



The Broadside

Summer 2012
Volume 3 Issue 2

Working for Peace and Justice Through Nonviolence

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Upcoming Events

- VFP Marches in 4th of July parade-Milton, WI**
- Many Way of Peace Festival, July 14 Eagle River, Will Williams speaking, music by Jason Moon.**
- VFP National Convention in Miami, FL Aug 8-12.**
- Statewide VFP-IVAW meet Sept 22 at Highground, Neilsville, WI.**

Memorial Day Speaker Warns of Civilian Deaths With Expansion of Drone War in Afghanistan

What the US Drone War Is, What It Isn't and Remembering the Nameless

By Debra Sweet, Director, The World Can't Wait

I am so glad to be here in Madison, and to appreciate what Madison brought us, including the 1967 Dow Chemical protests against Napalm, and the 2011 up-rising against



Debra Sweet

Walker. The Veterans for Peace chapter in Madison is so active. I saw many of you last week in Chicago, protesting US/NATO war crimes. Todd Dennis and others did an inspiring action last Sunday by throwing their medals won in the illegitimate, unjust, immoral US wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, back at the NATO Summit. I am proud of Iraq Veterans Against the War for the content of their message,

and for the way many of them who spoke of the damage to the people of those countries.

After almost 11 years of US war on Afghanistan, I've had people say to me recently, "at least President Obama is ending that war." Of course, he isn't doing any such thing. It was Obama who vastly expanded the war on Afghanistan in 2009 to 150,000 troops. It's the US/NATO forces under which the "surge" brought about the biggest loss of Afghan civilian life of the war, during the last year. It's Obama and Afghan President Karzai who just signed an agreement to keep US forces in Afghanistan until 2024, or another 12 years at least.

This was the war that had to be fought to "save" the Afghan people, according to the Bush regime. In 2001, Afghanistan was the second most dangerous country on the globe for a woman to give birth. In 2011, it was the MOST dangerous country for a woman to give birth, that is, the highest maternal mortality rate in the world. And this past winter brought reports of dozens of children under 5 freezing to death in coalition-sponsored refugee camps, while the U.S. has sent tens of billions of dollars to fund

the occupation.

Out of this comes the U.S. drone war, now fully directed and justified by the Obama administration. Since 2009, Obama has increased the use of unmanned aerial vehicles – drones – by 8 times more than the Bush administration in Pakistan. Drones are now fully a part of the US war-fighting plan, so much so that the US Air Force is now training more pilots of un-manned vehicles than of fighter-bomber planes. These pilots are based around the world, and within the US, controlling the surveillance and armed drones at 18" from the action on their screens. Of the two US drone programs, the one run by the CIA is probably the larger – the budget is secret – and employs civilian pilots.

The argument from The Pentagon is that drones can "surgically target" insurgents. You have people in the Obama Justice Department who criticized George Bush for doing what they now defend Obama for

(Continued on page 5)

Veterans for Peace Statement of Purpose

- Increase public awareness of the cost of war.
- Restrain our government from intervening overtly or covertly in the internal affairs of other nations.
- End the arms race and eliminate nuclear weapons.
- Seek justice for veterans and victims of war.
- Abolish war as an instrument of national policy

To achieve these goals, VFP members pledge to use non-violent means and to maintain an organization that is both democratic and open.

Chapter 25

Board Members-2012

Steve Books

Richard Chamberlin

David Soumis

Jeff Goldstein

John Carey

Lincoln Grahlf

Will Williams

Madison Veterans for Peace meets on the third Wednesday of each month at:

Madison Area Technical College

211 N. Carroll St. Room 240

At 6 pm

Broadside Editor

Richard Chamberlin

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VFP is a 501©(3) non-profit.



Editor's Musings By Richard Chamberlin

You may have noticed that there was no spring edition of *The Broadside*. The reason for this lapse is because my wife Judi and I are moving to Arizona next month and were busy getting ready to sell the house. It's sold

So, this will be my last newsletter. Since nobody has volunteered to continue in my place, this may be the last chapter newsletter you receive for a while. Of course you can keep up with Chapter 25 on our website, Madisonvfp.org.

I have enjoyed putting my journalism experience to use over the past ten issues. Our chapter has so much going on that I've never been at a loss for material. The membership has always come through with pictures, articles, and help at mailings to make my job a little easier. Personally, I've had to develop new skills with publishing programs and learn to work through the many glitches that are part of the process. I have to give credit to my wife Judi for helping kick-start my brain when I reach a dead end and making up the mailing list.

My last five years with the chapter has been incredibly rewarding.

