



VETERANS FOR PEACE
HUMBOLDT BAY
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“Cutting Through the Fog of War”

Gulf War Veterans: The VA Takes Important First Step

Wednesday 31 March 2010

By: Paul Sullivan and Anthony Hardie, t r u t h o u t | Op-Ed

Last week, the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) officially recognized several diseases as linked with deployment to the 1991 Gulf War.

As Gulf War veterans, we applaud the VA’s proposed new regulations that streamline access to disability benefits for Gulf War, Iraq war and Afghanistan war veterans.

More importantly, the VA’s new policy opens access to urgently needed free VA health care for the lingering, disabling health outcomes of these terrible diseases.

The VA’s recent decisions were made possible by VA Secretary Eric Shinseki and his Chief of Staff, John Gingrich, a fellow Gulf War veteran. The new regulations, prompted by Gulf War veterans’ advocates and the VA’s internal Gulf War Veterans Task Force, will impact more than 3.3 million people - the 700,000 veterans of the 1991 Gulf War, the 400,000 veterans deployed to Southwest Asia between 1991 and 2001 plus the 2.2 million who deployed to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

We also applaud the VA’s simultaneous decision to expand approval of veterans’ disability claims for undiagnosed and ill-defined illnesses which affects at least 25 percent, or up to 210,000, of our Gulf War veterans.

After so many years of struggling with illnesses as well as an unyielding, uncaring VA bureaucracy, we know our fellow Gulf War veterans will be relieved at the VA’s change in policy.

As two of a small handful of Gulf War veteran leaders who led and participated in the national effort to pass and implement the “Persian Gulf Veterans Act of 1998,” the law that authorized the VA’s new regulations, we have waited for these and other changes for 19 years, including more than 11 years after the law passed.

That’s why we fought for the bill in 1998, why we continue to fight for new research focused on treatments and why we will continue to fight for more streamlined VA regulations based on known wartime exposures and their known health outcomes.

While we are pleased to see the ice melting at the VA so Gulf War veterans can get the care we sought starting in 1991, we also ask the VA to do more to fix this problem.

For the historical record and for the new VA’s leaders, we hope you understand our cautious optimism:

- * The VA fought against Gulf Research, health care and benefits legislation in 1994 and 1998.
- * After the laws were passed, the VA still fought against implementing them.
- * The VA took four years to create the mandated Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans’ Illnesses until caving to fierce Congressional and veteran advocacy.
- * The VA managers intentionally refused to notify about 15,000 Gulf War veterans of a 2001 law that expanded access to benefits and health care.
- * The VA staff manipulated the scope of the Institute of Medicine scientific research reviews to specifically exclude certain types of studies for consideration for health care and benefits. Specifically, the VA excluded lab animal studies linking depleted uranium (DU) with

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birth defects and cancer.

* Last year, the VA impeded and then canceled a Congressionally mandated contract for unparalleled Gulf War illness research at the University of Texas Southwestern (UTSW).

* This year, the VA used the Gulf War research funds designated for UTSW to buy an \$11 million piece of lab equipment of dubious value to Gulf War veterans.

* The VA staff still fight against critical research about toxic exposures and medical treatments, thus impeding our efforts to obtain health care.

Veterans remain highly dismayed at the VA's quiet denial of health care and benefits based on DU exposure. The VA still uses an obsolete test for DU exposure that is only good for six months after exposure. Yet, the VA tests Gulf War veterans years after exposure, in some cases nearly 20 years later, with the inadequate method. In our view, the VA intentionally creates thousands of potential "false negative" test results.

It is outrageous for the VA to "find" that DU's heavy metal toxicity and radioactive properties do not cause kidney, liver, lymphatic or brain/neurologic conditions, or a host of cancers. The VA still refused to study the most insidious type of DU exposure: inhaled and ingested DU dust. The VA's flawed DU policy leaves us wondering if the VA has fully turned over a new leaf.

