



Exposing the True Costs of War  
and Militarism Since 1985

# VETERANS FOR PEACE

Organized locally. Recognized internationally.

VFP National Newsletter

veteransforpeace.org

Special Edition, Fall 2022

## Year-end Reports from Our VFP Chapters and National Projects Plus: An important message from Roger Waters on p. 12



The photos and logos on this page represent six of VFP's National Projects — reports inside.  
TOP: Golden Rule Peace Boat (docked in Dubuque, Iowa) and Climate Crisis & Militarism Project (action in San Diego); BOTTOM: Deported Veterans Advocacy Project and War Industry Resisters Network. LOGOS: Korea Peace Campaign and — our newest project — Courage to Resist!





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COMMUNICATIONS /  
GRAPHICS COORDINATOR

Jules Vaquera  
MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

### CONTACT VFP

vfp@veteransforpeace.org  
314-725-6005

### VFP NEWSLETTER

Becky Luening  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR /  
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

W. D. Ehrhart  
EDITOR-AT-LARGE

### DEADLINE FOR WINTER 2023 ISSUE TO BE ANNOUNCED

#### Chapter Report Guidelines

Keep to ≤ 200 words and  
Include chapter number,  
name/location, and your  
chapter reporter's name.

#### Wanted: high-res photos!

1200+ pixels wide is ideal.  
Please include a photo credit  
and a caption, and please  
identify people in group  
shots. Thank you!

#### Email submissions to:

editor@veteransforpeace.org

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# Armistice Day



*The Veterans/Armistice Day Commemoration and Post-Election Community Roundtable with two U.S. Senate Candidates hosted by North Carolina Triangle Area Chapter 157 at the State Capitol in Raleigh included the installation of the "Swords to Plowshares Memorial Belltower."*

FOR THE 104TH ANNIVERSARY of Armistice Day, Veterans For Peace chapters and members across the USA and abroad once again took the lead in reclaiming Armistice Day, observing November 11th as a "day dedicated to the cause of world peace," as it was originally intended when the world came together at the end of World War I in recognition of the need for lasting peace.

Chapters organized bell-ringing ceremonies, visibility actions, memorials, and special gatherings. The Milwaukee event, which has become a tradition, began with a 21-flower salute in memory of *all* who have paid the price for war.

Check out the Armistice Day 2022 photos featured on the back cover and sprinkled among the chapter reports in this newsletter. Go to [bit.ly/AD2022Recap](https://bit.ly/AD2022Recap) to view additional photos, along with the full 2022 Recap, reports from local chapter actions, links to articles, podcasts, radio shows, videos, and more!





## Climate Crisis & Militarism

# Stop War, Save Climate

War in Europe and the worsening climate crisis: In 2022, the Climate Crisis and Militarism Project (CCMP) met the challenges with ongoing public advocacy, education, public speaking, and street actions.

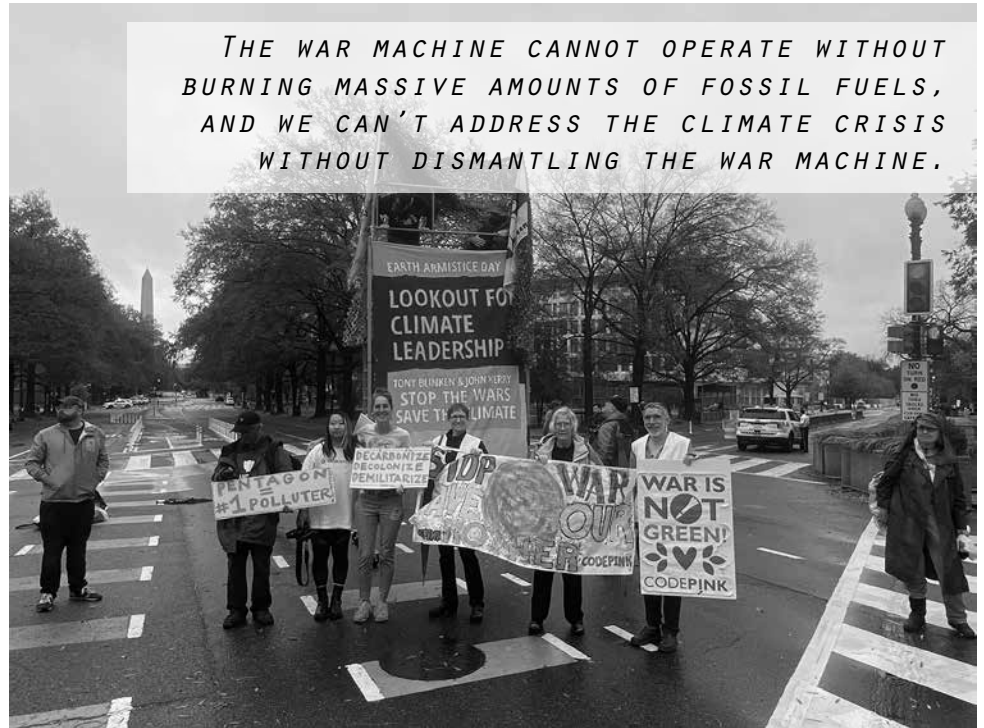
We continued our advocacy for the passage of House Resolution 767, which calls for accurate public reporting and plans for reduction of all U.S. military emissions. We worked with Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) in initiating this bill. Globally, we pushed a similar resolution at the United Nations. CCMP member Cindy Piester attended the UN climate conference, COP27, in Egypt.

In 2022, we presented the CCMP slideshow to 55 climate, social justice, political, sustainability, and peace groups. The slideshow is a great way for local VFP chapters to begin conversations and collaborations with other groups around climate/militarism. [To schedule a slideshow presentation, go to [bit.ly/3CU79u3](https://bit.ly/3CU79u3).]

Individuals within our project group take leadership in furthering our mission locally. One of our members led their chapter – VFP Chapter 91 – in partnering with 17 other San Diego groups in actions calling for an end to the Blue Angels Military Air Show. The 2022 North American Roger Waters Tour, “This Is Not a Drill,” gave members in several cities a chance to engage the public and distribute CCMP pamphlets and bumper stickers.

To learn more, please check out the video, book, and article links on our robust webpage on the VFP website: [veteransforpeace.org/ccmp](https://veteransforpeace.org/ccmp). Reach us by email at [climate@veteransforpeace.org](mailto:climate@veteransforpeace.org).

*THE WAR MACHINE CANNOT OPERATE WITHOUT BURNING MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF FOSSIL FUELS, AND WE CAN'T ADDRESS THE CLIMATE CRISIS WITHOUT DISMANTLING THE WAR MACHINE.*



THIS YEAR, Armistice Day coincided with world leaders convening in Egypt for the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) to make speeches about the importance of addressing the climate crisis. We knew the U.S. delegation would show up prepared to leverage its economic, political, and military might to push forward an agenda that preserves the military industrial-complex and the interests of U.S. corporations.

As a counterweight, VFP members and allies carried out bold actions on the ground in many U.S. cities during the meetings, to undermine the hard-nosed and regressive position of the United States' formal delegation to the summit. “Stop the War, Save the Climate” demonstrations began with a powerful action at the U.S. Capitol in D.C. (photo above); follow-up actions took place at the State Department and in New York City, Boston, and other cities. We called on the U.S. government to live up to its rhetoric by disclosing the carbon impacts of military operations and taking meaningful action to address the climate crisis. See more photos on pages 4–5; and online with the full after-action reports on our *Stop War Save Climate* webpage [[bit.ly/VFP-StopWarSaveClimate](https://bit.ly/VFP-StopWarSaveClimate)].

Veterans For Peace will continue taking creative, direct actions in cities across the U.S. to alert the public about the link between militarism and the climate crisis.

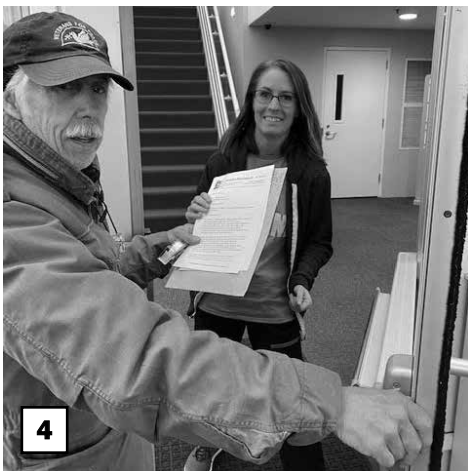


**VFP thanks the CLIMATE EMERGENCY FUND for its financial support, which helped make these actions possible!**  
More info at [climateemergencyfund.org](https://climateemergencyfund.org).

