

VETERANS FOR PEACE Weekly e-News



Week of June 26, 2023



VETERANS FOR PEACE CONVENTION

AUGUST 25-27, 2023

Choose Peace: Stand Up! Speak Out!

dedicated to the memory of
DANIEL ELLSBERG

Register Now!

VFP Seeks New Board Members

Veterans For Peace is looking for three (3) dedicated veteran members and one (1) associate member to serve on the national VFP Board of Directors. Board members have the responsibility of ensuring Veterans For Peace remains a strong and viable organization working for the cause of peace. [Click here to read about Board Member expectations.](#)

See Veterans For Peace [Bylaws ARTICLE VII. ELECTIONS](#) for more information on election governance. Please note that veteran nominees MUST have a DD214 on record with the VFP national office.

If you are interested in running for the board, please submit your nomination via this 2023 [VFP Board of Directors Candidate Form](#). The deadline for submissions is 7 days after the close of the VFP National Convention, **September 4, 2023**.

Join or Renew Your Membership

Board Nominations Form

Remembering Daniel Ellsberg



Letter from Daniel Ellsberg's Family

June 16, 2023

Daniel Ellsberg died peacefully today in his home in Kensington, CA. He was not in pain, and was surrounded by loving family. His cause of death was pancreatic cancer, diagnosed on February 17th.

In the months since his diagnosis, Daniel continued to speak out urgently to the media about nuclear dangers, especially the threat of nuclear war posed by the Ukraine war and Taiwan. Links to these interviews are here. (More links to his articles and interviews over the past several years are here.)

Dan also shared many moments of love and joy in these months, including celebrating his 92nd birthday (April 7) and Patricia's 85th birthday (April 26), along with many visits and calls with friends and family. He was thrilled to be able to give up the salt-free diet his doctor had him on for five years; hot chocolate, croissants, cake, poppyseed bagels, and lox gave him extra pleasure in these final months. He also enjoyed re-watching his favorite movies, including several viewings of his all-time favorite, *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*.

In his final days, surrounded by so much love from so many people, Daniel joked, "If I had known dying would be like this, I would have done it sooner." (Patricia replied, "Then I'm glad you didn't.")

Thank you, everyone, for your outpouring of love, appreciation, and well-wishes to Dan. It all warmed his heart at the end of his life.

Daniel was a seeker of truth and a patriotic truth-teller, an antiwar activist, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather, a treasured friend to many, and an inspiration to countless more. He will be dearly missed by all of us.

We will be arranging a public Zoom memorial in the coming months. This will be announced on Daniel's Twitter and Facebook with plenty of advance notice. We'll also email you to let you know.

Thank you, Daniel, for sharing your wisdom, your heart, and your conscience with the world. We will keep your flame alive.

—Patricia, Mary, Robert, and Michael Ellsberg
Kensington, California, 6/16/23
contact.ellsberg@gmail.com

VFP Tribute to Dan Ellsberg



PHOTO: Daniel Ellsberg was one of 130 veterans and allies who were arrested at the White House protesting U.S. wars and occupation on December 16, 2010. Smiling as he is led away in handcuffs, he flashes a peace sign to the demonstrators behind his back.

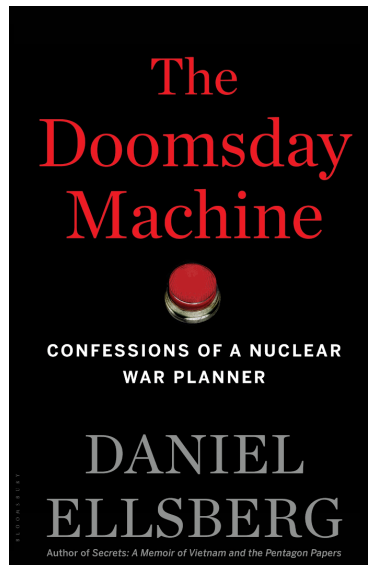
Credit: Ellen Davidson

One of the brightest lights in history went out when Dan Ellsberg died on June 16, 2023. A longtime member of Veterans For Peace, Dan was an inspiration and mentor to millions, and a friend to a lucky few. He is most remembered for helping end the American war in Vietnam by bringing the *Pentagon Papers* to light, but throughout the rest of his life he did so very much more. To get to know Daniel Ellsberg better, follow any or all of the links shared below. Enjoy!