Here's what is needed. The VA should expand research to find treatments for Gulf War illness. The VA should amend the new regulations to include veterans of the 1990s war in Somalia, where dozens of our troops returned home with one or more strains of malaria, as well as to veterans of all other overt and covert military deployments, large or small, to all areas where these diseases are endemic.

We believes standards of medical evidence for these illnesses should be relaxed for Special Operations veterans whose only diagnosis may be limited to symptoms observed by a medic within a small unit operating alone in a foreign land.

Finally, we want justice for our Gulf War veterans denied benefits by the VA under the 2001 law. These veterans should be awarded retroactive benefits dating to when the VA improperly denied their war-related disability claims.

If we as a nation are serious about providing justice to our Gulf War veterans, then the new VA has taken a few very positive first steps. In order to prevent future obstruction of health care for veterans returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan, then the military has a legal and moral obligation to immediately shut down the use of burn pits overseas. The VA must also provide medical exams to our all returning troops and begin longitudinal studies.

When our government takes these steps, then we will have more



confidence it is truly heading in the correct direction.

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Paul Sullivan served as a cavalry scout in the 1991 Gulf War and is now the executive director of Veterans for Common Sense, a nonprofit advocacy organization. Anthony Hardie served in the Gulf War as part of a liaison team embedded with the multinational Coalition and is now a member of the VA's Research Advisory Committee and the publisher/editor of the 91outcomes health blog. Both Anthony and Paul are service-disabled Gulf War veterans who have repeatedly testified before Congress and other federal bodies on the health needs of ill Gulf War veterans.

Submitted by: David Berman

IMPRESSIONS OF CUBA

By Judi Rose

John Schaefer and I recently returned from a trip with Global Exchange to attend "Cubasolar", a solar conference held in Bayamo, Cuba. The trip also included some sightseeing in Havana and Bayamo with our small Global Exchange group and after the conference a few days of independent exploring. I write my impressions of Cuba as a first time visitor to the country and as a U.S. citizen with very little background knowledge of Cuba's history, politics or culture.

Up to the moment just before I set foot on Cuban soil and met our Cuban tour guide I had doubts and fears about this trip. I wasn't even sure I was allowed to legally travel there even though I knew Global Exchange had a license to participate in educational Cuban programs. I had told only a few people I was going to Cuba. Friends and family I did tell, had only been informed a couple weeks before our departure for Cuba via Cancun.

I grew up in the midst of the "Cuban Missile Crisis". My only association with Cuba had been the memories of diving under my desk in elementary school during "air raid" drills. We elementary students all knew Cuba as the "enemy". They were going to shoot missiles at us all the way on the west coast of Southern California, obliterating life as we knew it. We would have no warning! When it happened, those desks would protect us from communist missiles!

Years of ingrained "cubterror" melted away as I immersed myself in my Cuba experience. Attending "Cubasolar" taught me about the conscientious, innovative and necessary measures the Cuban people and the Cuban government have taken and continues to implement, to provide a sustainable life and future for Cuba and the world. We visited communal organic gardens in the middle of Havana. We travelled into rural villages of Cuba and interacted

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with community members who live off the grid but power schools, medical clinics and homes with solar energy. We learned that in just 6 months in 2008 every incandescent light bulb in Cuba was replaced with an energy efficient compact fluorescent light. Similar programs have been implemented to provide energy efficient refrigerators and kitchen appliances. Not only are lights and appliances replaced but the population is educated about the necessity and benefits. In Cuba all people, regardless of their status, race, age, religion (yes, religion) have healthcare. All children from preschool through college have access to education. 90% own a home. Every man, woman and child has a roof over their head. The outward appearance of homes can be deceiving, many need a coat of paint; a luxury not a priority. You won't find slums in Cuba. John and I had the privilege of intimate visits with friends in their homes. The interior of homes were modest, clean, comfortable and beautiful. There is a billboard in Cuba that says something to this affect: "Millions of homeless children in the world, and not one of them is Cuban." Only 10% of the population owns a car. Children as young as five years old assist with democratic elections. 16 year olds have the right to vote. 90% of the population exercises their right to vote. A rainbow of ethnicities; African, Hispanic, Caucasian; live, work and play side by side in color-blind communities. Many adjectives describe the Cuban people; strong, patriotic, ethical, creative, resourceful, compassionate, inclusive.

