



## 2023 Convention Resolutions

### **Resolution 2023-1: Deported Veterans**

PASSED: Approve: 596 (99.17%), Disapprove: 5 (.83%)

### **Resolution 2023-2: Move to Amend & Democracy**

PASSED: Approve: 576 (98.29%), Disapprove: 10 (1.71%)

### **Resolution 2023-3: Preventing Gun Violence**

PASSED: Approve: 585 (95.59%), Disapprove: 27 (4.41%)

### **Resolution 2023-4: Removing CUBA from U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism**

PASSED: Approve: 632 (98.60%), Disapprove: 9 (1.40%)

### **Resolution 2023-5: Move DoD money to Social Welfare and and climate action**

PASSED: Approve: 618 (97.78%), Disapprove: 14 (2.22%)

### **Resolution 2023-6: PFAS contamination in Okinawa**

PASSED: Approve: 603 (99.18%), Disapprove: 5 (.82%)

### **Resolution 2023-7: Observing the 70th anniversary of the Korean war Armistice**

PASSED: Approve: 580 (99.14%), Disapprove: 11 (1.86%)

## Resolution 2023-1: Deported Veterans

Note: if passed by the membership, this resolution will reaffirm and update a previous Deported Veterans Resolution approved in December 2016. Updated text in bold print.

Resolution on amending **8 U. S. Code 1101 (a)(22)** to clearly state that U.S. Military Service Members are noncitizen nationals and to petition the President and the Department of Homeland Security to stay the removal from the United States of America of all Foreign Nationals who are serving or who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States; to lobby all members of Congress state by state district by district to honor their sacrifices and to amend United States Code to provide all alien servicemembers the equivalent status of a noncitizen nationals.

**Whereas**, United States Service members are being and have been deported after serving in the U. S. Military from the United States; and

**Whereas**, the current **8 U. S. Code 1101 (a)(22)** provides: that the term “national of the United States” means:

- (A) a Citizen of the United States, or
- (B) a person who, though not a citizen of the United States, owes permanent allegiance to the United States; and

**Whereas**, Federal law requires everyone who enlists or re-enlists in the Armed Forces of the United States to take the Oath of Enlistment. This Oath and the Oath of Citizenship contain the identical pledge of loyalty; “I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same”; Both Oaths are performed in front of the United States Flag and other flags, such as the state flag, or military branch flag.

As Veterans who have served our nation in every war from WWII to Afghanistan and Iraq, we strongly believe the Oath of Enlistment is a permanent oath of allegiance to the United States of America. While mere subjective emotional allegiance to the United States and length of residence in the United States is insufficient to make an individual a non-citizen national, raising your right hand, swearing this oath, putting on the uniform in times of both war and peace in fact are a permanent allegiance to the United States and that the United States owes a permanent allegiance to all veterans be they U. S. Citizens or Foreign Nationals.

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that the **membership, officers and Board of Directors of Veterans For Peace** call upon the U. S. House of Representatives and the U. S. Senate to Amend **8 U. S. Code 1101 (a)(22)** to clearly state: “(C) The following shall be nationals, but not automatically citizens, of the United States:

- (1) A person, who by conscription or enlistment, entered any branch of the United States armed forces **upon completion of Basic Training**. This shall be retroactive to all service persons previously removed.”

**Be It Further Resolved** that the **Veterans For Peace membership, officers and Board of Directors of Directors call** upon the President and the Department of Homeland Security to immediately stay their removal from the United States.

Submitted by:

Veterans For Peace National Deported Veterans Project

**###**

## **Resolution 2023-2: Move to Amend & Democracy**

**Whereas**, VFP members are keenly aware that U.S. corporations dictate U.S. foreign policy and anyone who doubts that has only to read Smedley Butler’s “War Is A Racket,” and;

**Whereas**, through too many decades of bitter experience we have become expert at “fighting fires,” that is, resisting every new weapons system, invasion, bloated War Department budget, working diligently against each one as the trend only worsens, and;

**Whereas**, our allies in every movement to protect human rights and the planet are in the same reactionary position we are – fighting one corporate harm after another, with our own government being our biggest barrier, and;

**Whereas**, we so often hear from victims of U.S. foreign policy that the best thing we can do for them is get our corporations and our government off their backs, and;

**Whereas**, Veterans For Peace is in a key position to help the peace movement and our allies switch from fire-fighting to fire prevention, that is, to eliminate corporate control of our government and increase the power of democracy, and;

**Whereas**, Move to Amend with affiliates throughout U.S., is the premier organization working to strip corporations of all the constitutional rights they have usurped, rights that were originally meant only for people;

**Therefore, be it resolved** that Veterans For Peace urges it’s members and Chapters become active in Move To Amend (<https://www.movetoamend.org>) and it’s work to add the We The People Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that unequivocally states that inalienable rights belong to human beings only, and that money is not a form of protected free speech under the First Amendment and can be regulated in political campaigns.

