



# VETERANS FOR PEACE Monthly eNews



VFP eNews | July 27, 2023

Join us for the 2023 National Convention!



***ENJOY GREAT SPEAKERS AND CONNECT WITH OTHER MEMBERS  
at VFP's 2023 National Convention***

Dedicated to the Memory of Daniel Ellsberg

# VETERANS FOR PEACE CONVENTION

AUG 25-27 | ONLINE



**CLARE DALY**

Member European Parliament, fiery critic of imperialism and vigilant human rights advocate



**JEFFREY SACHS**

President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Co-Chair of the Council of Engineers for the Energy Transition, Ukraine war analyst



**KATHY KELLY**

Campaigner for peace and justice, has lived with Iraq, Afghan and Yemen families in war zones, imprisoned repeatedly for disturbing the war

**REGISTER NOW**

Mobilizations Happening Now!

**KOREA PEACE ACTION IN WASHINGTON D.C.**



**Veterans For Peace members are mobilizing in Washington, D.C., Wednesday through Friday, July 26–28, with [Korea Peace Action: National Mobilization to End the Korean War](#).** Marking the 70th anniversary of the Korean Armistice, peace advocates from around the country are converging in the nation's capital to call on President Biden and Congress to officially end the Korean War and replace the armistice with a peace agreement.

As a co-convener of this week's mobilization, Veterans For Peace is a signatory on a letter that has been submitted to the State Department requesting that the travel ban to the DPRK be loosened to allow for more NGO access and more people-to-people contact.

**Not able to attend this week's mobilization?** You can still take steps toward peace on the Korean Peninsula. Request your representatives to cosponsor **H.R. 1369 – Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act**.

[See Bill Cosponsors](#)

Take advantage of the free streaming of the Women Cross DMZ documentary, **Crossings**, to give friends and family a glimpse of life in North and South Korea. **Streaming FREE on WORLD Channel thru Aug. 22.**

[Stream Film Now](#)

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## **CLIMATE CRISIS & MILITARISM ACTION IN SAN DIEGO TODAY!**

**On Thursday, July 27, San Diego Veterans For Peace** begins its protest against the pollution generated by the Blue Angels at the Miramar Air Show. Chapter President Gary Butterfield writes:

*We are all experiencing the rapidly-increasing effects of climate change or reading about it in the news. Yet the Marines are still planning on bringing the Blue Angels to town, spewing their toxic greenhouse gases throughout our skies. And this is for entertainment! We can no longer afford to do Business As Usual.*

