

# VETERANS FOR PEACE Monthly eNews



VFP eNews: June 2023

Memorial Day | Japan-Okinawa Tour | Peace in Korea | Save Our VA | VFP Convention



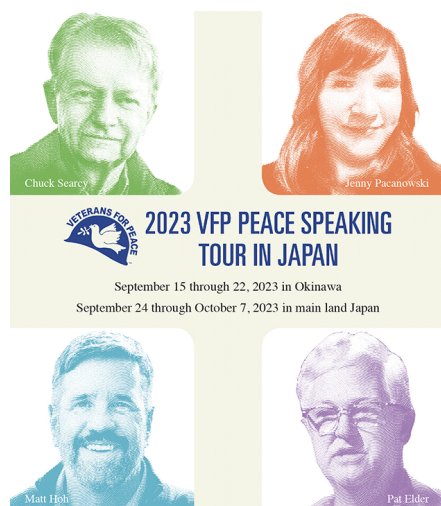
## Memorial Day Recap

Check out the Veterans For Peace [Memorial Day 2023 Recap](#) page for summaries and images shared by our members of some of our chapters' Memorial Day events. Commemorations take different forms in different places, and some chapters re-started Memorial Day traditions this year that had been paused during the pandemic period.

A common aim of VFP Memorial Day observances is to publicly expose the true costs of war and while calling for "war no more!" We remember not just fallen U.S. service members, but all victims of war. We recognize the human toll of war as well as its devastating effects on all living things, and bear witness that war has no winners.

PHOTO ALBUM: The above image by photographer Edward Boches was sent to us by the Smedley Butler Brigade (VFP Chapter 9) in Boston, Mass. More Memorial Day 2023 pics from Boston and elsewhere are contained in this [VFP Memorial Day 2023 photo album](#).

## Events, Actions & Project Updates



### Delegates on VFP's 2023 "Peace Speaking Tour" to address peace and environmental justice in Japan and Okinawa

Annual VFP peace speaking tours in Japan, coordinated by VFP member **Rachel Clark** since 2015, have been critical for strengthening international solidarity among peace organizations. As the U.S. empire ratchets up pressure on China, we are seeing increased militarization in Japan and throughout the Pacific. That's one reason this year's tour, organized jointly with both Japanese and Okinawan peace movements, is so very important.

The 2023 VFP peace speakers are **Chuck Searcy**, **Pat Elder**, and VFP Poet-Laurate **Jenny Pacanowski** in person, and **Matt Hoh** from the States by Zoom. After eight days in Okinawa, the team will travel to Japan for two weeks, speaking in some 11 cities including Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Tokyo, and Kyoto. For this first in-person tour since Covid, Rachel has secured a good portion of funding from outside sources, and is now working to raise an additional \$6,000 to help cover airfare, train travel in Japan, and accommodations. **Please help make this important anti-war and environmental justice delegation a reality by donating to VFP** (link below) **and noting in the comment section "Japan/Okinawa Delegation":** <https://www.veteransforpeace.org/donate/donate-veterans-peace>

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**VFP National Project Reports**

**Korea Peace Campaign**

**Mobilize for peace in Korea on July 27!**  
Let's end the Korean War!

*Join VFP-KPC in Washington, D.C., this July 26-28*

This year we commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Korean Armistice Agreement signed on July 27, 1953. The time has come for a real peace agreement.

**PLEASE MAKE PLANS** to join the Veterans For Peace contingent in Washington, D.C., July 26-28, 2023, for events commemorating the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement on July 27, 1953.

The armistice halted, but did not end, the Korean War. The United States, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea), and China signed the armistice, but not the Republic of South Korea. The failure to replace the armistice in the succeeding 70 years with a permanent peace agreement has kept the Korean Peninsula locked in a perpetual state of war, kept the Korean people divided, and is the root cause of continued tensions and militarism in Korea. Without a peace agreement, renewed fighting could break out at any time.

This July 26-28, a coalition of organizations working for peace in Korea, including Veterans For Peace, will mobilize in Washington, D.C., and across the country to call on the U.S. government to formally end the Korean War with a peace agreement.

Actions will consist of a large grassroots gathering and rally in Washington, D.C., July 26-28. Seventieth anniversary events held simultaneously in locales across the U.S. will energize the movement for peace in Korea.