“Each of us, in our own ways, must be Daniel Ellsberg, taking the nonviolent risks and actions needed to save our Democracy. The threats still loom large, but never forget that there are many more of us than there are of them...” –MICHAEL MOORE

- Daniel Ellsberg, 1931-2023 – Michael Moore
- Thank you for your service – Caitlin Johnstone
- “Dan Ellsberg’s parting plea: Don’t wait – *Peace and Planet News*
- The Domsday Machine: The Big Lie of the Cold War – 2018 interview
- ¡Daniel Ellsberg, Presente! – Ellen Davidson's photo album
- The Most Evil War Planning – Defuse Nuclear War Podcast With Daniel Ellsberg
- The Vandenberg 15 and VFP – 2012 interview by VFP member John Amidon
- Resisting Endless Wars: Getting Arrested with VFP in D.C. – 2010 video by Fred Nagel
- Daniel Ellsberg’s Not Yet Goodbye – Consortium News
- Daniel Ellsberg’s Last Message – Norman Solomon
- Dan Ellsberg: A Personal Reflection – W.D. Ehrhart

Actions | Events | National Projects



Do it for Dan!

In the last years of his life, Daniel Ellsberg focused on exposing the dangers and the folly of nuclear weapons. [Add your endorsement](#) to the Los Alamos Study Group's Call for Sanity and take a stand against the proposed nuclear warhead expansion at Los Alamos National Lab – an unnecessary expansion that threatens Navajo pueblos

around Santa Fe. **Weapons that should never be used, should never be built.** We must halt the mad men who think nuclear war can be fought and won. Los Alamos Study Group played a major part in halting the activity back in 2012. Let's help them again. Please sign on!

Sign the Los Alamos Study Group's
CALL FOR SANITY



VFP's "Golden Rule" peace boat overtakes the USS Wasp in NYC harbor during Fleet Week, May 25, 2023
Photo: Gerry Condon

CORRECTION

The *Golden Rule* sails on into July, August, and September!

Our last eNews got it wrong: The *Golden Rule*'s "Great Loop" voyage is *not* concluding at the end of this month. Rather, the *Golden Rule* is approximately two-thirds of the way through the 13-month, 11,000-mile, 100+-city adventure, which will conclude in Chicago in mid-September. It has been amazing thus far, but the best may be yet to come! [The *Golden Rule* website is the best place to find schedule and updates and follow the peace boat in real time.](#)



Mobilize for Peace in Korea Washington, D.C., July 26–28, 2023

Join VFP's Korea Peace Campaign contingent for events commemorating the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement on July 27, 1953 – the armistice that halted, but did not end, the Korean War. More info on the [Korea Peace Campaign web page](#).



At SOVA's first legislative conference in 2020, L to R: Jackson Shepard, Jeff Roy, Ilhan Omar's staff, Bruce Carruthers, Arlys Herem.

Join the 2nd SOVA Legislative Conference Washington, D.C., October 15–19, 2023

Join the SOVA National Campaign in Washington, D.C., October 15–19, as we advocate Congress to help 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. This 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. [The above photo is from the first conference in 2020.]

[CLICK HERE](#) for further details including costs (reasonable!) and how to register.

VFP in the News

June 25 – [Historic peace ship 'The Golden Rule' visiting Maine](#)

June 23 – [VFP President Susan Schnall speaks at Okinawa Day of Remembrance in NYC](#)

June 23 – [Historic Peace Ship Reaches Portsmouth on Voyage for Nuclear Weapons Abolition](#)

June 22 – [Reps. Mike Levin & Morgan McGarvey Introduce Bill to Protect Veterans' Education Benefits](#)

June 19 – [Gordon Smith, a veteran and peace activist, dies at 73.](#)

Calendar / Upcoming Events

July 16 – [Peacestock '23](#), Red Wing, Minnesota, cosponsored by VFP Chapters 115 & 27

July 26–28 – [National Mobilization to End the Korean War](#) in Washington, DC

August 26 – **VFP Annual Meeting** (virtual) – [Join or renew your membership to participate](#)

August 25–27 – [2023 VFP National Convention](#) (virtual)

Sept 15–Oct 7 – VFP Peace Speaking Tour in Okinawa and Japan

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



For anyone who enjoys reading and reflecting on op-eds related to war and peace, VFP Interim Director Mike Ferner offers this week's "Think Piece":



Think you know what happened to the USS Liberty?

On June 8, 1967, Israeli air and naval forces – with covered over insignia – fired rockets, torpedoes, and napalm on a U.S. spy ship, the *USS Liberty*, in the Mediterranean Sea, killing 34 Americans and injuring 174 more.