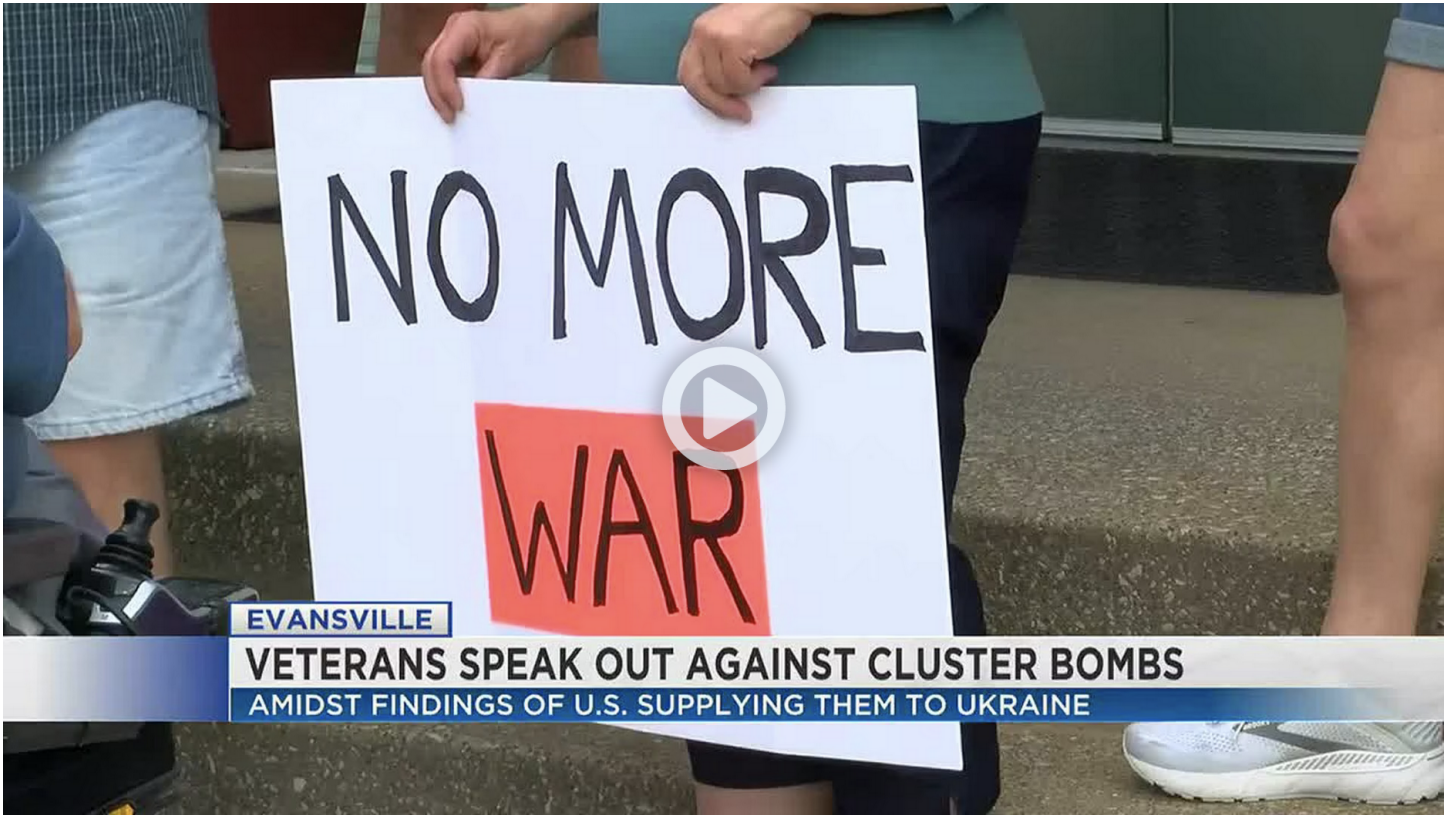
**Join the action!** Meet on the I-15 North overpass at Carroll Canyon Road this Thursday, July 27, from 4–6 PM. (Folks have found parking in the strip mall directly to the East of the bridge.)



Cluster Munitions Protest Pics



VFP members and allies staged a die-in at the gates of the Scranton Army Ammunition Plant in Pennsylvania on July 22, 2023. Photo by Ellen Davidson. [More photos here.](#)



A riverfront protest staged by Evansville Chapter 104 in Southern Indiana was covered by [Channel 14 news](#).

WATCH CLUSTER BOMB VIDEO ON YOUTUBE

## Golden Rule Sails Into Rochester and Buffalo



The *Golden Rule's* stop in Rochester, New York, on July 21 garnered television news spots on [Channel 8 WROC](#), [Channel 10 WHEC](#), and [Channel 13 WHAM](#). In addition, radio personality Gino Fanelli hosted [a conversation on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation](#) on WXXI.

Posted on *Buffalo Rising* June 24: "[Golden Rule's Anti-Nuclear Message Sails Into Buffalo.](#)"

[Just a sampling of media coverage on the peace boat's many stops!]

## Breaking News from the VA

### *Majority of VA health care facilities receive 4 or 5 stars in CMS quality ratings, outperforming non-VA facilities*

WASHINGTON – On July 26, 2023, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced that 67% of VA hospitals included in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) annual Overall Hospital Quality Star Ratings received either 4 or 5 stars, compared to only 41% of non-VA hospitals. This was the first time VA hospitals were included in the CMS Star Ratings.

[READ MORE...](#)



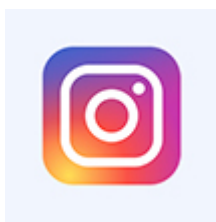
Register for SOVA's October Legislative Conference

## Meet VFP's New Comms Coordinator

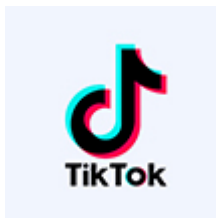


**VFP Communications Coordinator Chris Smiley** is a journalist and media professional who has worked with nonprofit organizations and initiatives on issues from justice in Palestine to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Chris has collaborated with VFP in the past and his documentary films featuring veterans have been showcased around the world. He is looking forward to amplifying the impact of VFP's work through multimedia as he has done with various organizations.

