



VETERANS FOR PEACE
HUMBOLDT BAY
CHAPTER 56

THE FOGHORN

JANUARY
2015

“Cutting Through the Fog of War”

Golden Opportunity for Golden Rule Project

By Peter Aronson

Most readers know the Golden Rule Project is a National Project of VFP involving restoration of the historic boat that first protested atmospheric nuclear weapons testing in the Pacific Bomb Test Zone, including the Marshall Islands, circa 1958.

This modest boat and its remarkable crew sought to focus the light of truth on the horror of nuclear weapons in general and ongoing atmospheric nuclear testing in particular. Indeed, there was an important difference in what the crew and leading scientists knew about the risks of nuclear fallout and what the world was being told about its safety.

Failed attempts with diplomacy and reason with the Eisenhower administration led to the crews plan for direct action. The “nature of the project” is described in Captain Bigelow’s words from his book, “The Voyage of the Golden Rule”,

There will be no deception. All action will be taken openly and trustingly in the Gandian spirit of a non-violent attempt to effect needed change by speaking to the best in all men.”

The Golden Rule set sail to execute their “experiment with truth” to present the facts-of science-based truth rather than that of self-serving propaganda.

One of the many reasons they went was, as Bigelow said in his book,

“I’m going in the hope of helping change the hearts and minds of men in government. If necessary I am willing to give my life to help change a policy of fear, force, and destruction to one of trust, kindness, and help.”

The Golden Rule’s 1958 mission shed critical and timely light on nuclear weapons testing and the consequences of radiation fallout risks to all living things.

The 2015 mission will continue speaking truth to government and industry propaganda about the safety of production, storage, and use of nuclear products including the 21st century version of “fallout” - the unending nuclear waste streams, stored and leaking from containers and places not designed for its permanent storage. No repository for this material exists in the U.S.

In April 2014 the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) filed suit against signatories of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty for breach of contract. None of the nine nuclear weapons possessing states have complied with reducing their stockpiles, and other breaches.

See this site for references and documents - <http://www.wagingpeace.org/nuclearzero/>.

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

The Non-Proliferation Treaty has been in force for over 44 years. The Nuclear Weapon States continue to rely heavily on nuclear weapons and are engaging in modernization programs to keep their nuclear weapons active for decades to come.

Now, 46 years after the Golden Rule’s mission to the RMI this little peace boat, a floating museum of nuclear resistance, has another chance to become a lead beacon of the light of truth. It can again reveal the consequences from nuclear testing and its fallout on Marshall Islanders and their (our) environment, and include a focus on our current day “fallout” from nuclear waste streams and lack of proper storage of toxic

....continued on next page



...continued from previous page

radiation.

In 1958 the Golden Rule inspired global nuclear activism, including inspiring the formation of Greenpeace. The new mission may include collaborations with like groups and may well be successful in inspiring another generation of non-violent actions.

I can think of no better tribute to the original crew than to fulfill a version of the new mission by a new crew of motivated anti-nuclear activists.

Peter Aronson
VFP 56;
Supporter, VFP Golden Rule Project

New Treasurer Needed

I've been treasurer of the organization twice now and find that my home situation is too fluid to continue to give the post the attention it requires. I am tendering my resignation as of the February meeting. This will give me time to close the 2014 books (kept on a spreadsheet) and do the taxes (two simple web forms) before my successor takes over.

Whether or not I have a successor, I will bring the cart with all the treasurer's stuff in it to the February meeting and won't be taking it home with me. I will be glad to help whoever takes over and John Schaefer also knows how the treasury works. Please consider whether you want the organization to continue or not. It can't without a treasurer.

Stephen Sottong

MEET OUR INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY VFP BOARD

Veterans For Peace believes it must more firmly assert its voice into the national debate concerning our nation's drift into endless wars and conflict while side-stepping or ignoring our constitutional and treaty obligations that dictate when and how the United States can unleash its war machine. We will look to our International Advisory Board for guidance and direction to assist us as we continue our efforts to:

- * Counter the steady encroachment of militarism into our society;
- * Loosen the stranglehold the military industrial complex has gained in the legislative and executive branches of our government;
- * Reduce and ultimately eliminate nuclear weapons;
- * Curb the slow erosion of our civil rights and liberties; and
- * Educate ourselves and other citizens about the environmental damage caused by our military adventurism.

