting. Besides our 10:30 event, Judy is planning a full day of Peace and Justice activity for the entire family. PLEASE STAY TUNED.

Finally, Veterans for Peace nationally, is organizing a massive national push on celebrating the real meaning of the 1918 Armistice for today. Steve McKeown and I have been on the national calls for this, and you can connect by going to www.veteransforpeace.org and clicking on ARMISTICE DAY.

But this is not new for us. Since 1991 we have celebrated November 11 as the original Armistice, honoring veterans, and civilians, with peace bells, not guns glorifying war. In 2012 we were asked to help promote this nationally, and there are now well over 60 cities around the country following our lead. The push by National VFP this year is simply building on that 2012 start. We have just created a brochure to encourage Worship Centers in Minnesota to join in with their own ceremony on Sunday, November 11. You can get one or more to use with Places of Worship you know. Just come to a meeting and pick them up or call or email the office. RING ON, POWERFUL BELLS OF PEACE.

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/

VFP advocates for a Minnesota assault weapons ban

by Michael Orange,
VFP member, author
and former Marine

Last March, a group of six Chapter 27 members decided to do something about our country's epidemic of gun violence. We met, defined the mission, agreed on a plan and the desired outcomes, purchased a very effective 3 X 7 ft. banner, and then implemented the plan. The short-range mission was to advocate for the adoption of Minnesota laws that banned assault weapons, high-capacity magazines, and accessories that increased firing rates. Knowing that the gun lobby had a stranglehold on our Republican-controlled

Legislature, we limited our goal to having bills drafted, not adopted. That led to our long-range goal of publically exposing those legislators who opposed sane gun control bills so that Minnesota voters (a strong majority of whom support common-sense laws) can VOTE THEM OUT next November.

We accomplished our mission. Both houses of our Legislature drafted over 37 bills each regarding firearms. In both houses there were about five that were pro-gun and about twenty that included common-sense gun control measures, including our assault weapon ban. With one minor exception, our Legislature refused to allow a single gun control bill to be even heard, much less debated and voted on.

Our timing was perfect. We were able to ride the wave of outrage from the thousands who had recently marched to our Capitol, and from the throngs of young people from all over the country who were mobilizing for sensible gun control. We met with each of our legislators and many others and told them that we had first-hand experience with these weapons of war. We quoted University of Arizona trauma surgeon, Peter Rhee, who compared the damage done by AR-15 bullets and 9 mm handgun bullets: "One looks like a grenade went off in there. The other looks like a bad knife cut."

We described how the gun lobby's arguments are based on lies. **We talked about the history behind the Second Amendment and how Congress passed it in 1791 to preserve the slave patrol militias in the southern states.** We



Pictured are Barry Riesch, unknown individual, State Sen. Sandy Pappas, State House Rep. Erin Murphy, Bruce Berry and Michael Orange.

exposed the gun lobby's lies when it claims any restriction of gun rights is unconstitutional. We told them that California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maryland, and New York as well as several local jurisdictions have passed assault weapon bans, and federal judges have upheld them. We exposed the gun lobby's lie that gun ownership stops crime as well as mass murders. We gave them the documentation that the presence of more guns leads to more crimes; that for every criminal killed in self-defense, 34 innocent people die; and that assault weapon bans have had positive effects on gun violence.

The highlight of the entire experience for me was when we were invited to attend a bipartisan Capitol press conference on March 25 sponsored by several senators who were announcing their authorship of several gun control bills. Midway through, a parade of about thirty high school students entered the room wearing bright orange, gun control T-shirts. They had just left the bus that had brought them home from a long overnight ride after participating in the massive March for Our Lives event in Washington DC. When the press conference ended, Bruce Barry began to shake one student's hand after another. The rest of our group followed his lead. I thanked each student for their service in this historic movement. The heartfelt thanks I got back from their tired faces sparked an optimistic hope that this younger generation (and their parents) will shoulder the responsibility for the change that has to come if we are to reverse our nation's continual decline towards fascism.

We need to GET OUT THE VOTE!