Submitted by:

Mike Ferner, VFP Executive Director and Member-at-Large

Co-sponsored by: Ray McGovern, Mark Foreman, Gene Marx, Doug Ryder, Joey King, Ed

Flaherty, Barry Reisch, Tarak Kauff, John Amidon, and Jack Gilroy.

**###**

## **Resolution 2023-3: Preventing Gun Violence**

Note: If passed by the membership, this resolution will also take the place of a Stopping Gun Violence resolution (2004) and Gun Violence resolution (2013)

**Whereas**, often members of Veterans For Peace have often experienced the effects of gun violence first-hand, and

**Whereas**, veterans have a special voice in spreading the message of stopping the violence perpetuated by the use of guns, [which includes veterans using a gun to take their own lives](#);

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that Veterans For Peace urges it's members and Chapters to work to stop gun violence and to support like-minded groups (such as, but not limited to, organizations like [Veterans For Gun Reform - Brady, Everytown For Gun Safety, Gifford Veterans Coalition, Sandy Hook Promise](#)), and

**Be It Further Resolved** that Veterans for Peace supports legislation that would

- [Prohibit the manufacture, sale and importation of certain military-style, semiautomatic assault weapons and ammunition magazines that hold more than ten rounds](#);
- [Mandate universal background checks on all gun sales](#);
- [Establish extreme risk laws](#) ("Red Flag") that help prevent a person in crisis from harming themselves or others by temporarily removing guns and prohibiting the purchase of firearms, and

**Be it further resolved** that VFP members are urged to work for enactment of these types of legislation.

### **Submitted by**

Mike Felker, Chapter 31 and approved by the membership in 2004.

Submitted by Rev. John T. Mathison - Former POW Stalag Luft 1, VFP Member-At-Large and approved by the membership in 2013 and new language by Mike Felker, Chapter 31 in 2023.

**###**

## **Resolution 2023-4: Removing CUBA from U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism**

**WHEREAS**, for 62 years, the United States has imposed an economic, commercial, and financial embargo on Cuba that prevents most engagement and trade with the United States, punishes other countries that engage with Cuba; and inflicts daily hardships and deprivation on the Cuban people, and

**WHEREAS**, the Reagan administration in 1982 had included Cuba on its list of State Sponsors of Terrorism, where, with no requirement for regular review, it remained for 33 years, further imposing sanctions on countries who do business with Cuba; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2015, after an exhaustive State Department review -- the Obama-Biden administration removed Cuba from the U.S. list of State Sponsors of Terrorism and began the process of normalizing relations with Cuba, and

**WHEREAS**, Former President Trump, in his final days in office, arbitrarily reversed the Obama-Biden administration's decision, and again placed Cuba on the list, although Cuba does not satisfy any criteria for inclusion on this list; and

**WHEREAS**, Cuba's arbitrary designation has subjected them to further sanctions and international financial restrictions that limit the nation's ability to carry out critical financial transactions, including those needed to combat the COVID pandemic and improve its economy; and

**WHEREAS**, this listing also bars citizens of forty US allies, including all of the European Union, from entering the US if they have visited Cuba -- unless they can obtain a US visa, which is a long, expensive and doubtful process;

**Therefore, Be it Resolved** that Veterans For Peace strongly urges President Biden, who has the authority through executive action, to remove Cuba from the United States list of State Sponsors of Terrorism.

Submitted by:

Bill Christofferson (xofffiles@gmail.com, 414-587-6577) and

Arthur Heitzer (Artheitzer@gmail.com)

Co-sponsored by Milwaukee VFP Chapter 102

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## **Resolution 2023-5: Move DoD money to Social Welfare and and climate action**

Calling on the U.S. Congress to Significantly Decrease the Funding for Department of Defense and to Use those Funds for Social Welfare and Combating the Climate Crisis

**Whereas**, Martin Luther King Jr. stated in his April 4, 1967, address, “A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death,” and

**Whereas**, the United Nations’ [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment Report \(2023\)](#) states that limiting global heating to 1.5 o C will involve rapid, deep and in most cases immediate greenhouse gas emission reductions, and

**Whereas**, a National Priorities Project study shows a \$100 billion Pentagon cut could pay for:

1. Funding the [clean energy and child care provisions](#) of President Biden's Build Back Better initiative
2. Powering [every household](#) in the United States with [solar energy](#)
3. Hiring [one million elementary school teachers](#) amid a [worsening teacher shortage](#), and