Edward Asner

Edward Asner is perhaps best known for his comedic and dramatic crossover as the gruff but soft-hearted journalist Lou Grant, the role he originated on the landmark TV news room comedy *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*. He continued in this role in the newspaper-set drama *Lou Grant*, which earned him five Emmys and three Golden Globe Awards. One of the most honored actors in the history of television, Asner has been the recipient of seven Emmy Awards and 16 nominations, as well as five Golden Globe Awards and served as National President of the Screen Actors Guild for two terms. He was inducted into the TV Academy Hall of Fame in 1996. In addition to his professional versatility, Asner has consistently served and committed himself to the rights of the working performer in addition to advocating for human rights, world peace, environmental preservation and political freedom. A passionate and informed spokesperson for the causes he supports, Asner is a frequent speaker on labor issues including those of the acting industry's older artists. Some of the many honors he has received throughout his career include the Anne Frank Human Rights Award, The Eugene Debs Award, Organized Labor Publications Humanitarian Award, ACLU's Worker's Right's Committee Award and the National Emergency Civil Liberties Award.

Asner is an Army veteran and lifetime member of Veterans For Peace.

Andrew J. Bacevich

Andrew J. Bacevich is a professor of history and international relations emeritus at Boston University. A graduate of the U.S. ...continued on next page



....continued from previous page

Military Academy and a Vietnam veteran, he received his Ph.D. in American diplomatic history from Princeton. He is the author of many books including *Breach of Trust: How Americans Failed Their Soldiers and Their Country* (2013), *Washington Rules: America's Path to Permanent War* (2010), *The Limits of Power: The End of American Exceptionalism* (2008), and *The New American Militarism: How Americans Are Seduced by War* (2005).

Roy Bourgeois

Roy Bourgeois is a former Roman Catholic Maryknoll priest, peace activist and advocate for women's ordination. Bourgeois was a naval officer during the Vietnam War and served a year in Vietnam. In 1990, Bourgeois founded School of the Americas Watch (SOA Watch) for the purpose of changing U.S. foreign policy in Latin America, and seeking the closure of the School of the Americas (now named the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation [SOA/WhinSEC]). SOA/WhinSEC has been called the biggest base for destabilization in Latin America. Bourgeois is a member of Veterans For Peace.

Jackson Browne

Jackson Browne is an American singer-songwriter, musician and activist who has sold over 18 million albums in the United States. His 1986 album *Life in the Balance* contains recordings passionately condemning of U.S. policy in Central America. The *Life in the Balance* sound track was used by Bill Moyers in his 1987 award winning documentary entitled *The Secret Government: Constitution in Crisis*. Jackson has performed benefit concerts for Children's Defense Fund, Farm Aid, and Amnesty International. He is a co-founder of the Musicians United for Safe Energy (MUSE), and Nukefree.org. As an ardent peace activist and environmentalist, Jackson has won numerous awards, including the NARM Harry Chapin Humanitarian Award, the John Steinbeck Award given to artists who exemplify the social and environmental values of Steinbeck, and the Courage of Conscience Award issued by the Peace Abbey. For his great artistic work, Jackson was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of fame in 2004 and the Song Writers Hall of Fame in 2007.

Paul Chappell

Paul Chappell graduated from West Point in 2002, served in Iraq and left the Army in 2009 with the rank of Captain. Paul is the author of a seven-book Road to Peace Series as well as *Will War Ever End*, *The End of War*, *Peaceful Revolution*, and *The Art of Waging Peace*. His next book is due for release in 2015. Chappell serves as the Peace Leadership Director of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. He lectures across the country and internationally and teaches college courses and workshops on Peace leadership. Chappell is a member of Veterans For Peace.