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:**  
**Wednesday, July 26**  
 • Check-in and dinner  
**Thursday, July 27**  
 • Press conference on Capitol Hill with sponsors of the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act  
 • Rally at Lafayette Park in front of the White House  
 • Screening of Crossings, the 2022 documentary about the 2018 Women Cross DMZ mission  
**Friday, July 28**  
 • Conference at George Washington University: Human Costs of the Unending War and Nuclear Disarmament

**SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDE:**  
 Women Cross DMZ, Veterans For Peace, Korea Peace Now Grassroots Network, Korean American Peace Fund, Memorial Council Committee (MCC), American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Korean American Public Action Committee (KAPAC), National Association of Korean Americans (NAKA)

Read the article by Alice Slater, "It's High Time the U.S. Signed a Peace Treaty with North Korea," in [Peace & Planet News](#).

6 Veterans For Peace Newsletter | Spring 2023

## Mobilize for Peace in Korea with VFP-KPC in Washington, DC, July 26-28, 2023

In case you missed it ... page 6 in the Spring 2023 *VFP Newsletter* features a call to action from the VFP Korea Peace Campaign:

Join the Veterans For Peace contingent gathering in Washington, D.C., July 26-28, 2023, for events commemorating the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement on July 27, 1953. That armistice halted, but did not end, the Korean War. For information, visit the Veterans For Peace [Korea Peace Campaign web page](#).

[CLICK HERE to download the PDF of the full VFP Newsletter.](#)

*If you would prefer a print newsletter and would like to order a bundle or an individual copy, [please fill out this form.](#)*

# SAVE OUR VA

**HONOR THE NATION'S PROMISE TO VETERANS**

**JOIN US!**

**SOVA Legislative Conference in Washington, DC**

**October 15-19, 2023**

Join the SOVA National Campaign in Washington from October 15 to 19, as we advocate Congress to help us Save Our VA. We'll spend a day getting to know each other and preparing for two days of meetings with members of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees and other Members of Congress (MOCs) in

small groups. In-person meetings increase our impact on Congress, and this is SOVA's second such conference (the first was in 2020). Since we'll be prepping together, no prior experience is necessary, but joining our effort is an excellent opportunity to gain experience talking to legislators about issues you care about. It's also a great opportunity to enjoy VFP camaraderie and make new friends. Join in the fun, and help tell Congress why it's so important to Save Our VA.

[CLICK HERE](#) for information on costs and other conference details, and to register.

## Golden Rule: The Great Loop journey concludes this month!



In the last month, VFP's *Golden Rule* anti-nuclear sailboat has visited (among other ports), L to R: New York City (for Fleet Week – photo by Gerry Condon), Philadelphia (photo by Tina D. Shelton), and Norwalk/Bridgeport, Connecticut (photo of VFP42 member Bill Potvin submitted by Jim Brasile), where project members joined in the local Memorial Day Parade.

The Great Loop adventure wraps up at the end of June, but there are plenty of stops and events scheduled throughout the month – in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine. **Follow the boat's progress**





## New VFP eNews Feature: “Think Piece”

For members who enjoy reading and responding to op-eds, Interim VFP Director Mike Ferner (pictured above, left) offers a "think piece" for your consideration:

### “The End Stage of American Empire: Clinging Bitterly to Guns and Religion” by William Astore, Lt. Col. USAF (ret.) | June 6, 2023

*“...history appears to confirm that empires, in their dying stages, do exactly that: they exalt violence, continue to pursue war, and insist on their own greatness until their fall can neither be denied nor reversed.” [READ MORE...](#)*

Join the conversations on the Google group, [VFP-ALL](#). (When discussing, please respect differences of opinion, and stick to the VFP Code of Conduct—[find link here.](#))



**LISTEN:** On the June 8, 2023, Veterans For Peace radio hour, Jim Wohlgemuth and Harvey Bennett of the Hector Black Memorial VFP Chapter in Nashville broke down the "peace speech" delivered by JFK to graduates of American University 60 years ago on June 10, 1963. [Click here to listen to the podcast on Soundcloud.](#) (The video and transcript of the historic speech can be found on this [American University page.](#))



VETERANS FOR PEACE  
**CONVENTION**  
AUGUST 25-27, 2023

***Choose Peace:  
Stand Up! Speak Out!***

View the Full VFP Convention Website to...