[Of course, there's much more to the story...](#)

The views expressed in the linked article are solely those of the author and may or may not reflect those of Veterans For Peace.

VFP Member Communications

MEMORANDUM

Date: June 17, 2023

To: VFP Membership

From: VFP President Susan Schnall

Re: Motion approved by VFP National Board in response to attack on Medea Benjamin

The Veterans For Peace Board of Directors condemns the violence that occurred on Friday, May 19, 2023, at an event sponsored by the Minneapolis VFP chapter [Twin Cities Chapter 27] and Women Against Military Madness at which Medea Benjamin was the featured speaker.

Medea was verbally assaulted and her cell phone was forcibly removed by a counter demonstrator who repeatedly pointed his finger at her, verbally threatening her. This same demonstrator attacked a VFP member

who had fallen to the ground. He then pummeled the victim, who suffered multiple bruises, shoulder dislocation, and possible concussion. [\[Video posted here.\]](#)

Verbal and physical violence have no place in Veterans For Peace. We unequivocally condemn this violence and those who supported it by (1) standing by and allowing it to occur, and (2) supporting the perpetrator of this violent action.

Susan Schnall, President
Veterans For Peace

PEACESTOCK 23
 Sunday, July 16, 2023
 Central Park: 1:00 - 7:00 PM -- 415 W. 4th St. Red Wing, MN
 Speakers -- Music by Buffalo Weavers -- Food Trucks
 Please bring your own comfortable chairs

Theme: Is militarism providing the security we seek?

Coleen Rowley
 Former FBI agent & whistleblower over FBI failures before Sept. 11, 2001. Coleen ran unsuccessfully for U.S. House of Representatives in 2006, and has become a noted speaker on ethics, & a leader in peace activism.

Sami Rasouli
 Iraqi-American, Sami lived in Minneapolis and was proprietor of the well known restaurant, Sinbad's. In 2003, after the US invasions, he moved back to Iraq, and started the *Muslim Peacemakers Team*. He now resides in New Brighton, MN.

Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer
 Born & raised in Minnesota, Jack is Professor of Peace Studies at St. Thomas University. In 2008, he was a candidate for U.S. Senate, but lost the DFL endorsement to Al Franken. He is an author & speaker on peace & justice.

www.peacestockvfp.org
 Contacts:
 Bill Habedank, 651-764-1866, Red Wing, MN
 David Logsdon, 612-203-9768, Mpls, MN
 Sponsored by Veterans For Peace, Chapters 115 & 27, and supported by the Kessel Peace Institute.
 Please consider a donation to Veterans For Peace 115

VFP Midwest Meeting July 15 & 16 in the Twin Cities, Minnesota

On Saturday, July 15, VFP Twin Cities Chapter 27 is hosting a full day of activities including workshops, a session with VFP Interim Director Mike Ferner, a group visit to George Floyd Square, and “An Evening of Peace, Love, and Curry.”

On Sunday, they will caravan to Red Wing, Minnesota (an hour south of the cities), for a full day of speeches, food, and music! at [Peacestock 23!](#)

The Twin Cities chapter is eager to make this a memorable weekend.

“Come a couple of days early and we can hang out!” – VFP Midwest Regional Director Dave Logsdon [\[email\]](#)

LET'S DOUBLE OUR MEMBERSHIP Sign 'em up!

Billfolds, wallets, purses, bike baskets, glove compartments – all are great places to stash a few of these handy [VFP Membership Applications](#). Download the pdf and print some so you will be ready to give them to the veterans and allies you meet every day.

Do the math! *If every VFP member signs up just one person in the next 12 months, we will double our membership in a year!*

CORRECTION How to subscribe to the VFP-ALL email group

VFP-ALL is a google group that all VFP members are welcome to subscribe to. It is an email list (not a website) set up for member-to-member communication, whether to announce events, share information and ideas, or enter into friendly debate on the issues of the day. All subscribers must agree to abide by our [Code of Conduct](#).

We received feedback that the subscription link provided in our last eNews did not work. Here is the correct procedure:

To subscribe, send an email to vfp-all+subscribe@googlegroups.com. Google will send you a confirmation email that you will need to respond to, to complete the subscription process.

Please be aware that VFP-ALL is an active group with multiple postings per day, and once you have joined the group, you have the power to change your personal settings (through the Google Groups interface) to control the flow of emails from VFP-ALL (e.g., to receive messages in digest form rather than one at a time). You may also opt to receive no group messages in your email inbox, and only check listserv activity when you choose to, via the online Google Groups interface.

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