Charlie Clements

Charlie Clements is a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy and served as a pilot in Vietnam. Charlie told the Air Force the war was immoral and refused to fly. The Air Force declared he was 10% "mentally deficit" and discharged him. Clements became an activist and a physician, practicing medicine in rural villages during the civil war in El Salvador. Later, he raised millions of dollars for humanitarian assistance for the people of El Salvador. In 1983, he wrote a *Witness to War*, which was later made into an Oscar Award winning short documentary. Clements is currently the Executive Director of the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. Clements is a member of Veterans For Peace.

Marjorie Cohn

Marjorie Cohn is a law professor at the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego where she teaches criminal law and procedure, evidence and international human rights law. Cohn lectures throughout the world on human rights and U.S. foreign policy. She is the former president of the National Lawyers Guild. Cohn has been a commentator on MSNBC, BBC, NPR and other media outlets. She has authored several books, most recently *The United States and Torture: Interrogation, Incarceration and Abuse* (2011). She has testified in military court-martial proceedings as an expert witness regarding the legality of war, duty to obey lawful orders and duty to disobey unlawful orders. She graduated from Stanford and Santa Clara Law School.

....continued on next page

Next VFP56 meeting will be held
on Thursday, January 8th at
7:00 PM.
Meeting will be held in the
Commons Room at 550 Union
Street in Arcata.
Veterans and non-veterans are
more than welcome to come and
help us dialogue about what we to-
gether can do to bring about peace
in this complex world.



....continued from previous page

John Dear

John Dear is a Catholic priest and Christian pacifist. He is an internationally known voice for peace and nonviolence. Fr. Dear has given thousands of lectures on peace, nonviolence and the abolition of nuclear weapons to schools, churches and civic groups around the world. He has authored more than 30 books. He has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize several times and most notably in 2008 by Archbishop Desmond Tutu who stated that John Dear is the “embodiment of a peacemaker.” Fr. Dear graduated magna cum laude from Duke University and holds two masters degrees in theology from the Jesuit Theological Union in Berkeley, California.

Daniel Ellsberg

Daniel Ellsberg is a former military analyst who is best known for his part in the 1971 release of the Pentagon Papers, a top secret study of the decision-making process of the U.S. Government during the Vietnam War, to the New York Times and other papers. Ellsberg was a USMC officer. He worked for the RAND Corporation and the Defense Department. He graduated summa cum laude from Harvard in 1952, received a Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard in 1962 and also studied at Cambridge. Ellsberg is a member of Veterans For Peace.

Margaret Flowers, M.D

Margaret Flowers is a Maryland pediatrician who left her practice in 2007 to work full time for single payer health coverage on both the state and federal levels. Dr. Flowers is currently the spokesperson for Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP). She is an organizer for PopularResistance.org and co-director of It's Our Economy. She is also the co-host of Clearing the Fog on We Act Radio 1480 AM in Washington D.C.

Chris Hedges

Chris Hedges is an American journalist specializing in American politics and society. Hedges was among a team of reporters from the New York Times awarded the Pulitzer Prize for coverage of global terrorism. Hedges is a well-known author of many bestsellers, including the highly acclaimed, *War is a Force That Gives Us Meaning* (2002). He spent nearly two decades as a war correspondent in Central America, the Middle East, Africa and the Balkans. He taught at Columbia, NYU, and Princeton. Hedges currently is a columnist for Truthdig and is a senior fellow at the *Nation Institute in NYC*. Hedges received a B.A. from Colgate and has a Doctor of Divinity from Harvard. Hedges was recently ordained as a minister.