**Whereas**, the Poor People’s Campaign declares \$350 billion in annual military spending cuts would make the nation and the world more secure, and

**Whereas**, a \$350 billion cut in National Defense Authorization Act for FY2024 would still leave the Department of Defense with more funds than China and Russia combined;

**Therefore, be it Resolved**, that Veterans For Peace calls on the U.S. Congress to reduce funding levels to Department of Defense programs by \$100 billion to \$350 billion taking into consideration the findings and recommendations contained in the 2021 Congressional Budget Office report “[Illustrative Options for National Defense Under a Smaller Defense Budget](#)”; and to use those funds for social welfare and combating the climate crisis.

Submitted by:

Gary Butterfield, VFP Chapter 91 – San Diego

[garyvfp@gmail.com](mailto:garyvfp@gmail.com)

Co-sponsored by VFP Climate Crisis & Militarism Project

<https://www.veteransforpeace.org/take-action/climatecrisis>

**###**

## **Resolution 2023-6: PFAS contamination in Okinawa**

**Whereas**, American military operations in Okinawa have been contaminating the water and people of Okinawa with PFAS (polyfluoroalkyl substances), dubbed “forever chemicals” for their long-lasting toxicity;

**Whereas**, high concentrations of PFAS have been detected around numerous Okinawan military facilities that migrate to local waterways ultimately devastating an island's source of life — its aquifer;

**Whereas**, in 2016, Okinawa authorities announced PFAS presence in water supplying 450,000 locals;

**Whereas**, the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention National Health Survey published by research physicians in June 2022 concluded exposure to PFAS severely increases mortality from various diseases;

**Whereas**, PFAS concentrations in testing conducted by an Okinawan citizens' group were revealed to be 14 times higher than national average.

**Whereas**, the water (miji) sources - springs and wells - at which Okinawans customarily pray are now also PFAS -polluted;

**Whereas**,

while the only way to determine the source(s) of the pollution is for Okinawa Prefectural authorities is to send a team of experts into the bases to test the water and the soil, base authorities have so far refused entry to any such team;

**Therefore, Be it Resolved**, that we demand that US Armed Forces in Okinawa show respect for the lives of Okinawans by allowing on-base water and soil testing by the Prefecture's health officials;

We further demand that the US Environmental Protection Agency categorize PFAS as “hazardous” so contaminated sites can be classified and remediated as Federal “superfund” sites. And we further demand that the US Congress designate funding from within the Defense Budget for mitigation, decontamination and restoration of PFAS contamination within the Ryukyu Islands in the current fiscal year 2024, including compensation for costs borne by Okinawan people and local government.

Submitted by:

Masafumi Teruya, VFP-ROCK Associate Member; Ginowan Churamizu-Kai, and Okinawa “Protecting Residents’ Lives from PFAS Pollutants Liaison Association” representative

VFP-ROCK (Ryukyu/Okinawa Chapter Kokusai [chapter 1003])

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**###**



## **Resolution 2023-7: Observing the 70th anniversary of the Korean war Armistice**

**Whereas**, in observance of the 70 th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice Agreement this July, it is timely for us to reflect on the Forgotten War and chart a new U.S. policy for Korea;

**Whereas**, in Paragraph 60, the military Commanders of both sides recommended to their governments to hold a political conference to negotiate “the questions of the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Korea, the peaceful settlement of the Korean question, etc. “within three months” of signing the Armistice;

**Whereas**, the U.S. government quickly undermined the Paragraph in October 1953 by signing a mutual defense treaty with the ROK government, which allowed the U.S. to station its “land, air and sea forces” in South Korea indefinitely; and

**Whereas**, all other foreign troops involved in the Korean War had been withdrawn from Korea by 1970s,while some 30,000 U.S. troops are still based in Korea today - although the ROK military is now ranked as the 6th most powerful in the world (globalfirepower.com);

**Therefore, Be It Resolved**, Veterans For Peace, voting by its members in 2023,

1. Declares that Korean people are also entitled to enjoy their right to peace, human security, and self-determination without U.S. military domination and political interference in Korea;
2. Calls upon U.S. government to end the forever U.S. War in Korea with a peace treaty or withdraw its troops from South Korea by 2025;
3. Calls upon American people to support the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act (H.R. 1369) as a first step to ending the dangerous, costly Forgotten War finally; and
4. Urges VFP members and local Chapters to send a copy of this resolution to their respective members of Congress.

Submitted by John Kim

Cosponsored by VFP's Korea Peace Campaign and VFP Chapters 34, 55, 113.

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