Shortly after I joined, I was looking at a U-Tube flick of a long line of tombstones erected by a Florida chapter with Bob Dylan's, *Knocking of Heaven's Door* playing in the background. Man, that brought tears to my eyes. I wanted to do it here. I took the idea to a VFP

meeting and John Fournelle, also a new member, and I volunteered to take charge. The Milwaukee Chapter had put up a similar exhibit, so we borrowed corrugated plastic tombstones from them and made some of our own. With the help of neighborhood volunteers, we put up 4300 tombstones for Veteran's Day in 2007. This year, for Memorial Day, we had close to 6500. It didn't seem to matter who was President. Whether it was Vietnam or Afghanistan, American soldiers have been getting killed in wars that didn't make any sense. As veterans, we have the moral duty to oppose them.

I've always been impressed by the skill and hard work of our members. Will Williams, a Vietnam combat veteran and dynamic speaker, has dedicated himself to counter-recruiting in high schools throughout the state. David Giffey, a former Army journalist in Vietnam, newspaper editor, artist and now writer for fightingbob.com, has lined up scholarships for students in small towns around Spring Green who compete to write the best essay on peace. Paul McMahon, a professional photographer, does the same for Madison schools. David Soumis, Larry Orr and Lars Prip produce a VFP discussion show on community television station WYOU, soon to be seen on U-Tube. Steve Books runs our table on the Square during farmer's markets and is VFP secretary. Many others deserve credit for donating their unique talents to make Madison VFP what it is today.

As for me, I've been driving cab in Madison for 30 years and it's time retire to somewhere with no snow to shovel, no grass to mow and wide open spaces.

See you in Madison at the 2013 VFP National Convention!

Why So Many World War II Vets Are So Conservative

By F Lincoln Grahfs

Recently, I gave a brief talk at a peace rally in the course of which I identified myself as a World War II veteran. Subsequently, one young man in the crowd approached me and inquired, “Why, in your opinion, is it that so many WW II veterans are behind Scott Walker?” He was, of course, referring to Wisconsin’s Governor Walker, whose controversial, super-conservative agenda resulted in a massive campaign to recall him. I responded to the query with a brief, less than adequate comment.



Lincoln Grahfs

When I reflect upon the matter, though, a more complex explanation seems evident.

To understand fully the implications of this one must take a brief look at the circumstances that produced the World War II veteran. Not only was World War II a popular cause whose veterans were welcomed home and rewarded by the United States government to a greater extent than any other veterans in our history. Add to that the fact that the men who served in that war grew up during The Great Depression of the 1930’s, when high school students spent much time wondering and worrying over whether they would be able to find a job when they graduated. Not only did military service relieve them of that worry, but overnight they were heroes. All the major cities and many smaller ones established recreation centers for them; some municipal transit systems let them ride free; people bought them meals and drinks.

And when they got out, there was the *Servicemen’s Readjustment Act*, more familiarly known as The GI Bill of Rights. This legislation provided a bonus at separation, a weekly check until the veteran found a job, and options for up to four years of educa-

tion at government expense and government guaranteed loans to buy a house or start a business. To borrow a phrase, they never had it so good! So, for all these reasons, veterans of World War II, for the most part, have fond recollections of their military experience, they tend to be somewhat chauvinistic, and they are in favor of a strong military posture. They also appear to have a somewhat more positive attitude than many others regarding nuclear weapons.

In other words, these are men, by and large, whose late teens and twenties were spent in the intensive environment of a war which had been sold as a “war to make the world safe for democracy.” Having emerged as victors in that war, many of them seem



to have been convinced that this endowed the United States with a special mission as “Leader of the Free World.” That leadership position, moreover, they perceived as requiring an armed society with Spartan virtues, one which was strong, disciplined and hierarchical, with an autocratic leadership and obedient, compliant workers. This seems to be the path on which Governor Walker set out in Wisconsin.

There is, however, an appreciable number of World War II veterans who perceive that victory more as a mandate for greater compassion. I number myself among those, who envisioned both a nation and a world in which everyone was entitled to his or her own lifestyle and a fair share of the pie.

For further material on this subject consult:

Francis L Grahfs. *Veterans in the Political Culture*. In Lester Kurtz (Editor-in-Chief), Vol. [3] of *Encyclopedia of Violence, Peace, & Conflict*, 3 vols. pp. [2261-2272] Oxford: Elsevier.

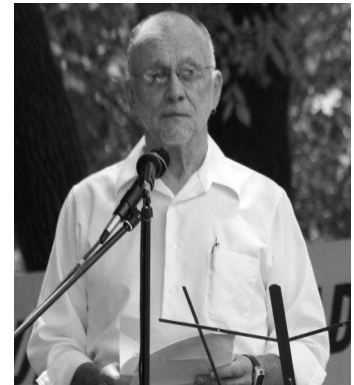
Memorial Day at James Madison Park



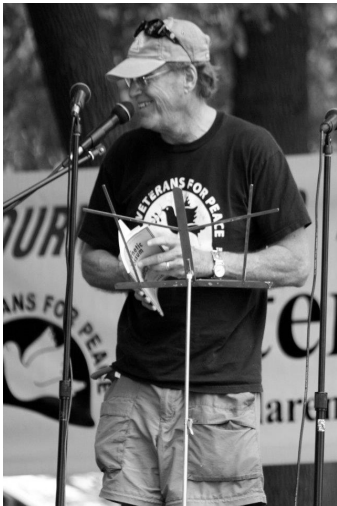
Logan Kahl , Memorial High , won \$1200 in the VFP peace essay contest. His mom Marcy (r), friend Mark Schafer (l). Logan plans to major in Law Enforcement Studies at MATC in the fall.