Matthew Hoh

Matthew Hoh is a Senior Fellow at the Center for International Policy and is the former Director of the Afghanistan Study Group, a network of foreign and public policy experts and professionals advocating for a change in U.S. strategy in Afghanistan. A former State Department official, Hoh resigned in protest from his post in Afghanistan over U.S. strategic policy and goals in Afghanistan in September 2009. Prior to his assignment in Afghanistan, Hoh served in Iraq; first in 2004-5 in Salah ad Din Province with a State Department reconstruction and governance team and then in 2006-7 in Anbar Province as a Marine Corps company commander. When not deployed, Hoh worked on Afghanistan and Iraq policy and operations issues at the Pentagon and State Department from 2002-8. Hoh's writings have appeared in the Atlanta Journal Constitution, The Guardian, Huffington Post, Politico, USA Today, the Wall Street Journal and the Washington Post. In 2010, Hoh was named the Ridenhour Prize Recipient for Truth Telling. Hoh is a member of the Board of Directors for Council for a Livable World and is an Advisory Board Member for Expose Facts (ExposeFacts.org). He writes on issues of war, peace and post-traumatic stress disorder recovery at MatthewHoh.com.

Kathy Kelly

Kathy Kelly is an American Peace activist, pacifist and author. She is one of the founding members of Voices in the Wilderness and Voices for Creative Nonviolence. As part of a peace team she has traveled to Iraq 26 times with much of that spent in war zones. She has lectured widely on her experience in Iraq and elsewhere. Kelly has received numerous honors, awards, and honorary degrees from over 25 schools, colleges, groups and organizations that have recognized her tireless work for the cause of world peace and justice.

David Krieger

David Krieger is a leader in the global movement to abolish nuclear weapons and build a more peaceful world. He is a founder of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation and has served as its president since 1982. Under Krieger's leadership the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has initiated many innovative and important projects for building peace, strengthening international law, abolishing nuclear weapons and empowering new peace leaders. Most recently the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has acted as a consultant to plaintiffs in the case of Republic of Marshall Islands v. United States, et.al. Krieger has lectured throughout the world on issues of peace, security, international law, and the abolition of nuclear weapons. He has received many awards for his work for a more peaceful and nuclear weapons-free world. He has written or edited over 20 books and has written numerous articles on nuclear weapons. His most recent book is *Zero, The Case for Nuclear*

....continued on next page



...continued from previous page

Weapons Abolition(2013). He has also won several awards for his books of poetry.

Ray McGovern

Ray McGovern is a retired CIA officer turned peace/political activist. McGovern was a CIA analyst from 1963-1990, in the 1980s chaired the National Intelligence Estimates and prepared the President's Daily Brief. When he retired he received the intelligence Commendation Medal. Since his retirement, McGovern has been an outspoken critic on intelligence issues including President George W. Bush's use/misuse of intelligence leading to the Iraq invasion. In 2003, he, along with other former CIA officials, founded Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity. The organization is dedicated to analyzing and criticizing the use of intelligence, especially as it related to the war in Iraq. McGovern is an army veteran and a member of Veterans For Peace.

Ralph Nader

Ralph Nader is an American political activist as well as a lecturer, author and attorney. Nader's areas of interest include consumer protection, humanitarianism, environmentalism and democratic government. Nader came to prominence in 1965 with the publication of his book, *Unsafe at Any Speed*, a critique of the American automobile industry and in particular the Chevrolet Corvair. He co-founded the Public Citizen, a watchdog NGO that monitors congress, health, environment and other issues. Many young activists were inspired to work with Nader, and became known as Nader's Raiders. Nader graduated from Princeton and Harvard Law School. He is an army veteran and a member of Veterans For Peace.

Jeremy Scahill

Jeremy Scahill is a founding editor of the online news publication *The Intercept* and author of *Blackwater: The Rise of the World's Most Powerful Mercenary Army*, which won the George Polk Book Award. His book *Dirty Wars: The World is a Battlefield*, was published in 2013. In 2013, the *Dirty Wars* documentary film, produced and directed by Scahill, premiered at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival.

Scahill is a fellow at the Nation Institute. He has worked as a journalist on the independently syndicated daily news show *Democracy Now!*.

