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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)



A parade in North Carolina featured local VFP members marching with the Save Our VA banner.

Fight Trump's efforts to privatize the VA: *How You Can Help!*

by Jeff Roy
Vietnam Vet, 1968-69

Much has been happening around the VA and veterans' health care in the past three months. The Trump Administration, the Koch Brothers'-backed Concerned Veterans of America (CVA) and many Republicans in Congress are slowly but surely privatizing the VA under the guise of better access for veterans.

In December, 2018, the VA awarded about \$55 billion in VA health contracts to Eden Prairie-based Optum (a division of United Health Care) to manage non-VA veterans' health care within the soon-to-be-created Community Care Network (CCN) of for-profit health care providers.

On January 28th, Democratic Senator Jon Tester, Minority Leader of the Senate

Committee on Veteran Affairs, and 28 other Democrats sent a letter to Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie. It stated their disappointment with his lack of consultation with Congress, "Given the magnitude of this decision and the effect it will have on veterans who rely on VA for their care."

It questioned his lack of transparency in creating the rules, and whether they will be truly compatible with the intent of the new Veterans Community Care program passed by Congress.

The letter also stated: "At recent briefings, VA leadership officials have indicated the Department now intends to designate all clinical services as making a veteran nearly-automatically eligible for community care. This will significantly increase the overall cost and

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SOVA, from page 1

amount of care that the VA will send to the community. Given that **the administration opposes increasing overall federal spending** (emphasis added), these increased costs for community care will likely come at the expense of VA's direct system of care. And that is something we cannot support."

On January 30th, Secretary Wilkie announced proposed rules, stipulated under the 2018 MISSION Act, that will determine how veterans gain access to this private-providers network. His plan is to base access on both "wait times" for appointments and on "drive times" to VA facilities. Veterans who have to drive more than 30 minutes for a VA primary care appointment or 60 minutes for a VA specialty appointment would be eligible to go to a closer private for-profit clinic. VA wait times would also have to be, respectively, no more than 20 and 28 days.

According to Suzanne Gordon of the Veterans Health Policy Institute (VHPI): "In many heavily trafficked urban areas, as well as scantily populated rural areas, drive times can easily exceed 30 or 60 minutes. **According to internal VA estimates, the rule change could channel up to 63 percent of [VA] patients into the private sector. What's worse, every dollar spent on outsourcing would come out of the [VA] medical care budget. This could quickly drain resources from [VA] facilities and programs, which are already understaffed and over-stretched.**"

Secretary Wilkie has been blatantly contradictory about his view of VA health care quality. At a January 28th press conference, he cited several academic studies and stated: "Since 2014, the number of annual appointments for VA care is up by 3.4 million, with over 58 million appointments in fiscal year 2018. Simply put, more veterans are choosing to receive their health care at the VA. Patients' trust in VA care has skyrocketed (currently at 87.7%) and VA wait times are shorter than those in the private sector in primary care and two of three specialty care areas."

But under the guise of providing veterans choice, Secretary Wilkie then calls for greater access to private health care! Logically, he should be calling for expanding the VA, "where more veterans are choosing to receive their health care." And he should be calling for greater funding and staffing of the VA nationally to resolve issues of both

veteran travel and wait times.

But, as we all know in VFP, the 2018 MISSION Act was sold to the public, and most veterans groups, as a better way to give greater health care access to veterans who don't live close to VA hospitals or clinics. Theoretically, greater access should be good for veterans! But access to for-profit health care networks does not automatically mean veterans will receive the same high quality care that the VA provides. Multiple studies (e.g. William B. Weeks, Dec. 2018, *Annals of Internal Medicine*), including those cited by Secretary Wilkie, show that for-profit care is at best only equal to VA care, but often of lesser quality.

According to Suzanne Gordon, "The VA MISSION Act intended to fix a glaring omission in the hastily enacted Veterans Choice Program - its failure to set any standards for providers who treat veterans in the private sector or Veterans Health Administration (VHA) facilities."

The question remains: Will the VA establish standards of credentials, training and competence equal to that required of VA doctors, nurses and staff? This will not happen without citizen pressure on our Congressional lawmakers, and particularly members of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs.

VSO's have also come to regret their support for the 2018 MISSION Act. Some groups like the VFW, Disabled American Veterans and Paralyzed Veterans of America are rightly concerned that the un-funded MISSION Act will drain away already limited VA funding, imperiling current VA programs, staffing and facilities. And that without high competency standards equal to those of the VA, these Community Care Program facilities and staff will provide poorer quality health care to veterans.

Over the past five years, VFP veterans like Buzz Davis of Tucson, our own David Cooley here in Minneapolis, and many others around the nation have worked diligently to create the Save Our VA National Working Group. The effectiveness of SOVA combined with the recent acceleration of actions to privatize the VA have convinced the National VFP Board of Directors that the work of SOVA needs to be a national and local VFP priority.

On February 17th, SOVA held its most recent National

SOVA, continued on next page

SOVA, from previous page

Conference Call to hear what activists from around the country are doing and what methods have been successful. The next step is to build on this prior work, broaden the work to more chapters and become better coordinated and effective nationally. Most importantly, there is a need to increase our influence with our Congressional representatives so that they stand up to Trump, Wilkie and the CVA and say “No To Privatization.” Each of us can help, and we need to do it now!

We propose Chapter 27 create a local SOVA Committee tasked with taking action to stop Trump, Wilkie and the CVA from destroying the VA. These would include the following:

- **Mobilize VFP members locally and statewide to meet with (or send letters to) each of your Senators and Representatives to share your concerns.**
- **Send a letter to Minnesota Rep. Colin Peterson, 7th District, who sits on the critical House Committee of Veteran Affairs.**
- **Join forces with other veteran’s groups to increase our influence in Congress and to raise public awareness.**

To make it easier (this is complicated stuff!), VFP member David Cooley worked with others nationally to create talking points to use when communicating with Congressional Representatives or staff (immediately and before May) :

Amend the 2018 MISSION Act as follows:

- **Fund the VA MISSION Act so that CCN provider funding does not come from the VA budget, VA facilities, or its programs. Many veterans with service-connected conditions and low income veterans rely on the VA for their complete care. They should not experience additional costs in the form of co-pays nor a decrease in service to primary and specialty care at VA facilities.**
- **Ensure that the proposed rules require CCN**

providers deliver the same high level of care and staff credentialing as the VA.