Cuba is a socialist country. I have limited knowledge of socialism which limits my judgment of it as a political system or way of life. Since the early 60s the U.S. has imposed a blockade on this socialist country causing its people many hardships. The blockade has not worked to discourage socialism and will not work. We met a group of older Norwegian tourists who said to us, after learning we were Americans, "tell your president to lift the blockade." Even our bordering neighbors, Canada and Mexico refuse to honor the blockade. Unfortunately too many countries fear our repercussions and meekly bow to economic threats of the U.S. government.

My short visit was only a glimpse into the island nation of Cuba, its people its government. I am fortunate to have participated in this experience. The terror instilled in me as a child has been lifted. Perhaps in the 60s there was a real threat but when there is no longer a threat, why is the perceived threat still perpetuated? Why have we not been re-educated? Only the U.S. prohibits travel to Cuba. The Cubans love for Americans and people of all nations to visit, and educate themselves. Travel is a necessary form of education. Cuba is on my list of repeat travel destinations.

Housing Homeless Veterans

By R. Lane Anderson

As a counselor for the Santa Barbara Vet Center, a VA outreach program, I became aware of the PTSD and "survivor guilt" in that community and of things that are useful therapy for those veterans who suffer from PTSD. A key need is to take care of your fellow combat veterans. In today's military, recruits are trained to bring ev-

eryone along and leave no one behind. For these reasons many of the returning veterans will find a career helping veterans to be both helpful and fulfilling. I think I can propose such a career path.

The Obama administration will make 3.2 billion dollars available to end homelessness in veterans with 150 million available in the next fiscal year at their Homeless Grants and Per Diem page <http://www1.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD.asp> it seems that there is still 12 million for this fiscal year! Veterans have priority and it could be combined with a non profit management curriculum on the GI bill and used as tutorial/practicum. Help at all levels can be gotten from Community Partners in the LA area or with organizations listed in the directory in the correspondence below this:

Community Partners provides fiscal sponsorship to qualified projects, as an alternative to incorporation as an independent non-profit organization, mainly in the Los Angeles area. I would encourage you to channel veteran leaders who might be interested in fiscal sponsorship to carefully review the information on their website (<http://www.communitypartners.org/fiscal-sponsorship.html>). If after review an individual leader feels that s/he is ready and willing to make a commitment to fiscal sponsorship as a means for realizing their project for housing veterans, I would encourage them to submit a full proposal to Community Partners Incubator Services (see: <http://www.communitypartners.org/incubator-services/how-to-apply/>). Veteran leaders may be interested in seeking out fiscal sponsors in other cities. You can find a directory of other fiscal sponsors here: <http://www.tidescenter.org/become-a-project/additional-resources/fiscal-sponsors/index.html> For more information contact Sachi Murakami (smurakami@communitypartners.org) if you have further questions or need additional information.

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Next VFP56 meeting will
be held on Thursday,
June 3rd at 7:00 PM.
Meeting will be held in the
Commons Room at 550
Union Street in Arcata.



Young Poets Jolt Chapter 56 With Enthusiasm at First Peace Poetry Celebration

By Mashaw McGinnis

The peace movement is alive and well in Humboldt County! If there was ever any doubt that our work will continue after us older folks are gone, they were put to rest on a warm Friday night in May at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Bayside. Weary peace activists would only need to sit in that room with the 25 or so ecstatic high schoolers from various parts of Humboldt county to re-ignite the spark of supporting peace. These young folks felt strongly about war and the state of the world, and their voices seemed only to be waiting for an opportunity to open the creative floodgates.