Margaret Stevens

Margaret Stevens is a scholar, teacher, veteran and community leader. She is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Rutgers College in 2001, and in 2009 she completed her doctoral work in the Department of American Civilization at Brown University. Stevens served as a medic in the U.S. Army National Guard from 1997-2003. Her unit provided medical support in the aftermath of the September 11th

attack on the World Trade Center. Currently, Stevens is an Associate History Professor and Director of the Urban Issues Institute at Essex College. Stevens is a member of Veterans For Peace and currently serves on the VFP Board of Directors.

David Swanson

David Swanson is an author, activist, journalist, and radio host. Swanson co-founded the website *After Downing Street* (now *War Is a Crime.org*) and is the director of *WorldBeyondWar.org* and campaign coordinator for *RootsAction.org*. Swanson's books include *War is a Lie*(2010), *When the World Outlawed War* (2011) and *War No More: The Case for Abolition*(2013). Swanson currently blogs through various political sites, including his own co-founded site, *WarIsACrime.org*. Swanson obtained a Master of Philosophy degree from the University of Virginia in 1997.

Oliver Stone

Academy Award winning writer, director and producer, Oliver Stone has written and directed over 20 full-length feature films, among them some of the most influential and iconic films of the last decades. Some have been at deep odds with conventional myth—films such as *Platoon* (1986) the first of three Vietnam films; *Born on the Fourth of July* (1989); *JFK* (1991); *Natural Born Killers* (1994); and *Nixon* (1995).

Stone's films have had a significant cultural impact. These include *Salvador* (1985), deeply critical of the U.S. Government's involvement in Central America; *Wall Street* (1987), an exposé of America's new capitalism; *World Trade Center* (2006), a true story of 2 (of only 20) 9/11 survivors; and *The Doors* (1991), a poetic look at the 1960s and Jim Morrison's ecstatic music. Other films include *Any Given Sunday* (1999), *W.*, and *Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps* (2010). Stone's documentaries include three on Fidel Castro (*Comandante* (2003); *Looking for Fidel* (2004); and *Castro in Winter* (2012)); one on South America, (*South of the Border* (2009)), prominently featuring Hugo Chavez and six other Presidents in a continent undergoing huge social changes and; *Persona Non Grata* (2003) on Israel-Palestine relations.

His latest work *"The Untold History of the United States"* (Showtime, 2012), 5 years in the making, is a monumental 12-hour interrogation of the conventional, triumphalist narrative of U.S. History.

Stone served in the U.S. Army Infantry in Vietnam in 1967-68, and was decorated with the Bronze Star for Valor. After returning from Vietnam, he completed his undergraduate studies at New York University Film School.

...continued on next page



...continued from previous page

Dahlia Wasfi

Dahlia Wasfi is an Iraq-American physician, internationally known speaker and peace activist. Born to an American-Jewish mother and a Muslim Iraqi father, she spent her early childhood living in Iraq under the Saddam Hussein regime. Wasfi is an outspoken critic of the U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. She graduated from Swarthmore College and received her medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

Cornel West

Cornel West is an American philosopher, academic, activist, author, and prominent member of the Democratic Socialists of America. The son of a Baptist minister, West received his bachelor's degree in 1973 from Harvard University, and a Ph.D. in 1980 from Princeton University, becoming the first African American to graduate from Princeton with a Ph.D in philosophy. He was formerly The Class of 1943 Professor of African American Studies at Princeton before leaving the school in 2011 to become Professor of Philosophy and Christian Practice at the Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He has also spent time teaching at the University of Paris.

The bulk of West's work focuses on the role of race, gender, and class in American society and the means by which people act and react to their "radical conditionedness." For his work, West draws from multiple traditions, including Christianity, the Black church, Marxism, neopragmatism, and transcendentalism. Among his most influential books are *Race Matters* (1994) and *Democracy Matters* (2004).

Col. Ann Wright

Col. Ann Wright is a retired U.S. Army colonel, a retired U.S. State Department official, and an outspoken critic of the Iraq war. She was one of three State Department officials who resigned in protest over the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Col. Wright won the State Department Award for Heroism for her assistance in helping thousands of refugees escape the civil war in Sierra Leone. She has been a long time peace activist and was aboard Challenger 1 as part of the Gaza Flotilla. Raised in Arkansas, she received a masters and law degree from the University of Arkansas and later was awarded a Master's Degree from the U.S. Naval War College. Col Wright is a member of Veterans For Peace.

