OMNI MEMORIAL DAY NEWSLETTER #2 MAY 31, 2010
Compiled by Dick Bennett for a Culture of PEACE. (#2 May 20, 2009).
SEEKING ALTERNATIVES TO MILITARISM, WARS, EMPIRE, FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE.

Formerly Decoration Day, the last Monday in May remembers members of the armed forces killed in war. (Veterans Day: Nov. 11, a legal holiday in the US in commemoration of the end of WWI and in honor of veterans of the armed forces, formerly, Armistice Day.)

See OMNI Newsletters in our website on Veterans Day, Flag Day, Patriotism, Armed Forces Day, Torture, and more

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FROM ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND
... 73 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans support urgent action to enact landmark clean energy and climate legislation. We spend hundreds of billions on foreign oil every year, dollars that sometimes go to train and arm terrorists and other sworn enemies. According to one analysis, an 80 percent reduction in our carbon pollution from 1990 levels would allow us to save $100 million in oil payments to unstable Persian Gulf nations every single day...

With your incredible support, we are doing everything we can to pass a strong climate and energy bill. In recent weeks, I have been inspired by the 175,000 of you who have sent emails and called your Senators and President Obama urging them to make climate action a priority.

And I am very pleased to report that President Obama is getting the message. ... Memorial Day is not merely the symbolic start of summer. It's also a national day of remembrance for all men and women who have died in service to our country. What better way to honor these sacrifices than to guide our nation to a safer, more secure clean energy future?

Wishing you and yours a safe and happy holiday weekend,
Fred Krupp
President

P.S. This powerful new add from VoteVets connects the dots in a dramatic way. It's time for the Senate to pass a strong climate and
clean energy bill now.

**Memorial Day AW, please help!**

Santa Barbara Veterans for Peace and friends will set up Arlington West in Santa Barbara on Memorial Day, Monday, May 31st. The cost of war display will include thousands of crosses for those who have died in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan along with a new display of tombstones for the teenagers whose lives have been taken.

**AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE**

Dear james,

On Sunday morning at 10:06 AM, the Memorial Day weekend will be punctuated with the passing of a stunning milestone. At that moment, U.S. taxpayers will have spent $1 trillion on operational expenses for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Read our op-ed in Huffington Post on what a trillion dollars means to all of us.

We hope you’ll join us by drawing attention to this milestone with a letter to the editor and other activities you’ll find in our $1 Trillion Action Toolkit.

Kabul Wedding by Art Hazelwood and Juan Fuentes, part of the AFSC Afghan Memorial Mural project.

On this Memorial Day weekend, we also want to remember that the human cost of war has also reached tragic heights. Hundreds of thousands have been killed, millions displaced from their homes, countless traumatized by the violence of war with the loss of loved ones and community. Since the 9/11 attacks at least 3.3 million active duty troops have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, according to the Pentagon. Of that number, one-third have been deployed more than once. That does not include the many National Guard and military contractors. Of these, more than 5,000 have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan in the last nine years of wars.

Since the beginning of the Obama Administration in January 2009, the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan has increased three-fold. There are now more troops in Afghanistan (94,000) than in Iraq (92,000). Based on recent events, it looks like the result will be more death, more resentment, and more fear about the upcoming siege on Kandahar, Afghanistan’s second largest city.

War will never bring peace, and violence will not bring security.

Afghans have remarkable consensus around three points: They want the war to end and foreign troops to leave, they want the killing of civilians to stop, and they want their lives to improve.

None of these points can be achieved with more troops. The wrong lessons are being learned from Iraq. It was not the U.S. military surge that opened the door to a better path forward, but the inclusion of all Iraqis in a political process that was led
and designed by Iraqis.

Afghans want that same opportunity.

Wage peace, Peter Lems and Mary Zerker, AFSC


WRL PIE CHART FLYERS - Where Your Income Tax Money Really Goes
ORDER NOW!
The War Resisters League's famous "pie chart" flyer, which analyzes the Federal Fiscal Year 2011 Budget (released in February 2010)!