- **Require that CCN providers must use evidence-based care for treating PTSD, traumatic brain injury (TBI), and are knowledgeable about how to care for veterans who have experienced military sexual trauma (MST).**

- **Require that CCN providers always submit thorough documentation (not just invoices) to the appropriate VA facility/VA medical staff regarding the care delivered to the veterans. And, if the**

There is a need to increase our influence with our Congressional representatives so that they stand up to Trump and Wilkie and say “No To Privatization.”

CCN providers fail to meet this obligation, the VA must withhold payment from these providers.

- **That if a CCN provider cannot provide comparable or better care than the VA, they should not be offered as an option to veterans, regardless of the drive time or distance from a VA facility.**

- **VA and Medicare websites must include options to search for healthcare providers based on their proficiency in treating specific medical conditions like PTSD and TBI. CCN providers would only be added to this website if they are qualified to care for patients with PTSD, TBI, and other veteran-related medical conditions.**

We encourage all Chapter members to get involved in this effort or if you have ideas for our work, to contact David Cooley (dacooley@usinternet.com) or Jeff Roy (roy-jeff48@gmail.com). If you send letters, please send copies by email to both David and Jeff.

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/

National VFP perspective

by Dave Logsdon

In January I was informed that there was a vacancy on the National Board of Directors for Veterans for Peace and would I consider placing my name in for nomination. I said I would, and soon I found myself on the Board of Directors of VFP. My hope is that my new position will help me leverage ideas and be an important link to the Midwest VFP chapters.

The Golden Rule Project

This ambitious project began a couple years ago when a boat was pulled up from the bottom of the bay in Eureka, California. It turned out be The Golden Rule, the historic anti-nuke vessel that a group of Quakers attempted to sail into the nuclear testing area in the Bikini islands. They were intercepted and arrested, but the action brought international attention and much needed scrutiny to the nuclear testing program. A small group of visionary VFP members took up the enormous task of restoring the boat with the goal of creating a floating anti-nuke billboard! The ship has been sailing up and down the west coast for over a year now spreading the word about one of our key goals at VFP, and that is, to abolish nuclear weapons. The next goal is to sail across

the Pacific to Hawaii and beyond! It was to set sail last October, but after a shakedown cruise, it was decided the ship was not ready for primetime so it went back into port to get better prepared for the journey. The crew has been carefully vetted and the Golden Rule will set sail this Spring!

This has been an enormous undertaking and I will try to keep everyone updated as this dream becomes a reality!

The 2019 VFP Convention

The VFP convention will be held in Spokane, Washington Aug. 15-18. The Spokane chapter is off and running. They have a site selected and a tentative title, "Sacred Lands, Sacred Lives," with a sub-theme "Peace knows no Borders." Following up with the emphasis that our chapter had in last year's convention in St. Paul on decolonization and Indigenous rights. Native speakers, ceremonies will be a major part of the four-day event. Once again I find myself on a convention planning committee, this time as one of the outsiders advising the local chapter what they can and cannot do. I must admit it is more fun on this side of things. It will be another wild ride, but it should be definitely worth attending!

National Mobilizations

The January board meeting was held in Tijuana as guests of the Deported Veterans chapter. Since I joined the board the day before the meeting, I joined them via conference call from Minnesota where it was 10 below. (Timing is everything!) The board was able to see up close the amazing work that these deported veterans are doing to help the refugee caravan asylum seekers with food, shelter, and medical assistance while putting their own struggle to get back to the other side of the border to get their VA benefits and reunite with their families. The National leadership called for a mobilization against our growing escalation in Venezuela that was joined by over 50 cities on February 23rd.

Closing Thoughts

Frankly, this new chapter in my life is more than a little daunting. I have some ideas to put forth, but I am still feeling my way. It helps that many of the board members are familiar to me, including president Condon whom I got to know pretty well in the past year. I will do my best to represent Minnesota and I'll still be around to support chapter 27. I still have a bell and a flag always at the ready!

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, have a cup of coffee and talk with whomever happens to be there. Find that book you have been looking for.

**Hours: M-F noon to 7 p.m.,
Sat. noon to 6 p.m.**

Notes from the President . . .

by Mike McDonald

"There is no way to peace, peace is the way."

AJ Muste

I am proud to be the new president of local chapter 27 of Veterans For Peace.

The past year was primarily focused on our hosting of the national convention, Reclaiming Armistice Day, and supporting kyong juhn's Walk for Hope and Peace. Thanks to all who helped with these. The endeavors, though difficult at times, brought great satisfaction to our organization.

We had a recent planning session to set priorities for this year. With much input from all, we have these now as a guideline.

- **Reminding the public of the costs of war.**
- **Militarism vs the environment.**
- **Collaborating with other groups on mutual issue actions when possible.**
- **Recruiting veterans who are younger, female and people of color.**
- **Save our VA anti-privatization fight.**
- **Meeting with congressional members and their staffs (ongoing issues such as eliminating nuclear weapons).**

These will be our main focus, but we will continue to 'ring the bells' whenever called on.

Our Peace Bus will be seen at many local events, county fairs, protests, and wherever else needed.

My personal thanks to Dave Logsdon for mentoring me and congrats to him for his new position on the national board. Thanks also to Penny, Steve, Barry and Craig for helping to get the office organized.

I have only been involved with chapter 27 for a few years, but am amazed by the longtime commitments of many of our members to foster real change in the world.

With this crazy Trumpian world we now live in, there are more challenges than ever. But with all challenges,

there are great opportunities. I look forward to exploring these opportunities together.

*"It's not enough to say we must not wage war.
It is necessary to love peace and Sacrifice for it."*

MLK Jr.

Military recruiters in high schools legislation

by Steve McKeown

Thanks to VFP member Greg Hagen for alerting us to several bills in the Minnesota State House and Senate that mandated encouragement of military recruiters access to high schools.

Barry Riesch, Bob Tammen from the Duluth Chapter, and I spoke against these bills titled SF 15, SF 118, and HF 213. We did not have much success in stopping them at this point, as it seemed the outcome was already decided.

What was really outrageous in the bill was the statement that counselors could not discourage anyone from enlisting, nor could the schools.

In the House the Veterans Committee heard the bill, and recruiters spoke of how hard it was to recruit in Minnesota already because some schools and counselors discouraged their presence. They also said that once teachers went on tours to Camp Ripley, they saw the light.