Bowing before Lord Nuke

by Steve McKeown, VFP member and Vietnam Vet

My friend and fellow VFP member Roy Wolff lent me a book about the life of the late Archbishop Hunthausen from Seattle titled *A Still and Quiet Conscience: The Archbishop who challenged a Pope, a President, and a Church*. Hunthausen attended a number of anti-nuclear Trident submarine protests in the late 70s. He was influenced greatly by the actions and writing of the nuclear resistor and author James Douglas who is well known for his book *The Unspeakable*, which is about the assassination of JFK and what it means today. Douglas and his wife Shelly started the resistance against the Trident, which was in Hunthausen's diocese, that included going up against the well-connected.

About the same time the Archbishop read an article by a former POW and WWII veteran, Richard McSorely, who became a pacifist and a priest and wrote **"the taproot of violence in America was the country's willingness to use nuclear weapons. Once we entertain the possibility of obliterating the world all other evil is minor in comparison."** McSorely concluded: "any hope of improving public

morality is doomed to failure until we squarely face the question of our consent to use nuclear weapons."

Hunthausen wrote to the priests in his Archdiocese: **"As a teacher and preacher of Christ's Gospel message of peace, I have a deep conviction that silence and inaction at this time is nothing less than the betrayal of the charge given to preach the Gospel."** Where he got into trouble was his public tax resistance and his opposition to nuclear deterrence, issues that the wealthy, the Vatican, President Reagan, and the right wing members of the Catholic Church supported.

Today we have a different silence. The Pope has come out strongly against nuclear deterrence, and even against their possession. But to hear this from the pulpits in most any Catholic Church is a rarity. One would think that the 50s TV show I'VE GOT A SECRET had been resurrected. The Protestant churches are no better.

McSorely's claim about the ultimate evil of nuclear weapons is a statement that is either true or not. The late nuclear resistor Father Dan Berrigan summed it up even further: "the Church of hem and haw bows before Lord Nuke."

A retired priest and friend Tony Kroll has gathered a

Continued on next page

Letter from Rep. Betty McCollum on nukes to Mary Beaudoin, WAMM newsletter editor and End War Committee member

Thank you for contacting me regarding nuclear weapons and the Trump administration's Nuclear Posture Review (NPR), I appreciate hearing from you.

Like you, I am deeply concerned about the skyrocketing cost of nuclear weapons programs. The Trump administration's Nuclear Posture Review, which was released this February, takes our national security in the wrong direction and prioritizes a budget that is completely out of step with the needs of the American people. The expansion of our nuclear weapons capability is an outdated military strategy in the 21st century. It is a waste of taxpayer money to expand Cold War era weapons that must never be used, particularly while funding for domestic programs on infrastructure, education, environmental protection and healthcare is threatened with cuts that would put millions of Americans at risk.

In the case of the NPR, the Trump administration has gone far beyond a plan to recapitalize the existing U.S. nuclear deterrent by proposing the development of new, costly, and unnecessary weapons systems. These

include a new low-yield nuclear weapon and a nuclear-tipped sea-launched cruise missile. Development of these weapons, in addition to recapitalizing our existing nuclear infrastructure, will cost American taxpayers over a trillion dollars over the next decade. The sheer cost of this is staggering and simply unacceptable. That is why I voted against authorizing the development of these new weapons when the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (H.R. 5515) came to the House Floor on May 24, 2018.

Nuclear weapons should be reduced not expanded. Reducing the size of our nuclear arsenal is a smart way to restore fiscal responsibility in our defense budget while safeguarding investments critical to our national security. Please be assured that as a Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, I will continue to oppose the expansion of these programs and work to reduce unnecessary expenditures on these antiquated and irresponsible weapons.

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact me.

number of signatures for ours and WAMM's nuclear disarmament petition. He should be supported by a whole network of religious leaders with all the thunder heard from Hunthausen's direct and plain spoken moral imperative.