VFP member Charlie Sweet , his daughter Debra and wife Jean have a Madison reunion.



Former Madison police chief Rev. David Couper urges peaceful engagement in his new book about current policing, *Arrested Development*.



Rich Chamberlin reads the poem "A Post Vietnam Memorial Day" from his book, *The Cybernetic Possum*.



The Raging Grannies sing about peace and justice....



Harmonious Wail entertains with Gypsy Swing music.



Will Williams encourages direct action....



....and bagpiper Tom Greenhalgh plays a mournful tune

Will Williams' photo by Tom Glassel
all others by Phil Fransen

Monona Memorial Day Parade



Photo by Phil Fransen

Vets for Peace Monona Memorial Day parade marchers: Let hand column, front to back are Todd Dennis, David Soumis, Lars Prip and Richard Chamberlin. In the foreground right is Steve Bray. Others marchers not pictured are Will Gilmore, John Marshall, Larry Orr and Steve Books.

Thanks to VFP member David Soumis for arranging for us to be in the parade this year for the first time.

Larry Orr writes, "We were overwhelmed by the positive response from parade viewers. We carried a banner reading 'Mourn the Dead, Heal the Wounded, Abolish War,' and all along the parade route, people were jumping to their feet to applaud and cheer, and children were giving us 'high-fives.' There was no mistaking the sentiment that 'Peace is Patriotic.' It was almost like a mile-long standing ovation, and I was brought to tears at times, as were others in our contingent."

Drones continued from page 1

doing. In fact, the Bureau of Investigative Journalism, which tracks US drone strikes in Pakistan, has found that at least 175 children have been killed, and hundreds of people not involved with Al Qaeda or any local insurgent group. In fact, the U.S. military defines people as insurgents merely by the fact that they've been killed in a drone strike. Most alarmingly, there are repeated and growing examples of strikes coming in series, killing groups of rescuers and mourners. There is no hiding from the drones; they have sophisticated surveillance technology, including heat sensors that can see through walls. Buildings and bodies are obliterated.

So that's what the US drone war is. But, as terrible as the use of drones is, it doesn't change anything about US wars of empire. They are still illegitimate, immoral and unjust. And they are most damaging to the people they target; secondarily, they have mostly destroyed the lives of the one million U.S. military who have been used to fight them. The U.S. drone wars -- now in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Somalia and Libya -- are the newest technological development in the United States' effort to spread an unchallengeable empire, no matter who the president is.

The problem for those of us trying to end these wars is that too many people living in this country go along with these crimes carried out in our name, thinking that their interests are the same as those in power. The World Can't Wait says, "Humanity and the Planet Come First -- Stop the Crimes of Our Government." We say this in recognition of the damage caused by these now endless wars, the system of indefinite detention that is part of the wars, and in recognition that American lives are not more important than other lives.

Join us in working to end the crimes of our government, and in sending a message to the people of the world that there are people here who say, "NO, not in our name!"

RIVER VALLEY HIGH STUDENT PENS WINNING ESSAY

Note: Luke Drachenberg was the winner among seven 2012 graduates of River Valley High School in Spring Green who entered the Veterans for Peace scholarship essay contest at the school. Luke lives in rural Arena and plans to study agricultural and applied economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His essay follows.

By Luke Drachenberg

During my brief eighteen years on this planet, the United States of America has been involved in two large-scale “conflicts” (the fancy term for war) and has supported numerous other conflicts around the world. According to the military itself, the 2012 military budget is projected to be at least \$1.030 trillion (that’s \$1,030,000,000,000) with \$109.1 billion (\$109,100,000,000) going to pay off debt from past wars.

In 2007 there were U.S. forces serving in more than 150 countries around the world, with more than 205,118 of its 1,425,113 active-duty personnel serving outside the U.S. and its territories.

Just looking at the numbers above is enough to give anyone a headache. But they all lead to one conclusion: The United States is too involved in policing the world, resulting in unnecessary wars. Our “goal” in the countries that we are helping is to build them up, helping them to become free and democratic. But how can we build up these countries if we have a gun in our hands? It is because of this that I believe war is not the answer. Until the United States can take care of its problems at home, it should not dedicate large amounts of resources, including American blood, to helping those abroad.