They also spoke at great lengths about how the military prepares and helps pay for Trade Employment and Education. I felt they also went out of their way to criticize a college education, which is ironic given that for years, money for college was a big selling point for the military.

The bill is now in the House Education Committee, and we have been told that the Chair is not going to give it a hearing thus it cannot go to a floor vote. As we go to press some of our members will be meeting with that Chairperson to solidify this.

Follow the money or follow the crowd

by Craig Wood

If there is a slur in Representative Ilhan Omar's tweet "It's all about the Benjamins baby," readers may have to squint to see it.

The tweet itself was lifted from a rap song and used as a metaphor to describe the influence the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) has with installing pro-Israel members in Congress. While the message wasn't untrue or breaking news, it was enough to trigger an apocalyptic fit in mainstream news and government circles. Democrats and Republicans quickly banged on their keyboards accusing her of using an anti-Semitic trope because she made a connection between Jews, money and power. **She didn't; she directed her comment at one of the most powerful lobbies in the world, AIPAC.**

Had these same people done their homework on the enormous influence AIPAC has in government, or taken time to watch the recently released documentary *The Lobby-USA*, they might not have played the anti-Semitic card so fast. This four-part series showcased the work of an undercover AL-Jazeera reporter who interviewed and secretly filmed a variety of credible sources along with lobbyists explaining tactics pro-Israel groups use to influence foreign policy, shape public opinion and unfairly attack critics of the Israeli government.

The footage about AIPAC and some of its pro-Israel affiliates reveal how recruiting inducements and propaganda are used to steer political candidates toward a favorable view of Israel. The film's interwoven plots at times evoke the sinister cleverness of a global spy novel and should be of interest to anyone interested in how a foreign power and its operatives surreptitiously funnel money and perks to political allies while smearing its detractors.

Perhaps the film will attract a big enough audience to be a catalyst for a massive investigation into AIPAC and the 120-plus other pro-Israel organizations, or it could become grist for a cable TV series. Either way, the series is certainly intriguing and raises questions not only about the scope of pro-Israel influence, but how finely tuned it is. People could go to jail or HBO might have a winner.

Getting back to Omar specifically, assessments on social media about her tweet so far, seem to have most users weighing in with mild to medium condemnations about word choices. A few have called for her head. Others didn't believe the words were much different from the old catchphrase "Follow the Money" made popular after the 1976 motion picture *All The President's Men*, which explored the reality of political corruption brought about by money trans-

fers. Some, though, believed all the attention about her possibly using an anti-Semitic trope was nothing more than a distraction from the issue Omar was tweeting about.

That would not surprise expatriate Israeli historian, author and activist Ilan Pappè, a professor who once fled Israel after he and his family received death threats when he spoke out in favor of Palestinian human rights. He's had decades of experience listening to Zionists try to change the subject when criticisms were aimed toward Israeli governance.

While conducting a SKYPE seminar hosted by Women Against Military Madness (WAMM) in Minneapolis four years ago, Pappè talked about some of the common and predictable ways pro-Israel advocates try to skirt issues, including obfuscation/legal tactics, pushing one-sided historical narratives or hyper-focusing on word meanings.

And this seems to be what happened to Omar. The message about money in politics was ignored and quickly supplanted by a noisy, bipartisan group who hyper-focused on a perceived anti-Semitic nuance within the messenger's tweet. Mission accomplished; there is still no talk about how AIPAC represents a foreign power and raises in excess of \$100 million a year to promote favorable views of Israel.

So there's more work to do to open up this much-needed discussion about money in politics and this newsletter will help do it. **Moreover, we will criticize AIPAC whenever we feel it's appropriate.** And right now, AIPAC desperately needs criticizing. Watch *The Lobby-USA*.

An ongoing controversy about why this film has faced censorship pressures is not over. Clearly, some of the footage raises serious concerns about Israeli organizations spying on Americans and could provide evidence that Israel lobbies are breaking laws.

The Lobby-USA can be viewed through links obtained by the Electronic Intifada. Watch the film the Israeli lobby didn't want you to see at <https://electronicintifada.net/content/watch-film-israel-lobby-didnt-want-you-see/25876>.

WANTED

**Writers and graphic designers
to aid the PR committee**

**contact Jeff Roy
royjeff48@gmail.com**

What's happening at the US/Mexico border

by Barry Riesch

We are hearing a lot these days with the issue of a border wall proposed by President Trump between the U.S. and Mexico, and migrants wishing to cross the border into the U.S. We hear very little, however, about what has caused these migrants to walk thousands of miles and to risk their lives trying to enter the U.S. in hopes of finding a better lives for themselves. I would like to address this issue with a historical look at U.S.-Central American relations.

As I do this, please remember that Veterans For Peace has been working since 1985 to combat U.S. imperial involvement in Central America, and that this is the issue around which VFP was first formed by Jerry Genesio.

The following quote from anti-war activist, lawyer, writer, Vietnam vet and VFP member S. Brian Willson presents a brief history of Central America:

"When the Spanish conquistadors conquered Latin American lands almost 500 years ago, they forcefully introduced a new concept – ownership of property. . . . Land with access to water is the most sacred and indispensable resource enabling sustainable human culture. The historic Indigenous occupants of the land lived and farmed communally. Thus, the idea of protected . . . property, versus communal land, was one introduced from outside – a foreign, alienating value. The consequent tensions have been played out ever since If this structural 'sin' of private versus social good is not addressed, the modern version being state-protected 'capitalism,' nothing of substance will really change.

"And Hillary Clinton's role in the 2009 coup ousting democratically elected and liberal reformist President Manuel Zelaya in Honduras is a good case study of what happens when the U.S. intervenes. Zelaya had been elected in 2006, overthrown in June 2009. He had formed an alliance with the left-of-center ALBA (Bolivarian Alliance for the People the Americas), which was an effort to directly oppose continued U.S. interventionist activities. . . . He introduced education for all children, provided subsidies to small farmers, and low interest rates, raised the minimum wage, school meals for children were guaranteed, expanded the social security system, and free electricity was extended to the poorest families.