# #StopWarSaveClimate November 2022 actions



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- [1] New York City, 11/14/22 – Protest at the UN (photo by Ellen Davidson)
- [2] Washington, D.C., 11/11/22 – Street blockade
- [3] University of Washington, Seattle, 11/11/22
- [4] Minneapolis, 11/22 – Barry Riesch delivered a letter to Senator Amy Klobuchar’s office
- [5] Portland, Oregon, 11/12/22 – closeup of sign at climate action (photo by Mike Hastie)
- [6] Los Angeles, 11/11/22 – VFP members Michael Lindley, Kathleen Hernandez, and Steve Bowers interface with Army National Guard at Santa Monica Pier
- [7] Portland, Oregon, 11/12/22 – Global Day of Action for Climate Justice and Human Rights during COP27 (photo by Mike Hastie)
- [8] San Francisco, 11/10/22 – VFP and CODEPINK joined Youth vs. Apocalypse (YvA) in a Bay Area action as part of the Global Climate Strike (photo by Peg Hunter)
- [9] San Diego, California, 11/11/22
- [10] Boston, 11/16/22 – VFP, Military Families Speak Out, Mass. Peace Action, and allies staged a protest at JP Morgan Chase bank







## War Industry Resisters Network

The War Industry Resisters Network (WIRN) is now one year old. It was conceived and continues to serve as a means of bringing together local groups that are working to oppose war corporations in their own towns or regions. The network provides a means for mutual support and communication. Sharing information between local campaigns helps overcome that sense of isolation that many of us feel when confronting giants like Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, Boeing, General Dynamics, Northrup Grumman, E3 Harris, and all the rest.

The WIRN webpage at VFP National ([veteransforpeace.org/WIRN](http://veteransforpeace.org/WIRN)) provides an overview of what the network has been up to this past year. We now have 35+ local organizations in our circle; we have promoted and publicized over 30 events and produced 10 webinars on various aspects of the military-industrial complex; and we have developed a resource page to share useful links to articles, websites, and tools, and to display a slew of pictures from local actions. The WIRN mailing list is 1,400-subscribers strong

and our Facebook group has grown to 63 members. We are now in the process of developing an online listing of campus resources in an effort to support and amplify the activist efforts being led by young people.

Veterans For Peace has been an essential supporter of WIRN, as have other partners such as Massachusetts Peace Action (MAPA), World Beyond War, and CODEPINK. A nine-member steering committee helps provide direction and expertise.

Considering that it is an all-volunteer effort with no budget, 2022 has been quite a good first year for the network. Our aim is to continue to provide a special focus on the profiteering war industry, one of the most widespread and pernicious root causes of our nation's endless wars, and to galvanize actions against it.

We welcome your involvement. Begin by attending a WIRN webinar or joining our Facebook group. Email us at [wirn@veteransforpeace.org](mailto:wirn@veteransforpeace.org) for more information.

Forward together!

## Korea Peace Campaign

The main purpose of the Korea Peace Campaign (KPC) is to end the forever U.S. war in Korea by replacing the temporary ceasefire



agreement with a peace treaty. Following is a summary of our campaign's activities in 2022.

In February, we created our first-ever KPC logo — now featured on our Veterans For Peace webpage ([veteransforpeace.org/korea-peace-campaign](http://veteransforpeace.org/korea-peace-campaign)) — to be used in all KPC publications and promotions going forward.

In April, we helped draft an international statement of civil society, "Calling for Suspending U.S.–ROK Military Exercises and Decreasing Military Tensions on the Korean Peninsula." In concert with the call, VFP staff created a moving slider on the national website with the slogan, "Stop U.S. War Drills in Korea."

In June, we worked with John "Jack" Doxey, a member of KPC who is a veteran of the Korean War, to draft an open letter to President Biden from U.S. veterans who had served in Korea, urging him to end the lingering Korean War officially with a peace treaty. This letter was endorsed by other members of VFP who had either participated in the Korean War or served in South Korea in the post-Armistice period. The letter was sent to the White House in early August; so far there has been no official response from Biden.

In July, the KPC commenced monthly online meetings to discuss current news and plan our activities. The November meeting had seven attendees.

In August, we organized a panel discussion for the VFP Convention moderated by KPC Coordinator Ann Wright, "Peace Warriors from the Korean War," featuring the personal stories



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of four veterans who became peace activists after returning from the war: Prof. Glenn Paige (deceased); Prof. Charles Overby (deceased); Col. Pete McCloskey (retired); and Jack Doxey.

We also submitted a new VFP resolution on Korea: "Oppose a Trilateral Military Alliance between the U.S., Japan, and South Korea." We urge VFP chapters and members to send a copy of this resolution to your members of Congress, if/when adopted at the end of this year.

October 11–14, KPC members and supporters participated in the online Korea Peace Advocacy week, reaching out to members of the U.S. Congress to urge them to cosponsor H.R. 3446, the "Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act." Introduced by Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA), the bill has 43 cosponsors at this time. It asks the secretary of state to submit a written report on "a clear roadmap for achieving a permanent peace agreement on the Korean Peninsula," to establish mutual liaison offices in Pyongyang and Washington, D.C., and to conduct a full review of the current U.S. restrictions on the travel of U.S. nationals who want to visit the DPRK (North Korea). We urge all VFP members to contact your representative and ask them to cosponsor this bill, and approach your senators about sponsoring a senate bill.

In July 2023, we will observe the 70th anniversary of the signing the military ceasefire agreement that stopped the horrific U.S. war against North Korea in 1953. In this connection, we thank all VFP staff, local chapters, and individual members who have supported the KPC project in the past, and urge all to take action and support KPC in 2023 in observance of this anniversary. Please consider making a year-end donation earmarked for the KPC project to help amplify our peace message to a larger audience across the nation. Donations may be made via VFP's KPC page, or via check sent to the national VFP office, with a memo entry for the Korea project.

For inquiries, please contact us at [kpc@veteransforpeace.org](mailto:kpc@veteransforpeace.org).

## Deported Veterans Advocacy Project (DVAP)

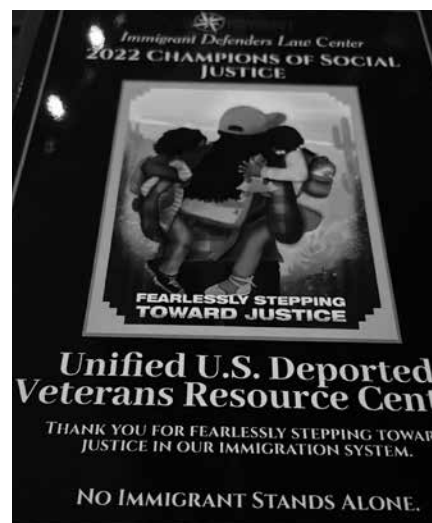
**"I will be back for you — we leave no one behind!"** With these words, spoken as he crossed back into the USA as a legal permanent resident one year ago, DVAP leader Robert Vivar promised that the work of Unified U.S. Deported Veterans Resource Center/VFP Sgt. Barrios Memorial Chapter 182 would continue. The struggle to end systemic discrimination against noncitizen veterans and military members is far from over, and 2022 brought some very meaningful accomplishments.

March 2022: A team of high-level DHS/DOD/USCIS officials paid an unprecedented visit to deported veterans situated in Baja California for an informative session presenting the work being done on behalf of the the veterans by the recently created IMMVETS (Immigrant Military Members and Veterans) initiative, as ordered by President Joe Biden.

To date, 37 deported veterans and family members have returned to the USA under this initiative. Out of those, 18 were aided in one form or other in their process to be repatriated and 12 were escorted or welcomed home at the San Ysidro, California, and Nogales, Arizona, ports of entry. [See photo on front page.]