There is one more statistic that I would like to mention: \$121.1 billion. This is the projected federal Department of Education spending for 2012, a number that is less than the amount used to pay off debts for our military. How can we as a country continue to sustain this trend in our spending, not to mention our pri-

orities? We spend so much protecting our country that if we are not careful, there will soon be no country left to protect. If we have such a problem with the world that we need to spend exorbitant sums to protect ourselves, what happens when the rest of the world catches up with us in terms of military might? Surely there must be another answer, another way.

In my opinion, there is a way out for America: education. If for just one year the military and education budgets were switched, the effects would be amazing. By putting the money normally designated for overseas posts into American communities, many wonderful changes would happen. Instead of preparing the next generation to be soldiers, we could train and prepare the negotiators, diplomats, and politicians that should take

**“Instead of tearing
down other countries,
our soldiers should be
building up ours.”**

their place instead. Instead of building the next gun, we could build bridges, dams, and infrastructure to replace the crumbling system that exists today. The possibilities are endless. However, before we can accomplish this goal, we must strive to stop the cause of many of our country’s problems today: war. Before we can do any of the things

listed above, we must first bring our soldiers home. Instead of tearing down other countries, our soldiers should be building up ours. It will not be an easy task to change the prevailing attitude in America. For too long we have been a country of war, trying to “help” too many people at once. Many will undoubtedly feel that we should continue to help those that truly need help. But before we can do that, we need to help America return to the strong, free, and democratic country that it should be.

All other reasons aside, there is one key reason that war is not the answer. For far too long, a common scene across our country has been a casket draped in an American flag with shocked, grieving family members gathered around, trying to come to terms with the death of a loved one. Only when we put this scene behind us forever can we continue to move forward in America.

New DOA rule runs counter to state statutes

COPS ROUGH UP PROTESTERS AT CAPITOL FOR EXERCISING THEIR RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH

By Lars Prip

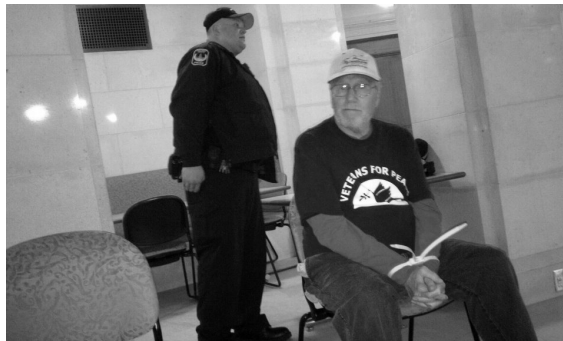
It has been a long year in state of Wisconsin with the political protest against a tyrant Governor Walker and his lockstep cohorts who control the WI Assembly and Senate. The struggle has seen a varying presence of Madison Veterans for Peace Clarence Kailin Chapter 25 members. VFP protesters Steve Books, Dave Soumis, Larry Orr, myself and Wayne Olsen have been involved in various actions to include protest both inside and outside the capitol building. Here in Wisconsin devastating laws have been authored by ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council) and ramroded through the Republican controlled legislative.



Lars Prip

When the WI legislature went into its legislative year, (ended March 2012) a large group of us decided to show our disdain for these ALEC bills by putting into reality WI statutes which guarantee citizens to observe the proceedings from the galleries. The law states that we can film and hold signs as long as we do not interrupt the proceedings. The WI Department of Administration saw fit to issue a set of rules counter acting state statutes and called in the Capitol Police, State Patrol, Game Wardens and University Wisconsin Police to enforce these illegal rules. These

police agencies were all defying laws set forth by the US Constitution, Bill of Rights and WI Statutes and the very oaths they had sworn to defend. The police agencies were hauling out citizens for holding up protest signs, taking pictures and documenting the illegal activities taking place on the Assembly/Senate hearing floors and by the police. Some of these citizens were literally arrested and hauled out violently, putting people in danger of bodily harm. One case involved a child who witnessed her father being put upon by six police officers for holding a religious icon. She tried protecting her father and the police shoved her viciously out of the way. I later heard that it took no less than seventeen officers to finalize the arrest and the child's arm was twisted behind her back. As a vindictive measure, the police filed a fraudulent complaint against the father for child neglect and the case was dropped by Child and Family Service. The father was charged with resisting arrest and the child was not detained but received black and blue marks. The Dane County DA refused to prosecute the majority of these arrests and they turned out to be more of a 'catch and release' police action. The police tactics were fear and intimidation and in total violation of First Amendment rights guaranteed to all American citizens. Observing the illegal police behavior were volunteers from the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) so this is an ongoing story.



Wayne Olsen detained by Capitol Police for observing legislature while holding sign.

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To argue with a person
who has renounced the
use of reason is like
administering medicine
to the dead.

• Thomas Paine



Veterans for Peace

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