"The Honduran media, as in most Central American countries, are owned by wealthy oligarchs, and the

business community opposed...Zelaya's turn to the left. He also proposed changes to the Constitution which provoked fierce opposition from opposition parties claiming the intent was to extend Zelaya's term office, which he vehemently denied, saying he planned to step down in January 2010 when his term ended. On June 28, 2009, the military detained Zelaya and exiled him to Costa Rica. Following the coup sanctioned by the U.S., trends of decreasing poverty and extreme poverty were reversed, and unemployment dramatically increased. Clinton and Obama urged both sides to dialogue, but the business community and the U.S. were relieved. U.S. tepid rhetorical support for Zelaya by weak condemnation (of) the coup as Obama and Clinton were negotiating with the coup leaders.

"Conditions in Honduras remain horrific since, including the fraudulent 2016 election. The murder and repression rates are high, but the newest president, as with previous ones after the 2009 coup, is friendly with U.S. investors and unfriendly to popular opposition, which is now terrorized by criminal gangs and drug traffickers who are in cahoots (with) police, prosecutors, and judges. Impunity prevails. Two thirds of the population live in poverty.

"Same old story. The oligarchs refuse to allow social programs that divert resources and moneys to the population because it robs the rich of their historic resort to controlling everything, and making them richer." (From "What Goes Around, Comes Around", by S. Brian Wilson.)

We should also remember that the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo from February 2, 1848, was an unjust treaty that the U.S. forced Mexico to sign at gunpoint. In that treaty the U.S. took half of Mexico's territory, adding an additional 525,000 square miles to US territory, including the land that makes up all or part of present day Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. When they say, "We didn't cross the border, the border crossed us," it's literally true.

There has also been a re-emergence of armed vigilantes in Guatemala, reminiscent of the U.S.-backed death squads of the 1980s that murdered thousands of indigenous Guatemalans. On Sunday, January 27, 2019 an organized

Border, Continued on page 10

In Memoriam Pat Downey 1932-2019

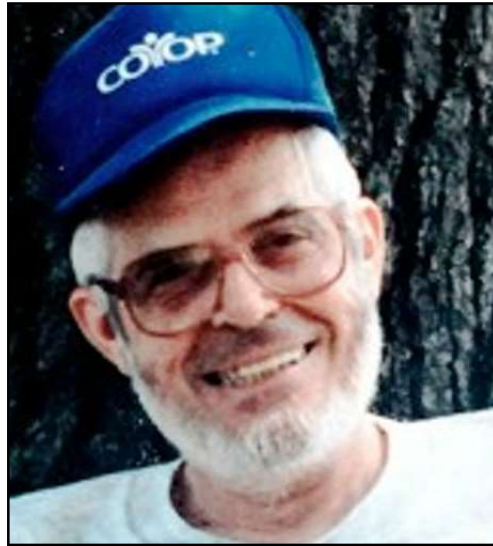
by Steve McKeown

I first met Pat Downey and his wife Jennie in the winter of 1986 at St. Francis Cabrini Catholic Church in SE Minneapolis. A friend of mine, the late Father Jim Sinnott, had been to our early morning peace vigil at the Air National Guard Base. He asked me to speak at Cabrini, where he was saying Mass, about our vigil. After the Mass, Pat and Jennie came up to me and asked what they could do to help. I said they could bring their song books to the vigil as we usually sang a song. **They brought the choir the next morning.** I was soon to find out they had been doing things like this for many years, and would continue to do so in the years to come. They also did this while raising six children.

Pat grew up on a farm in Missouri, and after high school enlisted in the Air Force, serving during the Korean War era. He would jokingly say that while as an Air Policeman he kept the Communists out of England where he was stationed. Many of us later laughingly felt he was an undercover agent for the Irish, a country he loved. After the Air Force, Pat attended and graduated from St. Benedict's College in Kansas, majoring in History. Pat met Jennie in Kansas at a DFL rally for Presidential candidate Adlai Stevenson.

He moved to Minnesota because he was influenced by the writings of David Noble who taught American Studies at the U of M and decided this was the way he wanted to teach history, so Pat did his graduate work there. He then taught at the U of M in Duluth for a number of years. While there, Pat started the Human Rights Committee in Duluth after learning that some black college teachers couldn't find housing there.

Years later, Pat moved to Minneapolis and taught at North Hennepin Community College until retirement. I recall that Pat was instrumental in helping to hire one of our VFP members to teach Political Science. This person later became the Dean of the College. Pat liked the idea of the Community College as it afforded many to take part-time



classes at reasonable prices while still being able to work.

Pat would bike to work, meetings, and vigils, and for many years went on the writer Jim Klobuchar's annual 500-mile Minnesota trek. In 1994, when our VFP chapter was departing from the Minneapolis VA on a charter bus to Washington DC to promote the closing of the SOA, he noticed that my youngest son and I were taking our bikes along to get around the city. He asked Jennie if it was okay for him to go, and then took his bike off the rack and joined us.

In the spirit of David Noble and Dorothy Day, the Downey household was an extended family. Often the house would be full with gatherings around social justice, ranging from the neighborhood, state, national, to the international around diverse issues such as the United Farm Workers, the SOA, Nuclear Disarmament, Latin America, the injustice in the Catholic Church, especially with the LGBT issues, and racial justice, to name a few. Often there would be someone down on their luck living with them. They hosted our VFP Newsletter meetings for many years, and for several years organized charter buses filled with students, nuns, veterans, teachers, and people from all walks of life to go to the SOA. Pat also served a year as president of our local VFP chapter. He was also one of the walkers to the Pipestone National Monument for our first Armistice Day Observance in 1987.

I have just scratched the surface of my friend's life and activities. It was my very real impression of Pat that he saw life as an adventure while pursuing social justice. Whether he was getting on that bus to DC or greeting you at their door you could see that "Irish eyes were smiling," even if he could be a crank at times. But someone once said it was a crankshaft that turned the engine. Pat turned his engine towards helping others, all the while storing up treasures in Heaven where rust and moth cannot destroy, and Jennie is still filling the warehouse.

Veterans for Peace thanks Jennie for sharing Pat with us and sharing herself in the process. We can further thank them by continuing to work in what I believe to be Pat's favorite chant that I heard him say loudly throughout the years: "SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES!"

Iraq water Project update

by Art Dorland
Project Chair, IWP

The Iraq Water Project has lost some weight and put on grey hair, but it still manages to do useful work in Iraq. Last year we sent two water units to war-wracked Mosul. Aside from that, and partly due to scarcity of funding, we have restricted project work to maintenance and repair of previously installed units. This is itself an essential obligation, for what good is equipment placed, plumbed, and then left to disintegrate?