May 2022: Unified U.S. Deported Veterans Resource Center was chosen for the 2022 Champions of Social Justice Award presented by the Immigrant Defenders Law Center at their 7th Annual Gala. L.A. City Council member Hilda Solis did the honors. The award is in recognition of the support we provided not only to our deported veterans, but also to asylum-seeking refugees, our participation having assisted over 1,000 migrants in successfully entering the USA under Title 42 exception.

June 2022: We were invited to a roundtable with Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas in recognition of the work being done in



support of the IMMVETS initiative, and presented Secretary Mayorkas with a deported veterans mural poster, which he gladly accepted.

July 2022: The repatriated veteran mentor project was launched as a joint effort with the Don Diego VFW Post 7420 in Barrio Logan, San Diego, to assist repatriated veterans transitioning home.

September 2022: The culmination of several conversations with the president and staff of the California District Attorney Association was the announcement, at the association's annual conference, of the creation of the deported veteran support committee to assist attorneys representing deported veterans with their motions of post-conviction relief. During the conference Robert Vivar was invited to speak on behalf of deported veterans at a roundtable of assistant chief deputy DAs.

We will finish the year working to persuade elected officials of the need not just for policies but for real legislation to end discriminatory practices against noncitizen veterans by supporting H.R. 7946, the Veterans Service Recognition Act. We are also organizing a joint Christmas Party for our deported veterans cosponsored by the Don Diego VFW Post 7420 and the American Legion Joe Dominguez Post 742. Find DVAP on the web at [uusdepvets.org](http://uusdepvets.org).



## Golden Rule Peace Boat

The *Golden Rule* Peace Boat is reaching thousands of people along the “Great Loop”! Thanks to many VFP chapters, volunteers, and crew, the first part of the *Golden Rule*’s Great Loop voyage has been quite amazing. With 41 events held in 20 cities along the Mississippi River so far, the voyage has garnered great media coverage — dozens of articles in local newspapers, plus radio and television interviews.

One of the highlights on this fall’s Great Loop experience was a special visit with a Marshallese community in Dubuque, Iowa. Marshall Islanders in Dubuque only recently learned that activists had sailed the *Golden Rule* in

1958 to stop nuclear testing. In all, 67 weapons were detonated in the Marshall Islands, making much of their land uninhabitable.

That is why, on October 9, so many in Dubuque’s Marshallese community turned out to welcome the *Golden Rule*’s arrival with traditional music and dancing — and great joy! Extensive media coverage of the event increased public awareness of why nearly 1,000 Marshall Islanders now live in Dubuque.

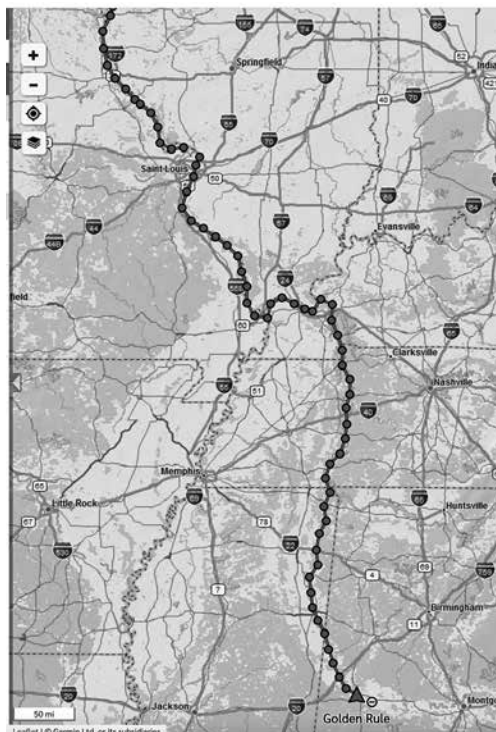
Since the *Golden Rule* set sail on this latest adventure, the Great Loop route has seen some changes. The lower Mississippi River turned out to be unnavigable due to drought in the Midwest, so that section of the route was altered. Then, at its November meeting, Veterans For Peace Board members voted in support of an added stop to the Great Loop route. We are pleased to announce that the *Golden Rule* peace

boat will sail to Cuba to participate in a special Arts and Culture program there, January 2–8, 2023.

We have been heartened by the outpouring of support from many members of Veterans For Peace for the *Golden Rule*’s voyage in eastern waters, and the warm welcome from those residing on or near the Great Loop route. Please visit [vfpgoldenrule.org](http://vfpgoldenrule.org) to...

- read our newsletters covering the voyage so far;
- access an interactive map that tracks the *Golden Rule* in real time (screenshot below);
- see the map and schedule of the Great Loop route;
- learn where help is needed all along the route; and
- donate to the Great Loop voyage.

Photos and videos are posted daily on the project’s Facebook page at “VFP Golden Rule Project.”



**ABOVE:** Marshall Islanders made up a large part of the crowd that welcomed the *Golden Rule* to Dubuque, Iowa. Photo by Gerry Condon.

**LEFT:** A screenshot showing online tracking of the *Golden Rule*’s progress in real time.



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# Courage to Resist

Courage to Resist is now a national project of Veterans For Peace!

Since 2006, Courage to Resist has supported the troops who refuse to fight, or who faced consequences for acting on conscience in opposition to illegal wars, occupations, and the policies of empire. From Lt. Ehren Watada to Chelsea Manning, to conscientious objectors and AWOL resisters today, Courage to Resist provides political, legal, and material support.

Courage to Resist is led by Veterans For Peace members Jeff Paterson, Steph Atkinson, and James Branum. To learn more and get involved, join our monthly Zoom meeting on the second Wednesday at 2 pm Pacific/5 pm Eastern — link at: [couragetoresist.org/meeting](https://couragetoresist.org/meeting).



*Courage to Resist hosted a dynamic panel discussion on the topic of GI Resistance at the opening plenary of this year's Veterans For Peace National Convention.*

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# Save Our VA



*Pausing for a photo outside Representative Ilhan Omar's office during their 2020 in-person lobbying effort in Washington, D.C., are (L to R): Jackson Shepard, Jeff Roy, a staffer, Bruce Carruthers, and Arlys Herem. Jeff, Bruce, and Arlys are on SOVA's Steering Committee.*

## Join us!

Visit the SOVA webpage on the VFP website ([veteransforpeace.org/sova](https://veteransforpeace.org/sova)) to learn more about SOVA and how to get involved with our work to stop privatization of veterans' health care.

SOVA is planning an in-person Legislative Conference to meet with members of Congress in Washington, D.C. this fall. Watch for news of the dates and join us in our fight to Save Our VA. Find more information, go online and sign up for regular updates at [veteransforpeace.org/sova](https://veteransforpeace.org/sova).

This year, VFP's National Campaign to Save Our VA (SOVA) joined with allies to defeat the Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) Commission that would have closed VA hospitals, clinics, and other facilities across the nation. At year's end, SOVA pushed for legislation to protect the VA's research, a little-known aspect of its work that is vital for all Americans.

Throughout the year, activists sent over 1,400 letters responding to SOVA's 14 Calls to Action focused on fully staffing, fully funding, and expanding access to VA health care for veterans. SOVA activists met with 21 members of Congress and/or their staff to advocate for VA health care, most as a part of the virtual Legislative Conference SOVA held for 14 activists in February.

Despite all these efforts, much remains to be done. The Republican-led House of Representatives coming in January will make it more difficult to stop the privatization of VA health care. SOVA needs more people to join us in advocating for a strong VA that veterans can continue to count on for their health care.

# VFP CHAPTER REPORTS



Members of Veterans For Peace Chapter 1 took part in a number of visibility actions in 2022, as evidenced by these snapshots.

## #001 – MAINE

The Tom Sturtevant chapter has been collaborating with several sympathetic groups to promote worthwhile activities. For example, in May and June we provided financial and moral support for Moms Demand Action as they fought for meaningful gun reform.

We have also participated in parades and vigils. In July, we joined activists in the annual Old Hallowell Day parade and at Bath Iron Works to protest the militarization of space.

In August, we hosted a daylong event honoring the work of Nobel Prize-winning physician Dr. Bernard Lown in his hometown of Lewiston. This fall, we are hosting a daylong conference showcasing *Truth Tellers*, the documentary film on artist Rob Shetterly and his peace activism.

As always, we continue vigiling throughout the state in various locales.