Each year, War Resisters League analyzes federal funds outlays as presented in detailed tables in "Analytical Perspectives" of the Budget of the United States Government. Our analysis is based on federal funds, which do not include trust funds--such as Social Security--that are raised separately from income taxes for specific purposes. What you pay (or don't pay) by April 15, 2010 goes to the federal funds portion of the budget.

Order print copies via our [online store](#) or by phone at 212.228.0450.

HISTORIANS AGAINST THE WARS: AFGHANISTAN
1. The DVD “Why Are We in Afghanistan?”, written by Mike Zweig of U.S. Labor Against the War, mentioned in a HAW mailing this past winter, is getting some strong endorsements (e.g., from the union representing faculty and staff in the New York State public university system) as well as winning the Studs Terkel Prize for Media and Journalism from the Working Class Studies Association. Both the full 28-minute version and a condensed 11-minute version can be seen on the web site, [http://www.WhyAreWeInAfghanistan.org](http://www.WhyAreWeInAfghanistan.org), which also has a link to a teacher guide and information on ordering the DVD.

[Edrene McKay’s response: That DVD “Why Are We in Afghanistan?” is excellent. It clearly makes]
the connection between the war and pipelines, energy policy, and competition for resources among nations in the Middle East. The study guide is good too. I’m hoping to make the film the centerpiece of a teach-in on the war at NWACC in the fall. Perhaps we can have some events at OMNI too and make it a joint effort.]

VETERANS FOR PEACE 2009
Friday, May 22, 2009
Let’s remember: this holiday is not Armistice Day, or Armed Forces Day, or the birthday of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard or Merchant Marine… It’s Memorial Day. It is a **day to mourn ALL who have died in war.** A day to remember ALL the victims, the vast majority of whom are our brothers and sisters who, by an accident of birth, were born on the receiving end of the bombs and the occupations. Mourn them. If you march, carry a sign saying so.

Mourn our comrades. Mourn the dead and the wounded, the human beings who came back dehumanized because of what their government sent them to do.

But this day we mourn more than our own military dead. Yes, we are veterans, but we are also VETERANS FOR PEACE.

Abolish war and all the mourning it causes.

**Veterans For Peace Asks "Who Dies In War?"  May 22, 2009**

Few really think about it, but many more **innocent civilians** die in war than soldiers. That is the message that Veterans For Peace would like people to think about on Memorial day.

Veterans For Peace National President Mike Ferner comments, "We have been taught that the purpose of Memorial Day is to remember fallen service members. Veterans For Peace is here to tell the nation that the number of innocent civilians who die in war far outnumbers the combatants. It would be immoral to only remember those who fought and died in war and not pay respect to those who are victims. In the final analysis, the best way to remember both is to abolish this scourge of humanity."

Veterans For Peace National Executive Director Michael T. McPhearson stated, "As veterans this day holds special meaning for us. Many of our members have seen their buddies die in battle and we all know that only luck or grace allows us to be here today to remember the dead. We also know our actions are responsible for the enormous loss of life of innocent people simply trying to live their lives, who for no fault of their own were caught in the middle of madness. We are haunted by their deaths and stand in respectful silence to remember them, those of us who did not live to be veterans and those veterans who are no longer with us. We demand our government and all the governments of the world end this human made plague called war. There is a better way."

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OMNI SEeks A World free of violence and war and the threat of war, a society with liberty and justice for all, social and economic justice, a representative not a oligarchical government, a community that promotes fulfillment of every person’s potential, an earth restored. Grassroots nonviolence, world peace, human rights, environmental stewardship protecting species and the earth.

End of Memorial Day For Peace Newsletter 2010

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Dick Bennett
My blog: http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/
jbennet@uark.edu
(479) 442-4600
2582 Jimmie Ave.
Fayetteville, AR 72703