On another note, Augsburg College is hosting the largest Nobel Peace Prize Forum in the world outside of Geneva in September with the leader of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning International Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons being a keynote speaker. The office of Keith Ellison has told me that they plan on hosting a nuclear forum in August, and I requested we be included. Marie Braun from WAMM has put in a request for the

Towns with more than 20 signatures

Anoka-37, Apple Valley-72, Blaine-47, Bloomington-253, Brainard-42, Brooklyn Center-40, Brooklyn Park-74, Burnsville-88, Chanhassen-23, Chaska-30, Columbia Heights-28, Coon Rapids-59, Cottage Grove-20, Crystal-40, Duluth-181, Eagan-106, Eden Prairie-98, Edina-254, Excelsior-31, Faribault-38, Farmington-21, Fergus Falls-21, Fridley-43, Golden Valley-64, Hopkins-69, Inver Grove Heights-31, Kenyon-25, Lakeville-30, Little Falls-36, Mankato-117, Maple Grove-49, Maplewood-55, Minneapolis-4713, Minnetonka-139, Montgomery-20, New Brighton-21, New Hope-30, Northfield-133, Owatonna-26, Plymouth-68, Prior Lake-26, Ramsey-21, Richfield-294, Robbinsdale-35, Rochester-37, Rosemount-24, Roseville-101, St Cloud-71, St Louis Park-222, St Paul-1409, St Peter-55, Sandstone-34, Savage-23, Shakopee-33, Shoreview-47, South St. Paul-26, Stillwater-40, Wayzata-22, West St Paul-33, Waconia-26, White Bear Lake-23, Woodbury-48.

END WAR committee to present our nuclear disarmament efforts.

Speaking of which, we now have 11,351 signatures from 376 towns and cities on paper to our Congresspeople. More help is needed and welcomed on this. Calls are encouraged especially to Senators Klobuchar (612 727 5220), and Smith (651 221 1016). The calls and the petitions purpose is to support the International Treaty to ban Nuclear Weapons, a treaty that now has 10 nations that have ratified it with the most recent one being Vietnam. When 50 nations sign it becomes International Law.

Peace index Millenials fall farther behind

by Frank Fuller

It is worth remembering that the Defense Department got a 15.5 percent budget increase this year, a \$94 billion increase. The only larger increase in its budget from one year to the next was in 2002, when it was boosted almost 27 percent to \$437 billion.

Spending for security in today's America is out of control. Just a few other examples from my previous columns include: a missile defense system that has cost \$300 billion over the last 30 years, with nothing to show for it. No one seems sure if missiles will get through it or not, because tests are rigged to make it seem more accurate and functional than it is.

Another is the fence along the Mexican border that could cost as much as \$25 billion, with annual maintenance costs running as high as \$750 million.

And Trump wants 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.

Overall, the U.S. now spends about \$250 million a day on the military and security. This comes at the expense of more and more things on the homefront.

One item that recently caught my attention is the impact these skewed priorities are having on young adults, the so-called millennials. What is happening to them is they are falling farther and farther behind previous generations economically, and some economists are saying they will never be able to catch up.

Start with the student debt crisis. Millenials are the most educated American generation ever but they have the most student debt. the average American student leaves college with \$37,172 in loans, which is \$20,000 more than 13 years ago.

In addition, NBC has reported that 49 percent of African-American millennials have student loan debt — more than any other racial subgroup. And 14 percent of mil-

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VFP and the Poor People's Campaign

by Barry Riesch

The Poor Peoples Campaign, a national call for moral revival, reignited the movement started in 1968 by Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, which began 40 days of action. As the first campaign marched up from the nation's neglected shadows, Dr. King paused to answer a plea for support from sanitation workers on strike in Memphis, where an assassin snatched his life on April 4th 1968.

On Monday, May 14, 2018, the action began again on the Mall in Washington, D.C., and will continue until June 23, 2018. Most actions in Minnesota are being held on Mondays at 5 p.m. on the steps of Minnesota State Capitol. It will take place at other state capitols as well. The Souls of Poor Folk emphasizes the complex relationships between and across systemic racism, persistent poverty, the war economy and its inevitable militarism, as well as the ecological devastation from which none can escape. A time to ponder the ailments of a nation that year after year spends more money on endless wars than on the needs of its citizens.

On Tuesday, May 29, VFP locally and nationally partnered with the PPC to focus on militarism. Our action locally was directed toward creating a peace economy that values all of humanity.

We entered the State Capitol building at approximately 3 p.m. and proceeded to hang our VFP banners on the second level railing overlooking the Rotunda. Then we proceeded to the main floor rotunda and as a group began to create a banner representing our vision. We also sang as we worked on the mural being led by Jayanthi Kyle.