*Doug Rawlings and Peter Morgan*

## #010 – ALBANY, NY

John Amidon joined with the Nevada Desert Experience in Justice For Our Desert October 14–16, an action for climate justice/restoration, and then participated in Shut Down Creech, the movement to Ban Killer Drones. The existential threat of nuclear war has not been felt this strongly since the Cuban missile crisis. Nuclear war, conventional war, and war preparations threaten the success of any climate restoration efforts. John and Brian Terrell plan to plead innocent to the trespassing charge to challenge the illegal U.S. occupation of Newe Sogobia, the Western Shoshone Homeland, and to challenge the continued possession and development



John Amidon (with hands raised) was arrested at the Nevada National Security Site, along with Brian Terrell and Karen Pettit, activists with Nevada Desert Experience. John and Brian were cited for trespass.

of nuclear weapons, which are also illegal according to international law.

As a result of attending the desert actions, this reporter had the good pleasure of meeting other VFP folks: Dave Patterson and Denise Sellers from San Diego and Chris Knudson from San Luis Obispo, California, and Daniel Knox from Arizona. It was also great to see Ann Wright again. Special thanks to Toby Blomé (CODEPINK) for her great organizing.

On Armistice Day, November 11, Chapter 10 members walked in the Veterans Day parade in Albany.

*John Amidon*

## #019 – RIVERSIDE/SAN BERNARDINO, CA

The Jon Castro Chapter held our annual Veterans For Peace Memorial Day Awards Luncheon on May 30 in concert with Palm Springs AmVets Post 66.

In July, chapter members mourned the passing of Lew Stewart. A local leader in social justice and environmental movements, he had been active with Occupy Coachella Valley and with the desert ACLU chapter, as well as with VFP Chapter 19. We celebrated Lew's life and legacy at our International Day of Peace celebration on September 21, where Chapter VP Corbett Brattin, a Vietnam veteran, served as keynote speaker.

A Peace Pole dedicated by our chapter 16 years ago (October 2006) outside the Cathedral City Library entrance was beautifully refurbished this year. Tree roots had damaged the sidewalk in front of the library, so the city replaced the tree and its original planter with a square cement box



VFP Chapter 19's Tom Swann Hernandez sits at refurbished peace pole site outside the library in Cathedral City, California.

surrounded by four colorful benches. The wooden Peace Pole was cleaned and set on a metal pole that raised it up several feet, with the original bronze plaque placed at its base. The pole says "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in four languages: English, Spanish, Hebrew, and Tagalog (in recognition of the city's many Filipino residents).



The Jon Castro Chapter co-hosted a Veterans Day Ceremony with AMVETS Post 66, where the Fallen Heroes Project (directed by Marine Corps veteran and local high school teacher, Lee Wilson, Jr.) honored lives lost in WWII, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan, including a woman who died after military service from exposure to toxic burn pits in Iraq.

*Tom Swann Hernandez*



*Members of Chapter 25 walk along the chapter's Memorial Day display in Olbrich Park, Madison, Wisconsin. Photo by Brad Geyer.*

## #025 – MADISON, WI

The week leading up to Memorial Day, Veterans For Peace Madison, along with friends and community members, put up almost 7,000 simulated grave markers along Lake Monona and Olbrich Park in Madison.

With this memorial, we recognize the significant loss of lives our nation has experienced since September 11, 2001. While the markers recognize only U.S. troops lost, we also acknowledge the greater loss experienced by other nations.

This was the first year we returned to a full display after having smaller displays and taking a break around COVID.

*Brad Geyer*

## #034 – NEW YORK CITY

The New York City Chapter continues to host online monthly meetings with great speakers: Ray McGovern re U.S. militarization and the urgency of eliminating nuclear weapons and their delivery systems; Ann Wright and Christine Ahn re ending the Korean War; Helen Jaccard, Gerry Condon, and Captain Kiko Johnson-Kitazawa re Golden Rule's 2023 visit to the East Coast; Garrett Reppenhagen re NYC Climate & Militarism action during COP27 in November; Eric Maddox re training Palestinian women to do podcasts.

**Chapter Projects:** Move the Money; Stop Sanctions/Save Yemen; Agent Orange; *Peace & Planet News*; Ban Killer Drones; VFP U.S.–Japan Peace Speaking Tour.

### In-person Events:

Ellen Davidson and Tarak Kauff organized tabling at Roger Waters' "This is Not a Drill" North American Tour concerts, distributing 30,000 copies of *Peace & Planet News*, including updated Assange & Ukraine editions [[peaceandplanetnews.org](http://peaceandplanetnews.org)].

Numerous events concerning Peace in Ukraine, Ending U.S. Support for War in Yemen, Julian Assange, Korean Unification, Human Rights, Demilitarizing Okinawa, Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Poor People's Campaign, Climate Crisis, Ban Killer Drones, BLM, Anti-Militarism, and Commemoration of Hiroshima-Nagasaki Bombings.

Find us on Facebook @veteransforpeacenyc034.

*Bob Keilbach*



*In New York City, James Williams, Zool Zulkowitz, etc., coordinated Rising Together Guerrilla Theater's participation in many events, including a large contingent in the Village Halloween Parade.*

*Chapter Reports continued on page 14...*



*In August, New York VFP Chapters members were among 200 people who marched from the Isaiah Wall, across the street from the UN, to the United States Mission, to demand nuclear disarmament.*

*Photo by Ellen Davidson.*

# *An important message from Roger*

To My Friends in Veterans For Peace,

As we close in on the end of *This Is Not A Drill's* dates in North America and start to get ready to hit Europe in the spring, I've had some time to reflect on VFP's involvement.

At your tables in the foyer, you have been able to distribute many thousands of copies of *Peace & Planet News* to our audiences. We have, on this tour, become real partners in the global movement for peace, justice, and sanity.

I've been doing a little bit on the side too. Some of you may have seen the exchanges on social media between Olena Zelenska, the First Lady of Ukraine, and me.

It began with an open letter I posted about the war in Ukraine, which, to my surprise, she answered personally, and it continued with my follow-up letter back. Who knows what may come of it? (You can see her response and my letter back to her, here <https://rogerwaters.com/response-to-mrs-olena-zelenskas-tweet/>)



VFP National Board President Susan Schnall with Roger at his San Francisco concert Sept. 24.



In that letter I also recalled another frightening time, hoping we can draw some guidance from it: the Cuban Missile Crisis.

“It was John Fitzgerald Kennedy and Nikita Khrushchev who spoke to one another. Khrushchev agreed to remove the Russian missiles from Cuba and as a ‘quid pro quo.’ Kennedy agreed to remove

*I'm proud to be part of a movement that includes VFP, a movement whose activists are dedicated and passionate, a movement that constantly seeks new ways to confound the American Empire's goal of endless war and militarism.*



# ger Waters



*I implore you to join me in making a donation to VFP to further the cause of peace. Please be generous in your help.*

American missiles from Turkey! They spoke, they compromised, job done? It's called diplomacy. What has happened to diplomacy? Why doesn't President Biden do the right thing and speak to President Putin?"

I'm proud to be part of a movement that includes VFP, a movement whose activists are dedicated and passionate, a movement that constantly seeks new ways to confound the American Empire's goal of endless war and militarism; a movement whose activists join their voices with the communities most affected by conflict, who know from bitter experience they do not want war.

If you were able to attend one of the shows on our tour or have seen any of the videos on social media, you will have seen that the message repeatedly driven home is that "This Is Not A Drill." This is it! It's showtime folks! The house is on fire, it's now or never!

So, thank you, all you volunteers at VFP, for manning the barricades at the tables, and thank you everyone who is reading this; I implore you to join me in making a donation to VFP to further the cause of peace. Please be generous in your help.

Remember *this is not a drill!* Time is running out, don't put this on your pile to "answer later." Write that check or fill in your credit card number and send this back in today or get online at [www.veteransforpeace.org](http://www.veteransforpeace.org) and hit that donate button right now.

The house really is on fire, and there really is no Planet B.

*Love,  
Roger Waters*



VFP members presented Roger with their banner after the final concert in Mexico City Oct. 15.