Like the old Bible story of the fat kine and the lean, IWP has slipped into its lean years. This was inevitable, as the Iraq war becomes distant history and public attention drifts off somewhere else.

But IWP is still worth saving, and for this reason long-time project member Lee Vander Laan is reorganizing the whole effort, working up a new website and planning a small delegation to journey into Iraq. If all goes well, this delegation will visit some of our previous installations and make recommendations about future direction. An Iraqi acquaintance has offered to guide Lee's people through the hazards and difficulties of such a trip. He is from Karbala, a

city in the south, not unreasonably distant from Nassiriya, where most of the recent work has taken place. And, importantly, he has been in telephone communication with our cooperating NGO in Nassiriya. This looks very promising.

This, of course, brings up the sticky topic of funding. Money must be found for both the project itself, and for the expenses of the proposed delegation. You will find the appropriate donation spots at our new website, iraqwater-project.com. We appreciate your helping us maintain the project. A report on our delegation's trip will be tentatively presented at the national convention in August.

Thank you for finding a warm spot in your heart for the benefactors of our project, mainly the school children in Iraq and those in medical clinics who are finally drinking clean water. We call on you to join us in support of the Iraq Water Project, a Veterans For Peace project since 1999, promoting humanitarian assistance and reconciliation, including remediation, and towards humanizing the costs of war. Checks can also be sent to Veterans For Peace, 1404 North Broadway, St. Louis, MO 63102. Put "VFP IWP" on memo line)

Nuclear disarmament petition update

by Steve McKeown

With all the bad weather we have had lately, our petition drive with Women Against Military Madness in support of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) has slowed a little over the last couple of months. But plans are still being made for petition venues and to garner support from City and County Councils along with the State of Minnesota in addition to meeting with our Federal Congressional Delegation. We now have 15,374 signatures from 508 towns and cities in Minnesota out of a total of 865 that are incorporated. The following are the top 30:

Minneapolis-6,010; St. Paul-1670; Richfield-487; Bloomington-393; Edina-356; St. Louis Park-287; Duluth-220; Mankato-180; Minnetonka-174; Northfield-166; Hopkins-153; Eagan-136; Eden Prairie-127; Roseville-124; Brooklyn Park-100;

Plymouth-97; St. Cloud-89; Apple Valley-88; Burnsville-82; Golden Valley-80; Maplewood-77; Coon Rapids-76; Fridley-70; Maple Grove-69; St. Peter-67; Woodbury-67; Rochester-64; New Brighton-63; Brainerd-62; Shakopee-62.

The Minnesota House has a bill authored by Rep. Moran (HF 460) and the Senate (SF 84) authored by Senators Dibble, Marty, and Pappas to support the UN resolution to abolish nuclear weapons. In addition, Sen. Torres authored SF 344, which prohibits the U.S. from using a first strike and bans production and development of nuclear weapons.

Please call the State House Clerk at 651-296-2314 or the Senate Clerk at 651-296-0504 to find the status and the committee these bills are in. We are asking for any and all committees to pass this through so it can be taken to the full House and Senate.

White work

by Ron Staff

The insidious thing about “white privilege” is that the beneficiaries of it do not need to know about it in order to derive their benefits. However, if they oppose racism, they will have to become willing to accept being uncomfortable in order to learn enough about what it is and how they might oppose the structure.

It is a pretty steep slope for one to expect from citizens; especially white people who do not see how white racism works.

This is where Veterans for Peace could step into the breach again. This time it could be in service to the domestic tranquility, so important to a rich democratic tradition of public debate. Only those members who are committed to a peace which honors and works for justice are invited into the self awareness, which the reading of *White Fragility* by Robin Diangelo might bring to one’s sense of self as a committed anti-racist.

Personally this writer re-read more than a hundred sentences, some a second and third time, before pausing to reflect for a few minutes. Such as where she writes: “Our umbrage at the term ‘white supremacy’ only serves to protect the processes it describes and obscure the mechanisms of racial inequality.” Or again: “Consider how we [note author’s inclusion] talk about white neighborhoods: good, safe, sheltered, clean, desirable.” ... “In these ways the white racial frame is under construction.” Diangelo takes her readers on her own adventure in anti-racism work.

Examples abound in the book. Her inclusion of her own discomfort models the hard racial work needing attention. She gives an example of a possibly well-intentioned white person saying; “I don’t see race...” And while speaking to an African American adding “ ... I don’t see you as black.”

That person’s response; “Then how will you see racism?” has the ability to inform while offering the white person the opportunity to take offense. A teachable moment can be lost by a fragile white person’s heightened anxiety around unknown minorities.

If there is any hope of rinsing white privilege out of the fabric of our democratic endeavors, work like hers could become the new measure of heroic. The passing of white privilege and the emergence of a truly egalitarian, democratic social system may depend on such acts.

Her effort is deeply necessary as generations of humans have suffered the ill affects of the alleged benefits of “the white man’s burden;” the slick impacts from the Doctrine of Discovery as religiously proclaimed (in shame); the cultural improvements brought to “the unwashed,” And the list

goes on.

The list expands into endless human survival challenges. How can the species hope to thrive, when constantly eating its own is the core effort? True husbandry calls forth the best efforts to enrich all that is around one; and not exploit any within reach.

Money can buy all kinds of things but not facts. They either are or are not. This writer thought of himself as a somewhat race-conscious white male until engaging with her wonderful illumination of the pale water, which white people think of as clear. As a late teen, this writer heard the term “white privilege” and translated it to my own use. If I was going to live in privilege and if that meant I wouldn’t have to work so hard, that was A-OK with me. (Delusions abound in the youthful mind.) Since then the concept has marinated for more than half a century and I still struggle with the uncomfortable privilege harness. So one works to shrug off the privilege work through clarity about the racism in our own presence.

How to challenge the racism in our midst? Ms Diangelo writes: “White solidarity is the unspoken agreement among whites to protect white advantage and not cause another white person to feel racial discomfort by confronting them when they say or do something racially problematic.”

Most informed white people know the horror story of Emmett Till. How many know the end? “On her death bed in 2017, Carolyn Bryant [his accuser] recanted this story and admitted that she had lied.”

Later she notes: “White men occupy the highest positions in the race and gender hierarchy. Thus they have the power to define their own reality and that of others.” From this, Veterans For Peace could see an opening to real service to our country. Good luck with Robin’s adventure, if you’re willing to risk her probing ways.