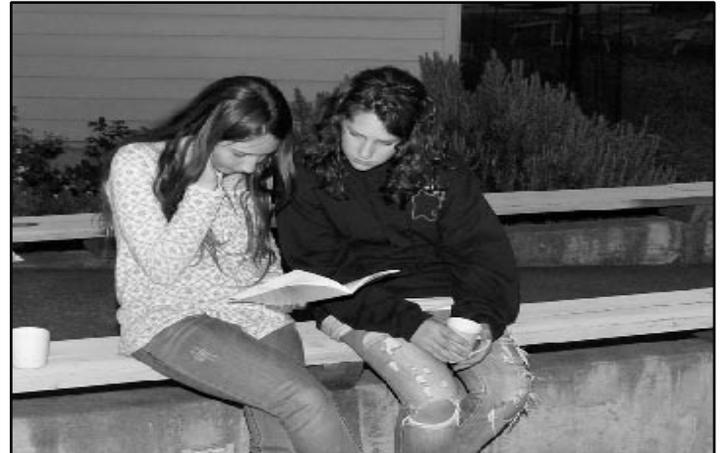
Honors Award Recipients, left to right: Elizabeth Hassler, Cedric Seaman, Natalia Nelson, Kona Orlandi & Emcee Nezzie Wade, far right. Not shown Alia San Giovanni 2nd Honors recipient



Richard Gilchrist congratulating Honorable Mention Award recipient Cedric Seaman, Eureka High School

What a wonderful evening!

As one poet after another took the mic, sharing their thoughts and words about peace, several audience members spontaneously clapped, hooted and in some cases, dabbed at their eyes. Led off by fabulous emcee, Nezzie Wade, the first poet wowed us from the



Poet Kira Weiss and friend in the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship courtyard engrossed in the Anthology

start as he belted out strong feelings about war to his friend's fierce piano accompaniment. It was a tough act to follow, but each one of those young people left a definite impression with their heartfelt work.

While all of the poems were emotional, member Carl Stancil observed an interesting contrast. He pointed out that while the poems from American teens were somewhat abstract, the two students who were from Muslim countries (one from Malaysia, one from Indonesia) seemed to speak from a personal perspective in their poems. Their words seemed to contain a deeper personal experience of the suffering caused by war. It was certainly a night of deep introspection for many of us.

Introspection aside, seeing the prideful glow on young faces as awards were handed out was the highlight of the evening. Some were simply beside themselves with joy afterwards while autographing their poem anthologies for audience members. One young man told me openly that he had been writing poems for years, and had stored over 150 of them in his iphone. Quicker than I could say Haiku, he whipped out the device and began reading me dark (and quite profound) poems from his early experience with drugs and depression. My 47 year old ears were astounded while I realized that I had forgotten just how deeply young hearts can feel. I felt as if I was meeting a young man who would some day change the world.

Our world is apparently still full of yet-to-be-discovered Bob Dylans and Joni Mitchells, and some of us were honored that night to get a peek at them. For every child brought up to fight and oppress, we have to believe that somewhere out there another one is preparing to speak out against it.

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*Assembled poets with Emcee Nezzie Wade at far left
Photos courtesy of Nathan "Nate" Lomba*

The event went so well it almost seemed as if a planetary alignment occurred causing everything to come together just right. It is the sign of a well-planned event when it looks like that to the audience, but be sure that this success was the result of tireless work by our VEOP committee. Nate Lomba, Rich Gilchrist, Jon Reisdorf, Carl Stancil and Fred Hummel, who put in months of regular meetings, phone calls, personal contact to donors, arranging judges, notifying school principals and so much more. VFP Chapter 56 should be proud that we have been a part of passing on the torch of peace activism to our local young people. VEOP promises that we will not stop here and make this poetry contest an annual event.