# VFP CHAPTER REPORTS *continued*

## #035 – SPOKANE, WA

This year began slowly for Chapter 35. On March 16, we gathered for a second annual My Lai Remembrance at the Viet Nam Memorial statue in Riverfront Park. In June, we joined our Pride For Peace friends replacing the color guard from Fairchild AFB, claiming the number-four position in the Reimagine Pride Parade.

In its July 2022 issue, *In These Times* magazine published the story of Chapter 35 Vice President George Taylor's historic win at Washington State Supreme Court, where climate activists were allowed to use the necessity defense before a jury. George was interviewed by *VFP Radio* in October.

In August, we joined Pax Christi in a remembrance of the nuclear bombings of Japan. We produced a video for our acceptance of National VFP's Chapter of the Year award at the virtual convention.

Six local high schools are now offering our letter of advice for students considering enlistment. In October, we joined Defuse Nuclear War/UNAC protesting nukes internationally.

Our Ordinance C-36299, making Spokane a "zone free of nuclear weapons" was passed on November 7 by a vote of 5-2; we met with council members to assure veto-proof passage. In November, we joined Wild Idaho Rising Tide/350 Spokane shuttering TC Energy offices in protest of plans for a gas pipeline routed through Inland NW. We gathered for bell-ringing on November 11th to celebrate Armistice.

We sent \$200 to *Golden Rule*; \$500 to Project RENEW; \$100 to co-sponsor Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane (PJALS) Conference.

Care4Peace4Justice4All!

Hollis Higgins

## #041 – CAPE COD, MA

During the first few months of 2022 the Cape Cod chapter focused on conducting our 27th Annual "Voices of Peace" Cape-wide poetry contest (January through May). This year's contest involved a total of 346 young poets representing 20 schools with 35 teachers facilitating student submissions. In May we celebrated 59 winning poems and five booklet cover artists, the latter a new category added to the contest this year. Once again, our poets taught us more about the value of perseverance in the face of the pandemic, economic hardship, violence, and war.

On Memorial Day the chapter had a significant presence at an event in Centerville. We educated the public with a somber "cost of war" theme and wreath-laying, while inviting other vets taking part in the event to learn about Veterans For Peace.

In July we responded to a request from Buzz Davis and Mike Tork with a donation to help build a children's playground in Sásabe, Mexico, a small rural border town a short distance from the border. The playground will serve the children of the many migrants and asylum seekers who have been dropped there by the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol since the implementation of Title 42 in March 2020.

Also in July, we began to plan for the educational and healing event held at our Hidden Wounds Memorial on the Hyannis town green during September, National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. We invited two local suicide prevention groups to join us – the Samaritans of Cape Cod and the Cape and Islands Suicide Prevention Coalition – for the September 10 event. Karen Ellery-Jones of the Samaritans led the memorial ribbon ceremony and Sam Holmstock, leader of

*continued on next page...*



## #039 – CLEVELAND, OH

*For nearly ten years, Cleveland VFP member Louis Pumphrey, a veteran who served with the Army's First Infantry Division in Viet Nam, has been making his own personal peace statement by carrying a large red-white-and-blue peace flag to events drawing large crowds, wearing either his 1966 army field jacket or 1968 dress uniform. He blogs about his experiences and interactions with the public on the Cleveland Peace Action website under the category, "Travels With A Peace Flag." [Find Lou's blog under the "About" tab at [peaceactioncleveland.org](http://peaceactioncleveland.org).] In 2022, Lou traveled with his flag to a St. Patrick's Day parade, two Memorial Day parades, the One World Parade, the Cleveland Air Show, and several Cleveland Guardians baseball games. This photo was taken by Katie Couric and posted on Instagram when Lou "promoted peace on the world stage" while the Republican National Convention was in town in July 2016.*





**The Memorial Healing Event sponsored by Cape Cod Chapter 41 on September 10, 2022, to mark National Suicide Prevention Month featured a ribbon ceremony and a healing drum circle led by Sam Holmstock of "Drum Strategies For Healing."**

"Drumming Through Trauma" sessions, demonstrated a healing drum circle. The event generated press coverage for both veteran suicide prevention and our poetry contest.

October found us beginning to organize the logistics and fundraising for next year's poetry contest and preparing for Veterans/Armistice Day events.

Looking forward, we will be working to build stronger coalitions with other Cape Cod groups and organizations, and to grow our chapter membership.

*Duke Ellis*

## #042 - CONNECTICUT

Connecticut VFP members are working toward the Spring 2023 arrival of the *Golden Rule*. Richard Duffee, a Quaker, has visited a number of Quaker Meetings to give them a heads up, and we are off to a fine start. Our chapter has also fundraised for the *Golden Rule*.

We met representatives of the Cuban Mission to the United Nations led by Ambassador Pedro Pedrosa. He told of travel

*Chapter Reports continued on page 16...*



**Connecticut VFP Chapter 42 member Jim Pandaru supplied his collection of Hiroshima/Nagasaki posters for an August 9 remembrance with VFP members Henry Lowendorf, Millie Grenough, Richard Duffee, and Jim Brasile, and members of the Greater New Haven Peace Council.**

# VFP CHAPTER REPORTS *continued*



Members of Northern Michigan Chapter 50 turned out with all their signs to Reclaim Armistice Day on a busy parkway.

## Connecticut Chapter 42 continued:

restrictions the delegation is subjected to in New York City. Cuba is still designated a terrorist country by the U.S. and a victim of sanctions and embargos.

In August we joined with the Greater New Haven Peace Council and the Peace Commission to remember victims of the nuclear bombings of Japan. Henry Lowendorf, Jim Pandaru, Al Marder, and Jim Brasile were featured speakers. We ended by singing member Millie Grenough's song, "Where Do We Want Our Green To Go?" [[youtu.be/mYccexShNZk](https://youtu.be/mYccexShNZk)]

On July 4 we marched in the Willimantic Boombbox Parade and passed out more than 500 pie-chart flyers showing how military spending, including veterans benefits, dominates over 60% of discretionary spending. [See [nationalpriorities.org](https://nationalpriorities.org).]

At Friday "Open Mics" in West Hartford, Joe Wasserman reminded us all to approach our elected members of Congress. Chapter member Greg Laxer read from his daily blog, who he thinks "the most notorious arms dealer in the world" really is. [See [gregorylaxer.com](https://gregorylaxer.com).]

*Jim Brasile*



The "Window on the Bay," frequented by both locals and tourists, is a perfect spot for peaceful protests staged in Monterey, California, by VFP Chapter 46 and Peace Coalition members. The couple at right are longtime VFP members Phil Butler and Barbara Baldock.

## #046 – MONTEREY, CA

VFP Chapter 46 members participated in the following actions in 2022:

January: A Conversation with U.S. Congressman Jimmy Panetta (20th District of California), sponsored by VFP Chapter 46 and the Peace Coalition of Monterey County, at the Monterey Peace and Justice Center.

February & March: Multiple NO WAR! CALL FOR PEACE in UKRAINE! Peaceful Protests at Window on the Bay in Monterey, sponsored by VFP Chapter 46 and the Peace Coalition of Monterey County.

June: Chapter 46 had an information booth at the 2022 Veterans Stand Down sponsored by the Veterans Transition Center and Monterey County for homeless veterans.

August: The August 18 Hiroshima Nagasaki Remembrance Day & Peace Lantern Ceremony at Lovers Point Cove in Pacific Grove featured music, poetry, and messages of hope and peace. In addition to launching of the peace lanterns, Chapter 46 President Michael Dempsey read a poem by fellow member, Korean War veteran William Dallman.

September: An outdoor International Day of Peace Celebration was held at Whispering Pines Park in Monterey. This year's theme was "End Racism, Build Peace."

October: As part of the Nationwide Action to Defuse Nuclear War, Monterey VFP members formed an informational picket line in front of the Federal Government Office of Rep. Jimmy Panetta requesting efforts to significantly reduce the risk of nuclear war.

*Michael Dempsey*

## #050 – NORTHERN MICHIGAN

Chapter 50 did something different this year to commemorate Armistice/Veterans Day. In years past we have honored all Michigan veterans who have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, veteran suicide victims, and all victims of war. Now we will do that only on Memorial Day.