WHAT MATTERS

By Linda Sorter

I have been an educator for thirty years. I have never been more disheartened by the goals of education as now structured by the federal government, and supported by the state government. High standardized test scores are the goal. With the entire focus on teaching what will enable the student to achieve the highest test scores, what education should really be all about, is abandoned.

When children enter a classroom door in the morning, they enter with all the accumulated baggage of what has happened in their lives up to that very moment. Often, many children stagger physically and emotionally under the loads they carry. They stagger in pain from social/familial situations from the morning, the night before, the days and months and years before. They stagger with unmet needs for good nutrition, hygiene, health, rest—and most of all they stagger from lack of self worth, from lack of love. They stagger under sensory overload from movies and video games that reek of violence, and seeing things in their lives that no young eyes should see. These unhealthy, hurting kids show up because they have to, and teachers are required to make them get high scores on the test at the end of the year because they have to. I heard an administrator say, "Drill and kill." Children!!!!

Teachers know that healthy children learn. So the first job of teachers is to help their students be as healthy as they can: A granola bar, or apple for breakfast? An extra sweatshirt to wear on a cold day? Most important, a warm and loving relationship with a teacher that has gone to the effort to know them and is sensitive to their needs. Say I love you, I believe in you, often. A hug at the right moment can be worth hours and hours of "drilling and killing."

And when that has been done, then teachers can go about the business of teaching. Teaching what matters. Teaching children how to be human, how to be the best human beings they can be. Sneak what matters into an English lesson that uses Amnesty International Children's campaign. Let a geography lesson focus on a project to help save an endangered species like through the Dain Fossey Mountain Gorilla project. Social studies easily lends itself to empathy-building skills, reach out to oppressed children through organizations like Save The Children. There is not a thing required of teachers, that creativity and determination can't find a way in which to teach something of life-long importance. Even the walk to the classroom after recess can be quality time. If children learn to step over bugs rather than crushing them, it is a lesson in the interconnectedness and sacredness of all life. Learning how to care for the world around them will provide self-esteem that will influence those test score results because children learn that they can make a difference, that they matter!

Of course it matters that children learn to read, to write, to be able to find accurate information. It matters that they learn to ask, to analyze, to be critical, to think. It matters equally, or more so, that children learn how to cope effectively with the horrendous



stresses in their lives, how to solve their conflicts nonviolently and constructively, how to listen and support and care for each other. They need to learn empathy, how to feel another's pain, how to respond to the needs of those around them, how to care. The world has many educated, brilliant minds who would score off the charts of government tests. But they fail miserably at finding and creating joy, at having a willingness to practice love and compassion and altruism, unselfishness and forgiveness. We live on a dying planet, and we will not save it by passing the test. We will save it only by caring. We know the problems, we have most of the answers to those problems. What we do not know, is how to care enough.

Instead of teaching the whole child, that whole person, which would include not only academic knowledge, but physical, emotional, social and moral growth as well, we are to be left with students who will achieve only what the government deems important, mainly that they learn to be conforming, compliant, consumers. What a travesty of education! I find this inherently evil, an attack on society itself, for it is thus "educated" children who will soon be the adults in a world desperately in need of skills which cannot be measured by a standardized test.

To teach what really matters, one must be committed and impassioned, ever vigilant and clever weaving into the fabric of our teaching, the mandated curriculum to score well on the test, what is most noble and joyful about being human, that doing good makes you feel good, weaving into every spare moment inside and outside the classroom, weaving our heads and hearts into every thread---weaving in the skills that will save our precious earth and all the life it sustains. Teaching WHAT MATTERS.

TOO MUCH VIOLENCE

By VFP National

Veterans For Peace joins with millions of people across the United States who stand shocked and appalled at the murder of NYPD Officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu in Brooklyn. We join with the loved ones of these innocent police officers in mourning their deaths. Two more seats will be empty at tables this holiday season due to unnecessary violence.