Housing Homeless Vets: continued from page 3

The way it works, or could work is that the vet gets most of the funding and per diem through the VA Homeless Grants and Per Diem program: <http://www1.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD.asp> and the rest via community partners or foundations...see <http://foundationcenter.org/collections/>. You can also get legal advice to start non profit if you want one: <http://www.publiccounsel.org/overview/cdp.html>

I have done a good deal of research and investigation at the VAMC WLA property, 388 acres left of more than 600 acres left to "heal disabled veterans of war". I was initially interested by the protests outside the gates, which pronounced a "Land Grab" and urged housing homeless veterans. The focus seemed to be on something called the Veterans Park, planned for the corner of Wilshire and San Vicente. In my investigation, I found the Veterans Park to be no land grab but a project that could be beneficial to the thousands of veterans living on the VAMC WLA campus and the thousands more that we hope to house there. The Veterans Park lease contains provisions for the VA to retain ownership and exclude the public if it wishes. Also confusing at first was Congressman Waxman's support of a law introduced by Feinstein in 2007 that prevented any

transfer of VAMC WLA property, assuring against any land grab. So the association of Waxman with any land grab seemed unlikely. Nevertheless there was a land grab in the past. Of the original property, some has gone to the I 405, some to the graveyard, some to the Federal Building and some to reserve units on San Vicente. A "residential" area near the reserve units was retained by the VA but houses a few big shots from the VA on a park like expanse of about 40 acres (an internal land grab, if you will?). There are other leases but, like the Veterans Park lease, the VA seems to have done a good job of ensuring future veterans use and VA ownership.

As I am sure you are aware, VAMC WLA cares for veterans from San Diego to Las Vegas. It is the regional center and includes areas north to Santa Maria as well. This area likely has roughly forty thousand homeless veterans, probably ten percent of whom would be capable of tackling their substance abuse or mental problems and living in a transitional setting that would put them in close proximity to recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration resources at VAMC WLA.

In 2007 the VA designated buildings 205, 208 and 209 for use to end homelessness in veterans. No veterans have been housed in the buildings to date. It is my feeling after looking closely at all this that Congressman Waxman has resisted the use of the property for this purpose. Having halted the sales or transfer of the property, he simply does not want his wealthier constituents to have thousands more homeless veterans rehabilitating in the Brentwood/Westwood/Belair neighborhoods. We hope to convince him with publicity and pressure that housing veterans and assisting them to heal from war is the right thing to do despite the pressure from his constituents. Perhaps the right press could convince the constituents as well. I bear Waxman no ill feelings and think he has been a great congressman!



Recipe For a Successful Event: Wine, Music, Food and a Good Message

By Mashaw McGinnis

Friends who have laughed, cried and marched beside each other at peace rallies often form a bond that is profound and long lasting. So when they lose touch because of busy schedules, all they need is an excuse to bring them back together. Our local chapter provided such an excuse on May 15th, at the dinner promoting Suel Jones' new book "Meeting The Enemy". The event put on by our local VFP chapter was a tremendous success by any standard.

1) The slide show and talk was educational as well as engaging

2) Everyone left well-fed and satisfied

3) The chapter made back its original funding

Perhaps the greatest sign of success was the sight of new faces in the crowd, taking in a message that is familiar to us as VFP members, but potentially new to them.

Explaining how we can heal old wounds by empowering those who were once our enemies, Jones shared intimate stories of his first trip back to Viet Nam since the war 30 years before. The author described himself as someone who "was once a conservative Baptist from east Texas" who joined the U.S. Marines because he believed in the U.S. invasion of Viet Nam. It was only after the experience of combat in the Vietnamese jungles, and seeing friends die in front of him that changed his young mind about his country's foreign policy. Returning full of tumultuous feelings and observations, Jones began a three decade long journey of reconciling his inner demons.

Reconciliation and inner healing was the theme we highlighted in press releases for the event, making it clear to people who have grown weary of protests and "fighting the man" would have a positive experience at the dinner. Not your typical casual potluck, we pulled out all the stops for this one. Elegant tablecloths and décor greeted guests when they arrived, as well as local musician Tim Randles providing background piano music for wine and schmoozing. Diners were treated to a real sit-down meal served to them by waiters, who made sure the plates arrived heated. Neither vegetarians nor omnivores were disappointed, and everyone had a choice for their main course. No small feat for a group who has to watch its budget.