- [Submit a workshop proposal – by June 24, 2023](#)
- [Nominate someone for an award – by July 27, 2023](#)
- [Place a convention ad – by August 7, 2023](#)
- [Submit resolutions or bylaws – by July 27, 2023](#)
- [Make a donation to sponsor a convention attendee – anytime](#)
- [Run for the board – nominations due September 4, 2023](#)
- [Read our convention FAQ](#)

**Register Now!**

## Annual VFP Business Meeting Saturday, August 26, 2023 | online

You do not need to register for the convention in order to participate in the business meeting, but it is open to active VFP members only. *Click the button below to renew your membership or join VFP!*

**Join or Renew Today!**

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### VFP Member Corner

#### **Memo from Interim VFP Director Mike Ferner**

June 12, 2023

To VFP Members:

As you know, a considerable amount of time has been put into sorting through our members' opinions on the war in Ukraine. There's a wide diversity of views and the board adopted several statements as a result of those discussions. From there, your diligent staff put them together and posted them on the VFP website. [This link](#) will take you to a compilation of the standing and most recent board statements. They should clarify what VFP's position is. Please share with anyone interested.

Peace and Love, as Jimi would say.

Mike Ferner, Interim Director  
Veterans For Peace  
mike@veteransforpeace.org

P.S. Please email me if you can help with either of the following:

- Tell your story! VFP's "Merchants of Death" War Tribunal is looking for testimony from Iraq veterans who participated in any of the sieges of Fallujah.
- Fundraising phone calling to members: We're starting a coordinated, thorough campaign of calling the entire membership list and have a good committee and coordinator. Many hands make light work!

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#### **Veterans For Peace is hiring: Communications Coordinator**

Veterans For Peace is looking for someone who can combine the skills needed for the job with enthusiasm for VFP's mission, a national organization with chapters across the U.S. that has exposed the true costs of war and militarism since 1985. The position starts at half time and may expand to full time. This is a remote position, coordinated with regular online staff meetings. Salary TBD.



Skills needed are:

- Proficiency in graphic programs including Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe InDesign on a Mac and/or PC, Zoom webinar platform, MS Office, G Suite, Canva, Wix and Wordpress
- High attention to detail, quality and consistency for all projects
- Well organized and detail-oriented
- Good written and oral communication skills

Veterans For Peace is committed to a diverse and welcoming workplace. Veterans have a high priority for this position. Those interested may apply by sending a letter of interest, resume and sample of work to [vfpemployment@veteransforpeace.org](mailto:vfpemployment@veteransforpeace.org)

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## How to Make Your Locale a "Nuclear-free Zone"

Tom Charles, a member of VFP Chapter 35 in Spokane, Washington was involved in the three-year effort to get Spokane City Council to pass an ordinance making the city a nuclear-free zone and preventing the city from doing business with the nuclear weapons industry. It passed legal muster and took effect on Dec. 21, 2022. The Spokane ordinance is [posted online](#), and Tom encourages VFP members to help share it with others, here and abroad, who may be interested in pursuing similar goals. "Our hope is that if enough of us pass similar legislation, it will send a strong message to our federal and state governments that we demand action in the effort to rid our world of nuclear weapons," he said. For more information on how to run a successful campaign, please email Tom Charles at [charfam@hotmail.com](mailto:charfam@hotmail.com).

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## VFP in the News

**June 5** – In Maine, a road was renamed to honor Cold War peace icon Samantha Smith, and Veterans For Peace appears in coverage of the dedication: [News Center Maine](#) and [WGME 13](#).

**May 29** – San Diego VFP Chapter 91 is featured in this Memorial Day story filed by Andrew Dire for KPBS: [Anti-war group's Memorial Day display highlights 'true cost' of war](#).

## Calendar / Upcoming Events

**June 22** – [Korea Peace Campaign](#) online meeting, 8pm ET | 7pm CT| 5pm PT| 3pm HT. Please email [kpc@veteransforpeace.org](mailto:kpc@veteransforpeace.org) for Zoom information.

**July 20** – WIRN Webinar [US aims to be "Master of Space:" Militarizing and profiteering in the sky](#).

**July 26–28** – [National Mobilization to End the Korean War](#)

**August 25–27** – [VFP 2023 Online Convention](#)

**October 15–19** – [SOVA Legislative Conference](#), Washington, DC

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VFP  
3407 S. Jefferson Ave, #219  
St Louis, MO 63118  
United States

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