Border, from page 7

vigilante mob of Guatemalans, armed with clubs, machetes and rocks, attacked a group of caravan participants in the Guatemalan city of Tecun Umán as they approached the border with Mexico. Currently about 1,000 caravanistas remain in the city of Tecun Umán in three unprotected shelters, with vigilante mobs roaming. Approximately 2,000 migrants in the most recent caravan are estimated to still be on the road yet to arrive at the city of Tecun Umán. A sec-

Continued on next page

Local members support gun control

by Michael Orange
VFP member since 1991

Our team has been busy since it was created over a year ago. Near the start of the Minnesota Legislature's 2018 session, members from Veterans For Peace Chapter 27 organized to advocate for sane gun control laws, with the original focus of banning assault weapons in Minnesota. We met with our individual legislators and delivered a ten-minute presentation that clearly stated this ask: "We want our legislators to take a bold, uncompromising stand to ban the sale and transfer of assault weapons, high-capacity magazines, and attachments that increase firing rates. We want a ban similar to those passed by the eight states and local governments that have already been tested in the courts." During the session, we collaborated with Moms Demand Action Minnesota, and Protect Minnesota.

Last year, on March 26, four Senators, two DFL and two Republicans, convened an unprecedented press conference to announce a bipartisan bill that would require background checks on all future gun sales. Our VFP members staked out a prominent position behind the legislators and held our assault weapon ban banner and VFP flags for all to see.

The highlight of the press conference was when about 30 Minnesota high school students entered the crowded room to thunderous applause. They wore the bright orange t-shirts of the student gun-control movement. They had



Michael Orange (left) and Michael McDonald display the assault weapons ban banner on Valentine's Day during Protect Minnesota's "Broken Hearts" press conference at the Capitol.

arrived earlier that morning after an all-night bus ride from the huge "March For Our Lives" rally in Washington, DC, organized by survivors of the mass shooting at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida on Feb. 14, 2018. It was well publicized that, once again, the shooter in the Florida massacre used an assault rifle to kill 17 and wound 17 more.

At the close of the press conference, we shook the hand of every student we could to sincerely thank them for their service.

With no delusions about getting any bills approved in last year's Republican-dominated legislature, we limited our mission to urging legislators to sponsor gun control bills, even though we knew these bills had no chance of actually passing. The strategy was to force those beholden to the gun lobby to oppose the bills so the burgeoning gun control movement could vote them out of office during the 2018 midterm election. We were successful, at least in the House of Representatives, which now has a progressive majority.

Since our initial actions, dedicated VFP members have attended several rallies at the Minnesota Capitol for sane gun laws, where we prominently displayed our assault weapons ban banner and VFP flags and connected with many supporters. The gun control movement continues to grow with each such action, and our confidence grows with it. At this writing, a Minnesota House committee approved two gun control bills for 2019.

Positive change is coming and members of Veterans For Peace are on the front lines.

Border, from previous page

and group en route from El Salvador is a couple days away.

Environmental destruction by big corporations is another source of migration across the U.S. border. "In Mexico, and especially where I used to live, there was a lot of different companies and factories that went to my town, and they contaminated the land," said Jovita Morales of Minnesota Immigrant Movement (MIM). "And people who are farmers, people who are growing their own food, they cannot cultivate them as were doing before, because of these companies who come and contaminate our town. So that's one of the reasons that many of us emigrate: to find food, to find a job, to work and support their families."

So, does the US have an obligation to help these folks? Sure seems to me that we do.

After-action journalism review required for NPR's coverage of Pentagon's after-action Iraq War review

by Mike Madden

In a January 22, 2019 piece titled "U.S. Army War College Says 'Iran The Only Winner' In Study Of Iraq War," All Things Considered host Mary Louise Kelly took NPR's long tradition of soft-pedaling America's foreign interventions a step further by teaming up with retired Col. Frank Sobchak to use a study of the Iraq War to pave the way for more war.

While of dubious value, it is common practice at NPR to seek perspective on wrongdoing from the wrongdoers themselves. When the issue of torture was front and center, NPR regularly turned to CIA veterans who would invariably defend the agency (if not the act of torture itself), and lavish praise on torturers like Gina Haspel to enable their promotion. In this case, NPR turned to Sobchak, a co-editor of the recently released U.S. Army War College after-action review of the Iraq War, without the benefit of any voice critical of the study.

In the NPR style of faux hard-hitting interviews, Kelly asked vague open-ended questions, and accepted platitudes as answers. She noted that division commander General Ray Odierno has been criticized for not getting "the whole hearts-and-minds thing." She then asked if it was a challenge to investigate him as he was the man who commissioned the report. Sobchak answered in the negative, and went on to say that the report gives guidance that "if you have to kill sacred cows, you kill some sacred cows because we have to learn from this."

Reading between the lines, it appears that Odierno's status has fallen to that of a former sacred cow. In a commendable moment of journalistic follow-up, Kelly asked if the report directly criticized Odierno and other senior army officers. Sobchak did not answer the question directly, but noted that every author of the report had served in Iraq, himself included, and said, "We all made mistakes, and we all have things we can learn from them." Returning to form, Kelly did not press the issue further, allowing individual accountability to slip through the fingers of collective guilt, and perpetuating the characterization of the Iraq War as a "mistake." A mistake is something that happens when you forget to add yeast to the bread dough. What we're talking about here is a *jus cogens* violation of international law; the

invasion of a country that posed no threat to the United States, did not have the approval of the United Nations, and was based on lies.

Perhaps we should be grateful that the American military is still subservient to civilian leadership and is willing to fall upon its sword to protect Bush, Cheney, *et al.* A broader view would consider that it may be the world that is in need of protection, and that one function of a military after-action review is to examine the initiation of the war in

the light of the Kellogg-Briand Pact, the U.N. Charter, and the Nuremberg Principles.

The entire world, outside the beltway, now knows that the U.S. com-

mitted a grievous offense against the nation of Iraq, a criminal act of military aggression. NPR and the Pentagon team up here to pretend that criticism of tactics will be a palatable substitute for outright condemnation of the American invasion. Kelly cites the claim contained in the report that the U.S. failed to adequately train Iraqi forces. She goes on to insinuate that the 2011 pullout was premature, citing findings in the report of heightened sectarian tensions and the rise of ISIS.