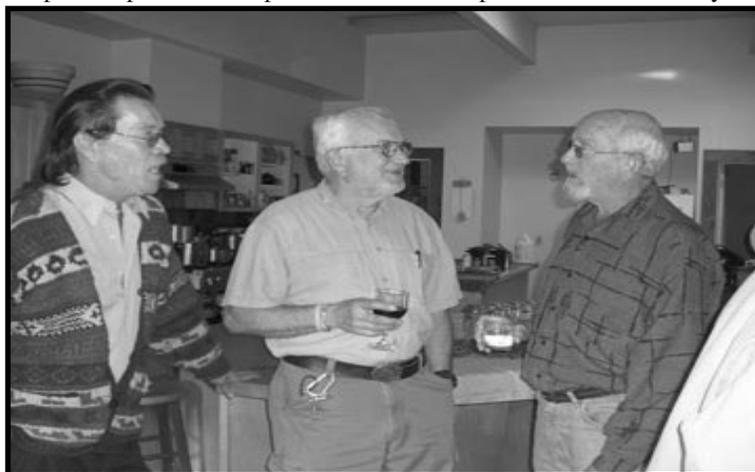
To put up several hundred dollars for an event with no guarantee of getting it back requires a lot of faith and creativity. With the date

coinciding with the graduation of HSU and C.R., planners knew it would affect attendance. The members who pitched in understood this and took steps to specifically fill the space without having to charge an exorbitant price. Understanding that people want and need something positive, old-fashioned invitations were mailed out to members who have drifted away containing a hand-written explanation of the evening. In addition to the inactive members, other members in the community received the same invitation, with a person-to-person follow up. This meant that some folks who may not have been attracted to the presentation, decided to come just for the opportunity to share wine and dinner with old friends.



Carl Stancil pulling KP

Since attendance also included new folks who were not typically "activists" two days before an e-mail announcement went out on the chapter's listserv saying we will see some new faces in the crowd there so be sure to welcome them. New people often hesitate to attend events that mention peace because the corporate-driven media often portrays activists as loud, offensive kooks. Regular members kept the new folks talking and made sure they felt like they belonged with us. Member Patti Toroni brought her musician husband who surprised us all with a spontaneous song on his guitar that proved a perfect transition for the mood. By the time the slide presentation began, the audience had begun to enjoy the glow of wine, so when Jones' talk was interspersed with humor, it felt like all of the elements came together perfectly. These are important points to keep in mind when we plan future events. By



Rob Hepburn, Richard Gilchrist & Suel Jones solving world problems

casting our nets a little wider, and focusing our energy on "supporting" rather than "opposing" something, members will be less burned-out while new VFPers are being created. Events requiring a lot of physical strength and stamina (like the rummage sale) may not be realistic for an aging group like ours, but a evening with food, drink and positive message can be pulled off without breaking our backs. It is also the perfect setting to help "main stream" folks consider that our group is worth joining.



18 Vets Kill Themselves Everyday

By Sahil Kapur

Friday, April 23rd, 2010 -- 10:41 am

The suicide rate among war veterans is extraordinary, new data reveals.

Thirty try to commit suicide each day, on average, reports the Army Times. Eighteen succeed, roughly five of whom receive medical care from Veterans Affairs, rated one of the best health programs in the country.

“Of the more than 30,000 suicides in this country each year, fully 20 percent of them are acts by veterans,” said VA Secretary Eric Shinseki at a VA-sponsored suicide prevention conference in January, Inter Press Service reported.

The Times noted that “In general, VA officials said, women attempt suicide more often, but men are more likely to succeed in the attempt.” The report cites access to health care and age -- younger veterans are less likely to try -- as two major factors in the suicide rate, and notes that the VA is seeking to strengthen its suicide prevention programs.