This year on November 11, we displayed all of our flags and our VFP banner. In addition, we made four large signs:



- Honor veterans
- Reclaim Armistice Day
- Reject War
- Teach Peace

We set up our display at one our busiest parkways.

Our annual celebration of the International Day of Peace (September 21) keeps getting stronger. Along with other members of our community, we meet for an 8:00 am sunrise ceremony at our local beach for reflection and music, then at 9:00 the mayor of Traverse City reads a proclamation declaring our city a “City of Peace.” At 10:00 we “plant” a peace pole in one of our parks. This was the event’s 10th year and it received good media coverage.

We were also instrumental in jumping through the many hoops for our city to become the 172th member of the International Cities of Peace. There are now signs at the entrance of our city reflecting such.

We have begun taking applications from student veterans and children of veterans for our annual college scholarship.

In solidarity,

*Tim Keenan*

## #063 – ALBUQUERQUE, NM

We continue to ring a huge bell 11 times on November 11, and remind a citywide audience that we’re ringing the bell to honor the passage of the Kellogg- Briand Treaty and Armistice Day. Former Chapter 63 President Charles Powell has faithfully carried out this tradition every “Veterans Day.”

We completed another annual Charles Powell essay contest and awarded cash prizes and dinner to three high school winners.

John Wilks, our vice president, has been busy with research and multiple interviews regarding the dangers to New Mexicans posed by Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, or WIPP, the low-level waste depository in the salt mines near Carlsbad, New Mexico. For many years, activists in the state held off the opening of this “test site,” but in spite of our opposition it finally opened, with the promise that it would be closed in 2024. Now that it is full, they’re proposing to enlarge it and keep it open indefinitely.

Wilks is also vigorously opposing Holtec’s plan to open a repository in New Mexico for the storage of high-level waste from the whole country, using our highways and railroads.

Jim Janko is equally busy informing people of the military impact on the climate.

We continue to support deported veterans.

We continue to oppose the privatization of the VA.

*Sally-Alice Thompson*

## #071 – SONOMA, CA

Sonoma Veterans For Peace Chapter 71 has, at this writing, proposed and dedicated 28 Peace Poles at Sonoma County schools, with six more set to be planted by January 1, 2023. The connection with peace and social justice issues in local schools is palpable – tangible success for VFP and its mission.

*Terence Munro McNeill*



**ABOVE: Present at the dedication of the 28th Peace Pole planted this year at Sonoma, California, schools were, L to R: Santa Rosa School Superintendent Anna Trunnell; Santa Rosa East West Rotary Club President Julie Montgomery; Santa Rosa Police Chief John Cragen; School Principal Vinh Tran; and Chapter 71 President Fred Ptucha.**

**BELOW: Sonoma VFP member Hubert Morel-Sayoux, who was with the French Foreign Legion in the Algerian War and later became a Quaker, addressed attendees in French at the dedication of the two Peace Poles planted in May 2022 at the French American Charter School in Santa Rosa, California. (Hubert died on October 15, 2022.)**

Photos by Terence Munro McNeill.



# VFP CHAPTER REPORTS *continued*



**Mike Horner and Mike Hastie volunteered to help pass out literature at the September 10 Roger Waters concert in Portland, Oregon. Photo by Janet Weil, who helped coordinate the effort.**

## #072 – PORTLAND, OR

Chapter 72 has had a busy autumn so far. In August, we hosted our first in-person social gathering in over two years. It was wonderful to spend an afternoon with our compatriots and get reacquainted. In September, we sponsored a table at the Vancouver Peace and Justice Fair in Vancouver, Washington. Also in September, we were honored to hand out VFP literature at the Roger Waters concert, an amazing show that was an eye-opening event for many attendees.

In the process of rejuvenating our chapter and membership, we have secured a space and began hosting in-person meetings in October. We excitedly look forward to organizing more in-person events this winter.

We are happy to welcome back the leadership of Dan Shea, who was elected chapter president this autumn. We will continue to look for opportunities to press the notion of peace during these trying times.

*Eileen Cowen*

## #075 – PHOENIX, AZ

When we learned that the Roger Waters tour was coming to Phoenix, the Mark Von Hagen Chapter began preparing for the event. To ensure a successful presence, we inserted a critical “contact information” flyer into every one of the 1,000 copies of *Peace & Planet News* we had received. Upon arrival at the venue, we needed little time to prepare before the doors opened. With 10 members, spouses, and friends, we made short work of distributing the papers to concert goers: we handed out our last paper just 40 minutes after we began. It was an immediate and euphoric morale booster for our chapter.

As for the concert, we agreed that it was nothing short of spectacular. In this regard, we would be remiss if we did not thank Roger for providing us with a platform to spread our

message to Phoenix residents. Such opportunities are rarely afforded to us.

Finally, we returned to Changing Hands Bookstores in Phoenix and Tempe on Veterans Day to distribute poppies and to inform the community of the true meaning of November 11.

*Richard A. Smith*

## #091 – SAN DIEGO, CA

For San Diego’s Hugh Thompson Memorial Chapter, 2022 started with the arrival of the Peace Boat *Golden Rule* in San Diego and other nearby coastal communities and a number of press conferences and events, both here and in Mexico. In March, the chapter hosted displays and presentations at the University of San Diego entitled “The My Lai Experience” as well as *Waging Peace in Vietnam* at the San Diego State University. Memorial Day found the chapter downtown setting up our Hometown Arlington West Memorial for the 300 Southern Californians killed in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

The chapter spent much of August and September writing and demonstrating against the enormous annual Miramar Air Show, a true example of militarism and environmental indifference.

In October, two chapter members went to Creech AFB for the annual protest against the use of drones being operated there.

In November, the chapter had a presence at two universities, with panels on “Vietnam Still Matters” at San Diego State University and a display telling what Veterans Day/Armistice Day means to us at the University of San Diego. On Armistice Day, the chapter again set up Hometown Arlington West downtown.

We continue to support our Deported Veterans in their quest to Come Home to America. The tireless efforts of our chapter in Tijuana have been instrumental in the past three months, aiding over a dozen veterans in winning re-entry on a one-year humanitarian parole.



**Chapter 75 members at the Roger Waters concert in Phoenix, Arizona. L. to R.: Carol Konyha, Richard Scott, Richard A. Smith, Rick Rose, John Johnson, Virginia Hauflaire, Art Radcliffe.**



We organized several picnic lunches this year to encourage social connection, while, for the 12th year, we continued to fundraise and buy sleeping bags for the many homeless downtown. Our own Stan Levin (age 93) was honored to give out the 5000th bag, and was featured in the *San Diego Union-Tribune* newspaper.

Gil Field

## #092 – SEATTLE, WA

We “got out more!” this year — starting with the MLK Jr. Day event in which Seattle’s favorite elder activist, Dorli Rainey (who we lost a few months ago — *Presente!*), participated with us. Then, on January 28, we joined a protest against the U.S. and NATO organized by Jane Cutter of PSL (Party for Socialism and Liberation). Dan Gilman spoke for the chapter. On February 5, we joined LFPFP, along with Ground Zero, for a Defund the Military/Abolish Nuclear Weapons event at “Democracy Corner.”



*Seattle Veterans For Peace Chapter 92 at Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, January 17 (partial contingent), L to R: James Williams, Albert Penta, and Jane Cutter, who works closely with our chapter. In front is Dorli Rainey — Presente! Photo by Kim Loftness.*

Last April, Whidbey Environmental Action Network was victorious when a court ruled in favor of “evicting” the Navy due to its unlawful noisy(!) training exercises in state parks. VFP92 was part of the coalition that struggled for this win. There was NO appeal!

On May 7, VFP92 joined Ground Zero’s annual Mother’s Day event; and Ray Nacanaynay was cited for drawing multiple peace symbols in the road.

Mike Dedrick promoted his new book at the University of Washington (UW): *Southern Voices: Biet Dong and the National Liberation Front*. It’s an interesting read.

Grand Finale: After months of hard work by a handful of chapter members, our *Waging Peace in Vietnam* exhibit at the UW was a success. And we got a new member! Yes!