Sobchak responds by describing after-action reviews as routine and academic. "It's the military reviewing itself to try to make sure that, if this happens again, that we are better prepared," he said.

Well that's reassuring. The Pentagon will be better prepared to wage the next war of aggression. If NPR's title for the interview only hinted at Iran as a target for violent regime change, Sobchak joined in the propaganda effort to demonize the country, a necessary step in forging belligerent public opinion and paving the way for war.

"Iran is clearly in a much stronger position just strategically," he said "and I think we see that playing out through its expansionism and kind of adventurism occurring in Syria, Yemen, and other locations."

Setting aside the questionable claim that Iran's involvement in Syria and Yemen is a result of the U.S. military campaign in Iraq, **one wonders if a spokesperson for the Pentagon would ever characterize U.S. involvement in Syria, Yemen, and elsewhere as "expansionism and**

Review, continued on page 15

Maverick Priest is the life of Father Harry Bury

by Larry Johnson

Maverick Priest is the story of a 90-year-old peace activist, still going 90 on the freeway of life. It's big and heavy, but you can't put it down. Peace and justice books, often filled with comprehensive analysis and much needed truth, sadly, are too often read only by the already converted. This one holds interest even to those who think differently.

In the late 60s, I was in the broadcast program at the U of M, working with a group getting credit to make anti-war radio documentaries. Being the only one with perceived connection to religion and Christianity, I was sent over several times to interview Father Bury, a leader in the campus questioning of the War in Vietnam. When he reappeared in the Twin Cities a few years back, I wondered what's been going on since I graduated and was drafted as a Conscientious Objector unarmed medic in 1970. This book answers that question with inspiration for all to fight for peace and justice.

In 1971 Bury and three others chained themselves to the U.S. Embassy Wall in Vietnam, hoping to make the case to stop the war. The war waged on, but opportunities to go to graduate school and teach in the Twin Cities faltered, as Honeywell was a major funder at too many potential colleges.

Bury did graduate work in Cleveland, and ended up at Baldwin Wallace, teaching socially conscious business,

including in several developing countries. He also returned three times to Vietnam: 1987 – Arguing for an end to the Embargo, so the Vietnamese could do business and thrive; 1994 – Had difficulty getting a visa, because when the embargo was finally lifted anyone coming in from the U.S. was immediately suspected as a spy; 2014 – On a mission for prison reform, met a South Vietnamese Major who said he was in the same class at SOA with Saddam Hussein and Colin Powell (not the sort of thing those in charge generally want people to know).

Along the way there is reference to friends like George Mische and Frank Kroncke. There's the story of being abducted in Gaza, getting bureaucratically busted for opening a U.S. account for Mother Teresa's work here, and Peter, Paul, and Mary (with Paul absent) doing benefit concerts to help continue Fr. Bury's peace work.

Toward the end of the book is a significant quote from Saul Alinsky: "If you think you've got an inside track to absolute truth, you become doctrinaire, humorless, and intellectually constipated. The greatest crimes in history have been perpetuated by such religious, political, and racial fanatics."

It sounds like I've told you a lot, but these are just some highlights. Please sit down and let the book envelop and excite you through the full journey. You can get it at Amazon, or have Mayday Books order it for you. Or www.harryjbury.com, or the publisher at www.rdrpublishers.com.

War Child

by Chante Wolf

cold Minneapolis evening
in an old
theater downtown
I was telling
my military story
path from warrior
to peacemaker
when I finished
a tiny
young woman
hobbled up
her tilted body
looked as if broken

glued backward
she spoke to everyone:

*thank you for sharing I
am from Iraq I was born
during one of your bombing raids
my mother literally gave birth to
me running for cover I was
dropped several times*

there was no air
left to respond

(War Child was recently published in "Meat for Tea")

March 23-April 14

McDonald Sisters' activism coming to History Theater

by Joan Johnson

If you've been at the regular Lake Street Bridge Peace Vigil on Wednesdays, taken part in past protests at both Honeywell or ATK, ridden the Veterans for Peace bus to the SOA, or attended many of the local anti-war protests over the last several decades, then you've most likely bumped into the McDonald sisters, who are both biological sisters and Catholic nuns. And, THEY DO NOT SIT STILL! The McDonald sisters have not only protested publicly against war and injustices, but have also served our local communities in a myriad of different ways. Some examples are: helping new immigrants, assisting the elderly, teaching young school children, visiting the sick and shut-ins, and providing rides, food, financial help and shelter to those in need (which also includes our four-legged friends). These are just a few examples of how they put their time, talent, resources and energy into making our world a better place.

Their strong faith guides each of them, and when in their presence, I often think of 1 Corinthians 13: "These three things remain: faith, hope and love. And the greatest of these is love." Their spirituality is truly "Love in Action," a deep love and care for ALL people of ALL races and persuasions, for the environment, animals, and basically the whole planet!

Their words also have a profound impact on many people's lives. Whether it be an inspirational word of wisdom at a peace vigil circle, a Dakota prayer of blessing at Coldwater, an insightful, relevant quote, a helpful word of encouragement for someone who's hurting, a humorous quip in a tense stand-off with counter-protesters, or a beautiful song for a special occasion, the McDonald sisters seem to always know what to say, pray or sing!

Veterans for Peace Chapter 27 is so grateful to have the strong support, assistance and participation of Rita, Kate, Brigid, and Jane through the years. Words cannot adequately convey how very grateful we are to them for the many ways they have helped our organization, been there for us and touched our lives, and continue to do so!

These four amazing women are now being portrayed by four talented actresses at the History Theater in St. Paul, in a play entitled "Sisters of Peace," which runs March 23 through April 14. Wendy Lehr plays Rita; Katherine Ferrand depicts Kate; Peggy O'Connell is Brigid; and Sue Scott plays Jane in this production described as "A story of love, courage and compassion."

Written by Doris Baizley, and directed by Barbra

Berlovitz, their play tells the story of how each sister made the life-changing decision to become involved in peace work. At preliminary readings last year at the History Theater, I was completely blown away! Each of their stories is so poignant, so very moving and beautiful. I laughed till I cried in some parts, and was surprised by unexpected twists and turns. Mostly, I just felt so much more connected to the McDonald sisters through their stories and came away with the determination that no matter how bad the world gets, I'd never give up working for peace. As Brigid described it to me, "It's a choice of peace or nonexistence, in the words of Martin Luther King, Jr."