Media, and specifically social media, is a vital tool for sharing our message and building our organization. We need your support and action! Make sure you have a social media account for all of our channels below. And be active! Every like, comment, and share of our posts gets our content 'in the algorithm,' meaning the platform will see the popularity of our content and push it out to more and more people in a snowball effect.





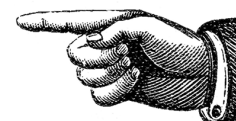


## Support Veterans For Peace

*Support our vital work for peace abroad and peace at home.*

DONATE TO VFP

## Recommended Reading



[Oppenheimer](#), Christopher Nolan's recent film about American scientist J. Robert Oppenheimer and his role in the development of the atomic bomb, presents a perfect opportunity to launch conversations on the topic of nukes. In a recent essay, World BEYOND War's David Swanson presents us with a rich menu of factoids to prepare for such conversations.

*"If you or anyone you know still thinks the U.S. had to bomb Japan to end the war or that doing so saved American lives, read David Swanson's essay . . . We've been lied to for a very long time." — Interim VFP Director Mike Ferner*

**READ: "[Facing Factsenheimer](#)" by David Swanson | July 22, 2023**

## SPEAKING OF FACTS . . .

VFP Chapter 80 in Duluth, Minnesota, is part of a coalition getting local resolutions passed in support of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). They let us know that ICAN has a number of fact sheets available to view or download for anyone involved in this kind of campaign: These one-page handouts on reasons to abolish nukes, why it is a local issue, the treaty, etc., are perfect for educating the public and public officials.



Featured in the Spring 2023 issue: Ann Wright answers a slanderous letter published in *Newsweek* with a piece titled, "[Knives Are Out Again for Those Advocating For Peace on the Korean Peninsula.](#)"

## Upcoming Events

**July 26–28 (THIS WEEK!) – [National Mobilization to End the Korean War](#), Washington, D.C.**

**July 27 – CCMP protest at the Miramar Air Show in San Diego, 4–6pm (see above)**

**August 3 – WIRN event featuring Ann Wright and Matt Hoh: [The US State Department as a Tool of Empire](#), online, 8pm Eastern**

**August 6–9 – Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemorations, various locations**

**August 25–27 – [Veterans For Peace 2023 Convention and Annual Business Meeting \(Aug. 26\)](#), online**

**October 15–19 – [SOVA Legislative Conference](#), Washington, D.C.**

**November 11 – [Armistice Day](#)**

**November 10–13 – [Merchants of Death War Crimes Tribunal](#), online, with live and pre-recorded testimony**

## VFP Member Corner

## Communicate with other VFP members: Subscribe to VFP-ALL Google group

To subscribe, send an email to [vpf-all+subscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:vpf-all+subscribe@googlegroups.com). Google will send you a confirmation email that you will need to respond to, to complete the subscription process. Subscribers must be respectful and adhere to VFP's Code of Conduct. You have the power to set your subscription in a way that minimizes the number of emails you receive, including an option to only peruse the list online.

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### Chapter opportunity: Raise funds & consciousness simultaneously

Actor/ writer/ storyteller Jim Stowell adapted Tim O'Brien's classic, *The Things They Carried*, for a one-person stage performance that premiered in 2014 to rave reviews (including one from O'Brien himself).

At the recent Peacestock event in Red Wing, Minnesota, Stowell approached VFP Director Mike Ferner with a special offer for Veterans For Peace chapters. Essentially, he is willing to grant permission and perform the play for any VFP chapter that wants to produce and promote it. To clarify, there is a cost, but Jim Stowell is willing to work out a price that works for each chapter, in addition to travel and lodging costs.

Stowell suggested chapters consider partnering with other community groups or arts organizations in order to pull off a well-promoted production of *The Things They Carried*. O'Brien's work is well known and could be a fundraiser with the right promotion. To read more about the play, visit [Jim Stowell's website](#). Jim may be reached by email at [jrstowell@msn.com](mailto:jrstowell@msn.com).

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