This proceeded fairly well until confronted by security officers. They said they were concerned about paint and such on the floor, so we moved to the Vault (basement) of the Capitol, where painting resumed. At 5 p.m. we removed our banners and moved them outdoors to the front steps of the Capitol where a rally began. Shortly after the rally was opened the banner which was created inside the Capitol was brought forth to the front of the rally. The crowd opened up and the banner was laid in front of the podium.

To conclude the program, I made an announcement about the VA Mission Act, the legislation passed last week by 92 of our Senators including Sen. Klobuchar and Sen. Smith and pushed by the Trump administration. This legislation is aimed at creating a commission made up of private healthcare executives focused on shutting down local VA hospitals. It encourages and expands the use of private vouchers for veterans, moving them to a healthcare system



VFP members display the banner supporting the Poor People's Campaign in the Capitol rotunda.

that isn't ready to deal with this influx of vets and isn't familiar with their needs.

Worst of all, the \$60 billion price tag spent is being taken from other existing veterans programs. I asked those in attendance who were so inclined to join me as we were led by members of Mendota Mdewakanton tribe, Bobby Hull and others, to march down and circle the Veterans Service Building with a Native American purifying ceremony as a means of helping to save the VA. This we did as a soft rain guided us. Remembering the words of Senator Bernie Sanders, one of the few to vote no on the legislation, "If you can't afford to pay for Health Care for Veterans, then you should not go to war."

Last year, the US spent more than \$700 billion on the Pentagon and its programs. More that \$300 billion of that went to weapons manufacturers and war profiteers. War is stealing from all of us. Remembering those famous words

Campaign, Continued on page 14

PEACESTOCK 2018

16th annual event devoted to peace and justice

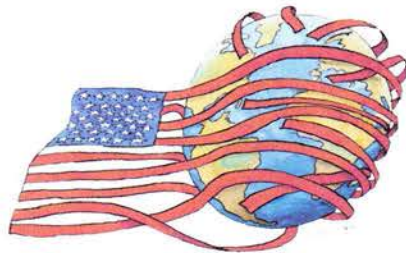
Sponsored by Veterans for Peace, Chap. 115, Red Wing and Chap. 27, Minneapolis

all day event starting at 9:00 am

Hobgoblin Barn, 920 Hwy. 19 Blvd., Red Wing MN www.hobgoblin-usa.com

Saturday, July 14, 2018

American Empire: Who Benefits, Who Suffers



Medea Benjamin

Medea Benjamin is the co-founder of the women-led peace group CODEPINK and the co-founder of the human rights group Global Exchange. She has been an advocate for social justice for more than 40 years. Described as "one of America's most committed -- and most effective -- fighters for human rights" by New York Newsday, and "one of the high profile leaders of the peace movement" by the Los Angeles Times, she was one of 1,000 exemplary women from 140 countries nominated to receive the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the millions of women who do the essential work of peace worldwide.



Additional Guests

Kyong Juhn's will speak on her Walk for Hope and Peace completed in May. Also, essay contestants will present their winning essays.

Music with Bonnie & the Clydes

Peacestock is proud to announce the return of Bonnie & the Clydes for an encore performance! They performed last year to a well-entertained audience by singing tunes that have endured thru the generations. Their repertoire is extensive and will be a good time for all to hear. Last year they described themselves this way:

Music performed by Bonnie & the Clydes can best be described as the kind of songs you listened to when you and friends were renting your first apartment near the campus sometime in the sixties or early seventies and your entire furniture contribution to the apartment consisted of a mattress and a coffee table made from a telephone company wooden spool that you snatched from a construction site next to the natural food grocery that was up the rear stairway above the paraphernalia shop where they also sold posters and lava lamps and had a cat in the front window named Quagmire who was the mother of one of your girlfriend's kittens that is now sleeping in your guitar case in the back of your VW microbus next to Ken Kesey's book, a bottle of Boone's Farm Apple Wine and a stack of signs protesting the government's policies in some far-off country.

Ticket information: \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door; \$15 for students & youth No one refused entry for inability to pay

Fox Wagon again providing mid-day food menu. Ticket price includes evening supper

Visit our website www.peacestockvfn.org for timely updates on additional speakers
Bill Habedank 651-764-1866 email: whabedank@yahoo.com

National Convention

by Penny Gardner,
associate VFP member and
Ch. 27 convention committee chair

Planning for the 2018 VFP National Convention is continuing. The local and national committees are meeting every two weeks via conference call. Despite challenges between time zones, there has been great participation and lively discussions.