The national movement sparked by the people of Ferguson, MO for racial justice and police accountability should and must continue. Blaming the killing of these officers on people exercising their constitutional rights to press for reform of an abusive system is misleading and irresponsible. It reminds us of those who say that we should not protest unjust U.S. wars or hold anyone accountable for torture because to do so aids and abets the enemy. Both narratives seek to maintain the existing state of affairs and ignore the countless peaceful protestors across the nation calling for peace and justice, and an end to all state-sanctioned violence.

The deaths of the Brooklyn police officers, ambushed by a socially alienated and disturbed Ismaaiyl Brinsley who had earlier

wounded his ex-girlfriend (a health insurance specialist with the Veterans Administration and an Air Force reservist), to the police killings of Eric Garner, Michael Brown and many other unarmed people are part of a larger epidemic of violence we face in our nation. We must take pause and contemplate the best way forward to help solve this problem. This killing in particular demands that we examine the gaps in our mental healthcare system, the proliferation of guns that easily fall into the hands of known criminals and the mentally ill, and our national culture of violence and vengeance.

It is a familiar and sad pattern: 2014 Fort Hood, 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School, 2007 University of Virginia and many other murder-suicides, where confused and mentally vulnerable people searching for relief from personal and social conflicts turn to violence. Many more kill others but not themselves. And why not see violence as the answer? We are surrounded by examples of U.S. officials rationalizing and using violence to "solve" problems, including drone killings of innocent women and children and the assassination of innocent victims of mistaken identity. Unarmed men and women are killed, brutalized and tortured at home and abroad with no accountability signaling it as acceptable. Redemptive violence as an answer to solve most any problem has become an American way of life.

We would best serve ourselves, the memories of the Brooklyn police officers and all victims of violence by committing to non-violent resolution of our disputes and respect for human life both at home and abroad. We must create a culture of peace, which includes how law enforcement polices communities. We must begin to uplift, celebrate and respect dialogue, cooperation, creative problem solving and nonviolence in all aspects of our life. Violence will always plague the human condition, but we can change that, provided the political and social will to confront it.

- See more at: <http://www.veteransforpeace.org/our-work/position-statements/veterans-peace-appalled-murder-brooklyn-police-officers/#sthash.5QonLRAK.dpuf>

"It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."
 ~ Robert F. Kennedy South Africa, 1966





**Veterans For Peace
Chapter 56**

Phone 707-826-7124
Email: VFP56@aol.com
WE'RE ON THE WEB:
<http://www.vfp56.org>

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

**Rob Hepburn, Steve Stamnes
Steve Sottong, Jim Sorter,
John Schaefer, John Mulloy
Jane Riggan, Ernie Behm**

**EDITOR OF FOGHORN
Jim Sorter**

STANDING COMMITTEES

**DU/WMD: Peter Aronson, Rich Gilchrist
General Store: Ernie Behm
FEM: Mashaw McGuinnis
VEOP: Carl Stancil, Jon Reisdorf
VSC: Ernie Behm, John Mulloy**

LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

If you would like to submit an article, opinion, comment or response to anything you have read which might interest the members of VFP-56, please e-mail it to turtldncer@aol.com, in word format, or mail to Jim Sorter at 1762 Buttermilk Lane, Arcata, CA 95521. Submissions will be included on a first come basis until the newsletter is full. Late arriving submissions will be archived for future issues.



877-447-4487

**GIs —
Know
Your
Rights
FROM OVERSEAS
202-483-2220**

The GI Rights Hotline

girightshotline.org girights@girightshotline.org

Discharges/DEP/Hazing/Discrimination/Gay

**Call for information from a network of nonprofit
non-governmental organizations.**

The service is free. The call is confidential.

**You have the right to keep one copy of this or any other
information at any time (DOD Directive 1325.6).**

Veterans For Peace
Chapter 56
P.O. Box 532
Bayside, CA
95524