According to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, “Roughly 56 percent of all homeless veterans are African American or Hispanic, despite only accounting for 12.8 percent and 15.4 percent of the U.S. population respectively.”

The struggle among veterans to return to everyday life has been documented over the years.

The Associated Press reported in November 2007 that one in four homeless people across the nation is likely to be a veteran, even though veterans constitute a mere 11 percent of overall adults in the United States.

“And homelessness is not just a problem among middle-age and elderly veterans,” AP added. “Younger veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan are trickling into shelters and soup kitchens seeking services, treatment or help with finding a job.”

Homelessness among women who served in Afghanistan and Iraq is on the rise. The Boston Globe reported last year that “number of female service members who have become homeless after leaving the military has jumped dramatically in recent years.”

One in ten homeless veterans under 45 years of age is a woman, statistics showed in July of 2009.

“Some of the first homeless vets that walked into our office were single moms,” Paul Rieckhoff, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America’s executive director and founder, told the Globe.

“When people think of homeless vets, they don’t think of a Hispanic mother and her kids. The new generation of veterans is made up of far more women.”

Submitted by Richard Gilchrist

Open Letter to John Stewart

By Dan Shea, VFP Chapter 72

See Link to see Daily Show interview that Pissed me off!

<http://www.thedailyshow.com/watch/tue-may-11-2010/sebastian-junger>

John Stewart pissed me off for the first time. Understand I love your shows with the full knowledge that this is entertainment, comedy with sprinkles of Lenny Bruce, and political satire. But as a Veteran of the Vietnam, a marine who served in 1968 but early on came to realize I had been betrayed by my Government to the reasons for going, as now many of these young men and women of the armed services now in Afghanistan and Iraq are finding out they too have been betrayed. Not to mention regret over the wars crimes, massacres, rapes committed in our name. What pissed me off in this interview with Sebastian Junger in talking about his book “WAR” (and this is not a critique of the book- I haven’t read it yet) is your almost slobbering over his description of what it means to be apart of the unit of men he was embedded with. That those coming and going had to take a beating from their unit and they had a motto the only way to leave was with a bullet. And you were all over this with kudos and exclamations of their bravery and commitment to their duty. This is so unlike you in many respects and I was surprised you were applauding this kind of violent initiation into the brotherhood of these warriors. First of all it is illegal in the military code of conduct to strike another comrade in arms, outlawed in military schools and officer training and in boot camps. This is what happens in gang membership imitations into their fold which members in our society have condemned. It is this kind of mentality that led to the My Lai Massacre in March of 1968 of some 347 to 504 unarmed citizens of South Vietnam, all civilians and the majority women and children (including babies) and the elderly. Many of the victims were sexually abused, beaten and tortured and some were found mutilated. Have you forgotten Abu Ghriab prison tortures so soon? I think not, that is why I was surprised by this interview and your non-critical acceptance of this insane brutal behavior. I expect you like so many of the general public are uncomfortable criticizing our troops even for bad behavior but if we don’t that violence finds its way into the innocent live of those we are suppose to protect and back home and on the streets. It can be seen in the rise of police violence, in the increasing racism and xenophobia. I expect you are better than this and thus will correct this by interviewing some real heroes, those soldiers of conscience who are willing to go to jail rather than continue participating in these illegal wars.





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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.

JIM PAGE PERFORMANCE

Saturday, May 21st, Jim Page was in Arcata, performing at Humbrew. Singing to a packed house, Jim did not disappoint those in attendance.

Jim has a way of drawing his audience in with his ability to paint pictures with his songs and make you laugh or cry with his heart-felt approach . Several songs dealing with the pains of war and the encroachment on our environment were received with stunned silence due to his poetic and lyrical delivery.

I would recommend to all reading this to not miss the next time Jim is in town. You will definitely not be disappointed.

Veterans For Peace
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