There are so many excellent suggestions for plenary and mini-plenary topics that ways to combine them in a cogent manner are being considered. Invitations for speakers have been extended and responses are anticipated soon.

Forms for a variety of convention components are now available on the convention site and include: registration, poetry reading, tabling reservation, childcare reservation, Post Cold War veteran registration, resolution submission, workshop proposals and information re; purchasing ads for the convention booklet.

Leaders for early morning yoga sessions have been secured, but, leaders of the morning meditation sessions are still being sought. Iowa City Chapter 161 members will show films. A riverboat cruise for Thursday (8/23) evening is being planned, as well as an offsite event for Friday (8/24) evening.

Many volunteers will be needed to make the convention run smoothly. A comprehensive list of volunteer roles is being formulated and will be available soon.

Please feel free to contact members of Chapter 27 planning committee with questions:

Penelope Gardner, pennymae1948@gmail.com; Dave Logsdon, dlvfp27@gmail.com; John MacLeod, mnadriv-er@gmail.com; Barry Riesch, bwrvp27@gmail.com.

Ed. note: convention registration is now open. Go to vfpchapter27.org/veterans-for-peace-2018-annual-convention-in-st-paul/ for information.

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of Dr. King: "A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death. We must recognize that we can't solve our problem now until there is a radical redistribution of economic and political power."

It is time that we turn to our past in order to understand our present, and then turn forward together to build a better future.

EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING EVENTS

5-6 pm Weds. Lake Street/Marshall Ave. Bridge vigil.
Note: time changes Nov. 1: 4:30 to 5:30.

Monthly meeting, 2nd Sun., 6:00 pm, 4200 Cedar Av. S.

UPCOMING VENTS

July 11, 6:30 pm, Sisters of St Joseph Carondelet Chapel, Fairview and Randolph, St Paul, Former St. Paul Mayor Jim Schibel and current professor at Hamline College will speak about his students' trip to Nagasaki.

July 14 Peacestock, Red Wing with Medea Benjamin from Code Pink (see ad on page 13)

August 6 7:30 am, Lake Harriet Peace Garden, Hiroshima Remembrance. Hamline student Karl Dettman to speak on his recent trip to Nagasaki. VFP will ring bells.

August 9, 7 pm, Como Park Labryneth, Nagasaki Remembrance with Karl Dettman speaking.

Aug 23-26, National VFP Convention, Intercontinental Hotel, St Paul. (See article this page.)

September 15, Augsburg College, Mpls. The Nobel Peace Prize winning International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons Executive Director Beatrice Fihn will speak at Augsburg College's 30th annual Nobel Peace Prize Forum. info@peace.augsburg.edu. 612 330 1378

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lennials have delayed getting married due to debt, and 16 percent have delayed having children.

The minimum wage has not helped younger workers. It would have reached \$21.72 an hour in 2012 if it had kept up with increases in worker productivity, according to a March study by the Center for Economic and Policy Research. If it had just kept up with inflation, it would now be \$10.52 an hour.

The millennial generation are worse off than any previous generation. As of 2016, the median net worth of those born around the Reagan years was 34 percent lower than what past trends would predict for their age group. Those born in the 1970s, the GenXers, were just 18 percent behind at that same age.

There are many reasons for this. The economy no longer works for the middle class.

But military spending in this country is certainly a major factor in this.

Significant events from 50 years ago

compiled by Barry Riesch
VFP member and Vietnam Vet

May 1968: FBI's COINTELPRO campaign launches against the New Left.

May 1: Air Force sentences George B. Edwards to a year at hard labor and a dishonorable discharge for refusal of orders to Vietnam.

May 5: The NLF launches "Mini Tet," a series of rocket and mortar attacks against Saigon and 119 cities and military installations throughout South Vietnam. The U.S. responds with air strikes using napalm and high explosives.

May 10: Peace talks between US and the DRV open in Paris. The DRV wants a halt to all American bombing missions over their country and the participation of the NLF in a coalition government in the South, while the Americans insist on a de-escalation of NLF activities in South Vietnam as well as the withdrawal of NVA (or PVAN or VPA) troops from the South. This marks the beginning of five years of on-again off-again official talks between the U.S. and North Vietnam in Paris.