The first "Sisters of Peace" readings were so well-received by audiences and such a huge success, that I can only imagine how inspiring and awesome this theatrical production will be. Even if you do not know the McDonald sisters right now, you WILL get to know them well, and I guarantee that you will come away from this performance feeling enlightened and uplifted!

History Theater is located at 30 East 10th Street, St. Paul, 55101. For single tickets, call 651-292-4323. For group rate discounted tickets (10 or more), call Craig at 651-292-4320. The show runs March 23-April 14.

Peacestock 2019

Peacestock 2019 will hold its 17th annual event on July 20th starting at 9 a.m. It will be held at the Hobgoblin Barn in Red Wing for the fifth time. The Barn holds up to 150 people so get your tickets early. The event runs all day and ends with a complimentary supper.

There are two featured speakers this year: Col. Ann Wright and Maj. Danny Sjursen. Ann is a well-known peace activist and has traveled the world and is currently in Iran. Danny, just retired from the military, has been a prolific writer on American foreign policy and has insights on this topic which are very revealing. Music will be provided as well, with the artist yet to be revealed.

Tickets will soon be available but you can go to the website at www.peacestockvfp.org to purchase tickets. The website will soon be updated for 2019.

World Storytelling Day is March 20 at Landmark Center

by Larry Johnson

LEGENDS, MYTHS, AND EPICS OF COMING HOME FROM WAR, this year's World Storytelling Day, is March 20, 2019, 6-9 p.m. at Landmark Center, near Rice Park in St. Paul.

In 2003, I worked with a group of international storytellers to create World Storytelling Day. Now, on or around March 20 each year, events occur around the world, with the inherent theme, IF I CAN HEAR YOUR STORY, IT'S HARDER FOR ME TO HATE YOU. Last year VFP cosponsored this event and we did WISDOM ON THE FOLLY OF WAR, telling stories that rejected the Burns/Novick Vietnam premise: "The War in Vietnam was started in good faith, but mistakes were made." **Our premise? "The war would not have been, had we been able to tell the truth at the time."**

This year our annual event is cosponsored by Veteran Resilience Project (VRP) and Landmark Center. Stories

reflect the epic struggle of veterans coming home, whole in mind and body. Odysseus took 10 arduous years coming back from the Trojan War. Psychiatrist Jonathan Shay documents war trauma journeys in Achilles in Vietnam. Veteran legends like Jesse Owens and Hugh Thompson are rivaled only by the epic courage of women veterans daring to stand up to the travesty of military sexual assault.

All this and more the evening of March 20. Storytellers appearing are:

Hector Matascastillo: Army Ranger, Psychotherapist, Clinical Director, Author, Speaker, Dad;

Trista Matascastillo: Veteran, Ramsey County Commissioner, Bush Fellow, Feminist, Child Wrangler;

Carol McCormick: Veteran Spouse, Professional Storyteller, Author, Story Arts of Mn Board;

Derek Anders-Turner: Iraq Veteran, US Bank Technology Manager, Natl. Black Police Assn. Member;

Mark Wagler: Legendary Storyteller from Madison, Co-Founder Northlands Storytelling Network

Elaine Wynne: Storyteller, Veteran Spouse, EMDR Therapist/Trainer, Founder of VRP.

Event is free, but listeners are invited to make a donation at the door, or at www.resiliencemn.org, for the mission of Veteran Resilience Project to make EMDR trauma therapy available to all veterans. For more information, or to reserve a seat, contact Larry Johnson, Storyteller/Past President of VFP, at larryjvfp@gmail.com. Evening also includes tabling by Veteran support groups.

EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING EVENTS

4:30-5:30 pm Weds. Lake Street/Marshall Ave. Bridge vigil. 4:30 to 5:30. (Beginning April 3, 5-6 pm.)

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

Every Tues of Month 7:30 am vigil in front of Federal Whipple Bldg south of Hwy 55 and 62 with the Interfaith Coalition on Immigration.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wed., Mar. 20 7 pm, National Storytelling Day, Landmark Center, St. Paul (see article this page).

Mar. 23-Apr. 14, *Sisters of Peace* play about the four McDonald Sisters, History Theater, St. Paul (see opposite page)

Sat., Mar. 30 1:30 pm, Anti-war Protest, Lake St. and Minnehaha Av. Mpls.

Sat., Apr. 6 10 am, WAMM's Annual Meeting, 2201 1st Av. S., Mpls. Speaker is Winona LaDuke.

Wed., Apr. 24, 5-6 pm, 20th anniversary of Lake Street/Marshall Ave. Peace Bridge Vigil (see p. 16)

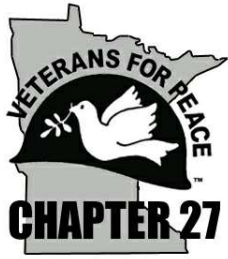
Mon., May 27, 9:30 am, Memorial Day Observance, South State Capitol Grounds, St. Paul. FYI Barry at 651 641 1087.

Sat., July 20, 9 am, PEACESTOCK (see p. 14).

Aug 15-18, VFP National Convention, Spokane, WA.

Review, from page 12

adventurism." That question apparently didn't occur to Mary Louise Kelly. It simply falls outside the bounds of acceptable debate. To label America an aggressor nation, or to challenge the Washington orthodoxy that America stands for democracy and freedom in the world, even when the weight of history and current evidence point unmistakably to the contrary, would be apostasy for radio's guardian of American exceptionalism.



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Spring 2019 Newsletter

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SUPPORT THE TROOPS! BRING THEM HOME ALIVE NOW!

As of March 4, 2019:

At least 6,985 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.

20th Anniversary of the Peace Vigil **on the Lake Street/Marshall Avenue Bridge** **Wednesday, April 24, 2019**

Bridge Vigil (5-6 pm) Lake Street/Marshall Avenue Bridge

(over the Mississippi River between Minneapolis and St. Paul)

Potluck (6:30–7 pm) and Program (7–9 pm)

St. Albert the Great, 3219 E. 29th Street, Minneapolis

Join us for a program that will include a video, toasts, music, memories and much more.
Renew old friendships and meet new vigil goers!

**Sponsored by End War Committee of Women Against Military Madness
and the Twin Cities Peace Campaign**

FFI: 612-827-5364 or womenagainstmilitarymadness.org