

# Veterans For Peace “Call for Help” *Saint Patrick’s Peace Parade*

People’s Parade for  
Peace, Equality, Jobs, Environmental Stewardship, Social and Economic Justice

**When: Sunday, March 15**

**Where: South Boston**

Please join us for our **5th Annual Saint Patrick’s Peace Parade**

## **The only “PEACE PARADE” in the country**

**A Brief History:** In 2011, Veterans For Peace applied to the Allied War Veterans Council (AWVC) to participate in the Saint Patrick’s Day Parade. Our application was denied, We were told the reason for our being denied was that they did not want the word peace associated with the word veteran. As veterans of the U.S. military, many having been to war, we felt that statement was outrageous. We decided to apply for our own permit and create our own parade, The Saint Patrick’s Peace Parade. The first group we invited to join us was the LGBT community, who had been denied to walk in that parade for the past twenty years. We have been walking with the LGBT community ever since.

For the past four years we have attempted to negotiate and come to some sensible agreement with the AWVC regarding inclusion for disenfranchised groups, to no avail. For the past four years we have been relegated to walk one mile behind the other parade, even though our permit request each year was for a 12:00 pm start time, ahead of the other parade. The AWVC consistently attempts to marginalize our parade.

**2015 – Our parade has grown into the only “Peace Parade” in the country. We have eight division, bands, floats and approximately fifteen hundred marchers. This year we intend to step off at 12:00 pm, in front of the other parade, inviting our friends and allies to join us.** We intend to have our messages of peace, inclusion, environmental stewardship, social and economic justice seen by the hundreds of thousands of Irish revelers, not just the left over crowd.

**Veterans For Peace has filed a lawsuit in federal court against the City of Boston, represented by lawyers from the Massachusetts ACLU and LeClairRyan regarding three first amendment violations. The lawsuit would require the city to issue VFP a permit for a 12:00 pm start time.**

**The Saint Patrick’s Peace Parade has eight divisions: Veterans For Peace, Religious, LGBT, Peace, Climate Justice, Political, Labor, Economic and justice. If you or your group support peace and are peaceful and are associated with one of the stated parade themes (see parade guidelines at [www.smedleyvfp.org](http://www.smedleyvfp.org) ) you are welcome to join one of these divisions.**

In years past the City of Boston has shown a preference and support of the militaristic and exclusionary messages of the first parade over the messages of peace and inclusion in our parade. This year the militaristic messages of the AWVC will not dominate the Streets of South Boston on Saint Patrick’s Day. Veterans For Peace will not be silenced nor marginalized. The issues expressed in our parade are too important for the future of our country and our world.

**PLEASE COME! PLEASE BRING YOUR GROUP OR ORGANIZATION  
BRING YOUR FRIENDS, BANNERS, FLAGS, SIGNS AND VOICES  
WEAR A LITTLE GREEN!**

**Assemble 11:00 am - D Street and West Broadway – South Boston  
Parade steps off at 12:00 pm (Noon)**

Please go to [www.smedleyvfp.org](http://www.smedleyvfp.org) and download one of the parade flyers: Parade Flyer, LGBT Division Flyer, Religious Division Flyer, Climate Justice Division Flyer, Labor Division Flyer. Please distribute the flyers far and wide.

**Please donate in support of our parade and our messages.**

Smedley Bulter Brigade, VFP is completely reliant on donations to help pay for the cost of the Peace Parade. Please donate to the cost of the parade below.

If the donation button does not appear on this email please go to [www.smedleyvfp.org](http://www.smedleyvfp.org) to make your donation electronically.



Donations can also be sent to:  
Veterans For Peace  
PO Box 1604  
Andover, MA 01810

Thank you, on behalf of the Saint Patrick's Peace Parade Organizing Committee.

Pat Scanlon (VN 69')  
Parade Coordinator, VFP Chapter 9, Smedley Butler Brigade

**Vets4PeaceChapter9@gmail.com Phone: 978-475-1776**

**Web:** [smedleyvfp.org](http://smedleyvfp.org)

**Twitter:** @SmedleyVFP

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