May 10: An NVA battalion attacks the Special Forces camp at Kham Duc along the border of Laos. The isolated camp had been established in 1963 to monitor North

Vietnamese infiltration. Now encircled by the NVA, the decision is made to evacuate via C-130 transport planes.

May 17: The Cantonsville Nine, Catholic activists, enter the draft board in Catonsville, Maryland, take 378 draft files, brought them to the parking lot in wire baskets, dumped them out, poured home-made napalm over them, and set them on fire. The Nine are: Father Daniel Berrigan, a Jesuit priest, Philip Berrigan, a former Josephite priest, Br. David Darst, a De La Salle Christian Brother, John Hogan, Tom, an artist, Marjorie Bradford Melville, Thomas Melville, a former Maryknoll priest, **George Mische (Chapter 27 member)**, and Mary Moylan.

May 22: [Fort Ord] Ken Stolte and Dan Amick are convicted after a 3-day general court martial. The charges against them are "attempting to conspire" to commit an offense and engaging in acts prejudicial to the good order and discipline of the Army, including uttering disloyal statements with intent to arouse disloyalty and disaffection among the troops and civilian populace. They are sentenced to four years at hard labor and given dishonorable discharges.

June 4: Robert F. Kennedy, gaining momentum in his presidential campaign, wins the California primary and is assassinated at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. Gunman Sirhan Sirhan, a Jordanian citizen of Palestinian descent, is captured at the scene. Now 73, he is serving life in prison.

June 19: The efforts of the Poor People's Campaign climaxes in the Solidarity Day Rally for Jobs, Peace, and Freedom in Washington, D.C. Fifty thousand people join the 3,000 participants living at Resurrection City on the National Mall to rally around the demands of the Poor People's Campaign on Solidarity Day.

June 23: War in Vietnam becomes the longest war in American history.

July 1: Johnson signs the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which remains the world's primary means of preventing the spread of nuclear weapons to non-nuclear states and reducing nuclear weapons in the world.

August 28: At the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, police and Illinois National Guardsmen go on a rampage, clubbing and tear-gassing hundreds of antiwar demonstrators, news reporters and bystanders, with much of the violence broadcast on national TV. The next day, Vice President Hubert Humphrey, perceived as the heir of Johnson's war policies, wins the Democratic nomination, mostly through delegates controlled by party bosses.

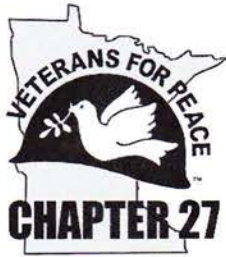
Memorial Day, 2018

by Barry Riesch

There was a good turnout at our annual Memorial Day event, in spite of the extremely hot and sticky weather. Most attendees were able to find respite in the shade. Our service was led in Native drumming by members of the Mendota Mdewakanton tribe on their new drum, while VFP member and tribe member John Varone smudged the group and Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. Bill McGrath was there to play music, plus do his yearly contribution by arriving early and setting up his sound system, something he has done this for years.

Of course the event would not be complete without the spirit and song by Brigid McDonald, one of the famous McDonald sisters. The highlight of the service was new VFP member Tom LeBlanc, Native and very powerful story teller and poet. We are very blessed to have him join us. Thanks to all who paid tribute to loved ones and friends lost to war. We were sad that our yearly poet Chante Wolf was not able to be present because of back injuries.

May the day come when we no longer have to add more names to the list of casualties from war, civilians and soldiers alike.



Veterans For Peace Chapter 27
4200 Cedar Av. S., Suite 7
Minneapolis, MN 55407

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Summer 2018 Newsletter

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**SUPPORT THE TROOPS!
BRING THEM HOME ALIVE
NOW!**

As of March 8, 2018:

At least 6,939 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.

National VFP Convention in Minnesota 2018

Intercontinental Hotel in St. Paul, Aug. 22-26

Volunteer help needed with convention tasks
(registration, video, labor, etc).

Also, if you have housing available
to host members and guests
(for those with limited funds)

Contact Barry Reisch at bwrvfp27@gmail.com or 651-641-1087
or Penelope Gardner at pennymae1948@gmail.com