Kim Loftness



*VFP Chapter 91 member Stan Levin (93 years old) gives out the 5000th sleeping bag in San Diego.*

## #099 – WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

In late August, the criminal trespass charges against the Earth Day 8 were dismissed. The Reject Raytheon AVL direct action in April obstructed construction traffic coming to and from the Pratt & Whitney (Raytheon) site just outside of Asheville. Four of the eight are VFP chapter members. [For the full story, see [mountainx.com/opinion/earth-day-8-walk-away-with-a-win/](http://mountainx.com/opinion/earth-day-8-walk-away-with-a-win/).]

On November 11, we honored all victims of war and militarization with prayer, readings, and poetry at our annual Armistice Day ceremony.

On November 19, VFP Chapter 99 joined 15 other peace and social justice groups in the Only One Earth Coalition as part of Asheville’s Holiday Parade. Other groups included Sunrise, ANSWER Coalition, Democratic Socialists of America, the Poor People’s Campaign WNC, Physicians for Social Responsibility,

*Chapter Reports continued on page 20...*



*VFP Chapter 99’s Gerry Werhan (far right) helps carry the lead banner for the Only One Earth Coalition in the November 19 Asheville, North Carolina, Holiday Parade. Photo by Pamela Mumby.*

# VFP CHAPTER REPORTS *continued*

Western North Carolina Chapter 99 *continued*:

Reject Raytheon AVL, BeLoved Asheville, Health Care for All WNC, Citizens Climate Lobby, Great Smoky Mountains Peace Pagoda, Green Grannies, Land of the Sky UCC, and Circle of Mercy. The Brass Your Heart social justice marching band and a merry group of puppeteers accompanied us.

Ken Jones



## #100 – SOUTHEAST ALASKA

Chapter 100 is continuing to move forward on a number of projects. Our Point Hope Project [see [akhopecongress.org](http://akhopecongress.org)] continues, with a series of social media video clips that were developed over the summer and a mediated workshop on an Arctic Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in the works for January. We gathered for our annual Armistice Day observance on November 11, ringing the bell in front of the state capitol building. A series of events are happening this fall in concert with the exhibit *Waging Peace in Vietnam*, which is at the University of Alaska Southeast from November 11 through December 15. Several of the events will be livestreamed. [Find details at [uas.alaska.edu/juneau/writing-center/waging-peace-in-vietnam.html](http://uas.alaska.edu/juneau/writing-center/waging-peace-in-vietnam.html).]

Eleven Chapter 102 members took part in Milwaukee's Veterans Parade on November 5: Six in the van and five walking in front with flags and leaflets. Photo by Bill Christofferson.

terrible weather forecast kept many spectators home (though we didn't even get rained on!).

Our 16th annual Armistice Day observance at Milwaukee City Hall drew an audience of 100+ and included inspirational readings, music, and speakers on moral injury and the price we pay for our forever wars. It was well attended and well received.

We have begun planning for the *Golden Rule's* visit to Milwaukee in September 2023, and are eagerly awaiting that.

Bill Christofferson

Craig Wilson

## #102 – MILWAUKEE, WI

We in the Milwaukee chapter try to be like the song "McNamara's Band": *Although we're few in number, we're the finest in the land.*

We expanded our portfolio in 2022, taking on a few new issues while continuing previous work to build coalitions, Save Our VA from privatization, oppose F-35 jet fighters in Madison, and the never-ending challenge of educating the public about the true costs of war to prevent the death of the planet.

After hearing Garrett Reppenhagen's virtual presentation about the work of VFP's Climate Crisis and Militarism project, we created a Climate Crisis and Militarism public group open to all on Facebook to share information, and the group is already nearing 200 members.

Here at home, we promoted sensible firearms regulation in support of the 80 Per Cent Coalition and Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort, and joined a coalition working with Wisconsin gun shops on a safe weapons storage program to prevent veteran suicide.

Chapter 102 made its debut in Milwaukee's Veterans Parade on Saturday, November 5, and received a nice, polite reception, after being banned from the parade for many years for being "political." It was a good dress rehearsal, at least, for future years when throngs will cheer us, but on this day, a

## #112 – VENTURA COUNTY, CA

The Ventura chapter's summer newsletter report enumerated the many public settings we enjoyed this past year. To the list can be added tabling at the 4th of July Street Fair in Ventura and at the Oxnard Multicultural Festival, where the mayor of Oxnard and a member of the city's Community Relations Commission asked to have pictures taken of them



VFP Chapter 112 veteran member Michael Cervantes awaits the arrival of students at the high school district's annual career expo in April. VFP is assigned to the military category at the annual expos, where 600 students pass through in a little over two hours. We encouraged the students to be environmentally conscious in their career choices, hence, the display of the Earth Charter document.



*Ventura County Chapter 112 continued:*

at our booth. Our booth prominently displays large signs on excessive military spending, Black Lives Matter, and immigration reform.

Chapter member Cindy Piester, member of the VFP Climate Crisis and Militarism Project, submitted to this year's VFP convention Resolution 2022-03: CODE RED for Humanity, U.S. and NATO Emissions Reporting, which received a convention vote of 43 yes and 0 no. Cindy will be attending the Conference of the Parties (COP27) in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, as an NGO delegate calling for military emissions to be reported to the UNFCCC.

Of importance to local veterans, Ventura County now has a newer, enlarged VA Clinic managed directly by the VA, located in Ventura. The new clinic will offer primary care, mental health care, women's health care, dental care, eye care, cardiology, rehabilitation, and lab services. This means fewer 55-mile trips into Los Angeles for many Ventura County veterans.

*Shane Meserve*

## #113 – HAWAII

VFP Chapter 113 in Hawaii continues to work for the defueling and permanent shutdown of the U.S. Navy's massive, 20-story, underground jet fuel tanks that leaked over 19,000 gallons of jet fuel into the drinking water of 93,000 military and civilian residents around Pearl Harbor Naval Base in Honolulu. Our chapter was a key part of the Cancel RIMPAC coalition that challenged the world's largest naval war maneuvers held off Hawaii in July.

*Ann Wright*

## #134 – TACOMA, WA

For the past two years, members of the Tacoma, Washington, VFP chapter have been bannerizing weekly over the I-5 freeway that runs through the city center. A very large banner, spanning most of the five northbound lanes, reads: "End Military Ecocide / Veterans For Peace," in addition to messages we have carried previously. Most recently, the favored banner reads "End Systemic Racism / Veterans For Peace." Traffic at noon in the heart of downtown Tacoma is heavy, so thousands of drivers see these messages. We welcome more volunteers – with enough, both banners can be exhibited, covering both northbound and southbound traffic. Volunteers are required by law to hold both ends of the banners; it is prohibited to attach them to any part of the bridge structure. Most of the responses are favorable, with thumbs up, friendly waves, and an occasional honk of a horn. A number of months ago, a passer-by stopped his car in the middle of the bridge, hopped out, and dashed over to press a hundred-dollar bill into the palm of chapter president Dave Dittmore.

*Kristi Nebel*



*Shadow of banner displayed by VFP Chapter 134 members on I-5 overpass in Tacoma, Washington. Photo by Steve Nebel.*

## #168 – LOUISVILLE, KY

Chapter 168 made a big difference in many lives this year through generous donations to St. John's Homeless Men's Center, Homeless Coalition, Western Kentucky Tornado Relief Fund, and Eastern Kentucky Flood Relief Fund. Led by Carol Trainer and Johannah Camenisch, we collected donations of household items for the Catholic Charities Refugee Ministry and participated in setting up homes for newly arriving refugees.

Congratulations to member Mike O'Connell, re-elected as Louisville/Jefferson County Attorney. Members Steve Gardiner and Kyle Elison provided security at a series of interfaith vigils honoring those who died in the Metro Department of Corrections and protesting conditions there. Carol Trainer was honored to participate in the first-ever all-female Kentucky Veterans Honor Flight to D.C.

Our monthly *VFP Radio Hour* broadcasts continue on Forward Radio WFMP 106.5 LP FM Louisville. A big shoutout to the programmers who make it possible: Steven Gardiner, John Wilborn, Patrick King, Peter Berres, and Carol Trainer. It airs on the fourth Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. "Listen Live" and check out archived podcasts at [ForwardRadio.org](http://ForwardRadio.org).

A BIG thanks to members and friends who generously donate, support, and participate in chapter projects!

Lastly, we honor and remember veteran member James Troy who died this year. *Presente!*

Visit our website at [veteransforpeace168.org](http://veteransforpeace168.org). Peace!

*Carol Trainer*



*Carol Trainer and associate member Johannah Camenisch pause for a selfie while delivering household goods for Louisville refugees to Catholic Charities Refugee Services.*

## tillman

what more is there to say  
as you perform handstands  
on the roof of the world

or later, bristling with weapons  
of particular destruction, you stare  
rock-jawed out at the camera

america reduced to celluloid  
a collection of striking images  
and unwritten epitaphs

it was not enough  
to be a weekend warrior  
you wanted the real thing

your own private jihad played out  
in the world's biggest sandbox  
adrift on a sea of crude

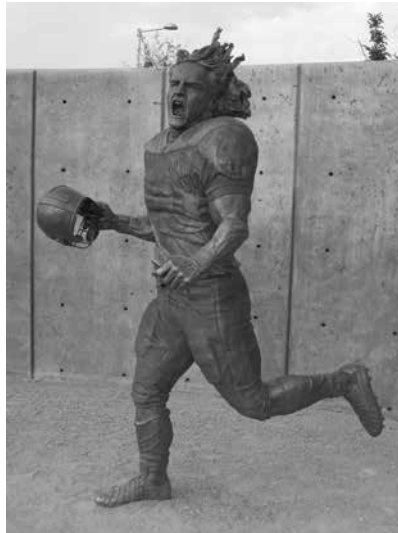
you found it, tillman  
you re-discovered america, land  
of endless and devastating opportunity

and you became a minor god  
icarus rising above the rooftops  
in search of your own apparent sun

— R. D. Patrick

(After 9/11, Pat Tillman gave up a successful career in the National Football League to enlist in the U.S. Army. Shortly after being posted to Afghanistan he was killed by friendly fire.)

Reprinted from R. D. Patrick, *The Stonehaven Poems* (Your Scrivener Press, 2010).



*Pat Tillman Memorial,  
University of Phoenix Stadium.  
Photo by Ken Lund.*

## VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

A block of marble  
and twenty six letters of the alphabet  
etch so many young names  
onto history

Wandering alone  
amid the mass grave  
an old woman has at last found  
her only child  
and with her eyes tightly shut  
her trembling fingers now feel  
for the mortal wound  
on his ice-cold forehead

— William Marr

Reprinted from *A Dreamless Night: The Selected Chinese/English Poems of William Marr* (Chicago Academic Press, 2021).

AFTER 16 YEARS of selecting poems to feature on the Poetry Page of the *Veterans For Peace Newsletter*, W. D. Ehrhart [wdehrhart.com] is stepping down from his role as Editor-at-Large. Since taking on the assignment at the behest of former newsletter editor Michael Uhl, W. D. has unfailingly chosen inspiring, provocative works for readers to reflect on each month, exposing us to many fine poets along the way. While we (the editor) initially panicked at the news of Bill's retirement from these pages, we are greatly relieved and very pleased to announce that VFP's new Poet Laureate, Jenny Pacanowski [jennywarriorpoet.com], has agreed to take on the role of Poetry Page curator, beginning with the next issue. [Jenny became Poet Laureate when Jan Barry passed the torch to her at this year's virtual convention.] —Editor





## GET CONNECTED

### Official VFP channels:

- [www.facebook.com/veteransforpeace](http://www.facebook.com/veteransforpeace)
- [www.youtube.com/VeteransForPeace](http://www.youtube.com/VeteransForPeace)
- [twitter.com/VFPNational](https://twitter.com/VFPNational)
- [www.instagram.com/veteransforpeace](http://www.instagram.com/veteransforpeace)

### Weekly VFP Social Hour

Every Tuesday at 7 pm (Eastern) |  
6 pm (Central) | 5 pm (Mountain) |  
4 pm (Pacific).

To Join Social Hour, click on the link in the Calendar sidebar of our website. Or go to Zoom and click join meeting and enter in Meeting ID: 324 812 650.

### VFP-ALL Google group

The VFP-ALL listserv is open to all VFP members for sharing announcements and information and engaging in lively discussions with other members. To join the VFP-ALL group, go to [bit.ly/VFPALLSignUp](https://bit.ly/VFPALLSignUp) and click the "Join Group" link at the top of the page to be added automatically. If you have problems, email [shelly@veteransforpeace.org](mailto:shelly@veteransforpeace.org) with a request to be added to the VFP-ALL Google group.

### Be the Change book club

Sunday, January 8, 2023, is the first date of a new book study for this virtual VFP discussion group (meetings held Sundays at 2 pm Pacific/5 pm Eastern time)—a great time for new people to join! The assignment for this first meeting is to read up through page 42 (Introduction plus first 3 precepts) in: **Restoring the Kinship Worldview: Indigenous Voices Introduce 28 Precepts for Rebalancing Life on Planet Earth** compiled by Wahinkpe Topa (Four Arrows) and Darcia Narvaez, PhD (North Atlantic Books, 2022). For more info., please email Kathleen Hernandez at [hernandezkathleen@hotmail.com](mailto:hernandezkathleen@hotmail.com).

### Gamers For Peace

**Streams:** [www.twitch.tv/VeteransForPeace](http://www.twitch.tv/VeteransForPeace)

**Join the Discord:** [www.discord.gg/GamersForPeace](http://www.discord.gg/GamersForPeace)

3407 S. Jefferson Ave. #219, St. Louis, MO 63118  
Ph: 314-725-6005 • Fax: 314-227-1981 • [veteransforpeace.org](http://veteransforpeace.org)

**Veterans For Peace** is a global organization of military veterans and allies whose collective efforts are to build a culture of peace by using our experiences and lifting our voices. We inform the public of the true causes of war and the enormous costs of wars, with an obligation to heal the wounds of wars. Our network is composed of over 140 chapters worldwide whose work includes: educating the public, advocating dismantling the war economy, providing services that assist veterans and victims of war, and most significant, working to end all wars.

### Statement of Purpose

We, as military veterans, do hereby affirm our greater responsibility to serve the cause of world peace. To this end we will work with others both nationally and internationally:

- To increase public awareness of the causes and costs of war
- To restrain our governments from intervening, overtly and covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations
- To resist racism and repression in our home communities
- To oppose the militarization of law enforcement
- To end the arms race and to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons
- To seek justice for veterans and victims of war
- To abolish war as an instrument of national policy.

To achieve these goals, members of Veterans For Peace pledge to use nonviolent means and to maintain an organization that is both democratic and open, with the understanding that all members are trusted to act in the best interests of the group for the larger purpose of world peace.

### Veterans For Peace Code of Conduct

*~ a living document, to be updated as we learn ~*

1. We will use our anger at injustice as a positive, nonviolent force for change.
2. We will approach every encounter, with fellow members and the public, with positivity and mindfulness, and with the assumption that concerns raised are coming from a positive place and present a learning opportunity.
3. Our attitude, as conveyed through our words, symbols and actions, will be one of openness, friendliness, and respect toward all people we encounter.
4. All members have an important role to play within Veterans For Peace, regardless of previous military rank, branch, or combat experience. We will respect one another as equal parts of a whole.
5. We will not assault, verbally, in person, or online, anyone, to include fellow members and those who oppose or disagree with us, even if they assault us. This does not preclude a member's right to defend him or herself against a physical attack.
6. In keeping with our commitment to achieving our goals through nonviolent means, there is an expectation that members will not carry weapons with them to VFP events or while representing VFP, regardless of the laws in their location.
7. We will follow the directions of the designated coordinators during public actions organized on behalf of VFP.
8. We will use democratic principles within our organization to ensure an open, fair, inclusive, and transparent environment.
9. We will speak as members of VFP but not for VFP, unless designated as a spokesperson for VFP. All members are free to speak for themselves or on behalf of their chapter as appropriate.
10. Sexist, racist, homophobic, ageist, transphobic, gender discriminatory, and all other discriminatory language and actions are common within the military; they are not acceptable within VFP.
11. Our words and actions will maintain the political and financial independence of VFP.
12. To achieve the above goals, we will also engage in "active listening"; that is, fully concentrating on what is being said rather than just passively "hearing" the message of the speaker.



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**Saint Louis, MO 63118**

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**INSIDE:**  
*An important message from Roger Waters*

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