OMNI PEACE FORCES DAY (ARMED FORCES DAY), NEWSLETTER #2, 3RD Saturday of May, May 19, 2012. Compiled by Dick Bennett for a Culture of Peace

See: related OMNI National Days newsletters below and newsletters on Nonviolence, individual wars, killing civilians, and related newsletters,

Here is the link to all OMNI newsletters: http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/ For a knowledge-based peace, justice, and ecology movement and an informed citizenry as the foundation for change.

This newsletter continues OMNI's NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL DAYS PROJECT. Half of the Project affirms nonviolent DAYs, such as United Nations Day and Human Rights Day. The other half offers alternatives to violent, imperial, or generally misdirected days, as with the following:

Feb. 14: Standing on the Side of Love Day (formerly Valentine’s Day)
May, 2nd Sunday: Julia Ward Howe’s Mother’s Day for Peace (Mother’s Day)
3rd Sat. in May: Peace Forces Day (Armed Forces Day)
May, last Monday: Day of Mourning for Victims of Wars (Memorial Day)
June 14: Liberty and Justice for All Day (Flag Day)
June, 3rd Sunday: Father’s Day for Peace (Father’s Day)
September 11 (9-11): Peaceful Tomorrows Day (Patriot Day)
Oct., 2nd Monday: Indigenous Peoples Day (Columbus Day):
Nov. 11: World Unity Day (Veterans Day) (Or Armistice Day in 1918 when WWI ended).

November: Fourth Thursday: National Day of Gratitude and Atonement (Thanksgiving)
December 7: Pacific Colonial War Day (Pearl Harbor Day)
December 25: Love and Peacemaking Day (Christmas)

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PRESIDENT OBAMA’S PROCLAMATION 2012
The White House  Office of the Press Secretary

May 18, 2012

Presidential Proclamation -- Armed Forces Day, 2012
BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION

With every assignment and in every theater, America's men and women in uniform perform their duties with the utmost dignity, honor, and professionalism. Through their dauntless courage and dedication, they live up to our Nation's highest ideals in even the most perilous circumstances. On Armed Forces Day, we pay tribute to the unparalleled service of our Armed Forces and recall the extraordinary feats they accomplish in defense of our Nation.

As individuals, our service members set extraordinary examples of character for those whose freedom they protect. Together, they comprise the greatest force for freedom and security the world has ever known. From their earliest training to the thick of battle, they look to those with whom they stand shoulder-to-shoulder, knowing they rise and fall as one team. United in their love of country, they teach us the true meaning of words like duty, honor, and strength.

Not just leaders and troops, patriots and heroes, the members of our Armed Forces are also parents, spouses, partners, sons, and daughters. Their families are just as vital to their success as their brothers and sisters in arms, and our debt of gratitude extends to them as well. As we celebrate the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who make our way of life possible, we also pay our deepest respect to their families, our missing, our wounded, and our fallen. Inspired by their service and humbled by their sacrifice, let us recommit to providing all those who have served our Nation the support they deserve.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, continuing the precedent of my predecessors in office, do hereby proclaim the third Saturday of each May as Armed Forces Day.

I direct the Secretary of Defense on behalf of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps, and the Secretary of Homeland Security on behalf of the Coast Guard, to plan for appropriate observances each year, with the Secretary of Defense responsible for encouraging the participation and cooperation of civil authorities and private citizens.

I invite the Governors of the States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, to provide for the observance of Armed Forces Day within their jurisdiction each year in an appropriate manner designed to increase public understanding and appreciation of the Armed Forces of the United States. I also invite veterans, civic leaders, and organizations to join in the observance of Armed Forces Day.
Finally, I call upon all Americans to display the flag of the United States at their homes on Armed Forces Day, and I urge citizens to learn more about military service by attending and participating in the local observances of the day. I also encourage Americans to volunteer at organizations that provide support to our troops.

Proclamation 8681 of May 20, 2011, is hereby superseded.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-sixth.

BARACK OBAMA

TWO MESSAGES FROM VETERANS FOR PEACE

Messages In This Digest (2 Messages)
1. Fwd: Free access to Sir! No Sir! and This is Where We Take Our Stand From: Shelly Rockett
2. Fwd: Veterans For Peace Armed Forces Day Event in Daytona Beach, Sat From: Shelly Rockett

1. Fwd: Free access to Sir! No Sir! and This is Where We Take Our Stand
   Posted by: "Shelly Rockett" shelly@veteransforpeace.org
   Fri May 18, 2012 11:27 am (PDT)

-------- Forwarded message --------
From: Displaced Films <adam@sirnosir.com>
Date: Fri, May 18, 2012 at 1:00 PM
Subject: Free access to Sir! No Sir! and This is Where We Take Our Stand
starts tonight!
To: vfp@veteransforpeace.net

In honor of the soldiers and veterans who will be part of the demonstrations at the NATO Summit in Chicago--from May 19, Armed Forces/Armed Forces Day, through the Memorial Day weekend, you can watch FOR FREE three powerful films about GI and veterans' resistance to criminal wars:

*Sir! No Sir!* - *The landmark 2006 film by David Zeiger that revealed the suppressed story of the GI Movement to end the Vietnam War, a movement that shook the military and government to its core and played a major role in ending the war.* Sir! No Sir!* has been distributed for free to thousands of soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan, helping to inspire the birth of Iraq Veterans Against the War.

*This is Where We Take Our Stand* - Last year's film by David Zeiger, Bestor Cram, and Mike Majoros, that told the story of the hundreds of soldiers and veterans who risked everything to reveal the true nature of the Iraq and Afghanistan occupations by testifying at 2008's Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan hearings.


*Unfinished Symphony* - *The 2001 Sundance film by Bestor Cram and Mike Majoros that told the story of one of the largest demonstrations of veterans during the Vietnam War, the 1971 march from Concord to Boston by Vietnam Veterans Against the War that ended in 400 arrests--the most in Massachusetts history. Set to Henryk Gorecki's unfinished* Symphony of Sorrowful Songs,* this beautiful, lyrical film brings you deep into the soul of veterans' resistance.

*WATCH THE FILMS, ORGANIZE HOUSE PARTIES, AND HELP SPREAD THE WORD OF THIS ONE-TIME OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THIS GI/VETERANS RESISTANCE TRILOGY FOR FREE!* The films will be available on Youtube at [https://www.youtube.com/user/DisplacedFilms/featured](https://www.youtube.com/user/DisplacedFilms/featured) starting at 9 am on Saturday, May 19, and ending Tuesday, May 29, at 9 am.

FT. Hood soldiers demonstrate on Armed Farces Day 1971 Go to [http://www.sirnosir.com](http://www.sirnosir.com) to find more DVDs and books on GI resistance, including

* FTA*--the film about Jane Fonda's antiwar cabaret that entertained thousands of soldiers in the US and around the world, and* Soldiers in Revolt*--David Cortright's book that tells the full, unforgettable story of the GI Movement against the Vietnam War.

And starting May 19, every DVD order will include a free DVD of* A Night of Ferocious Joy,* the film vividly portraying the 2005 L.A. concert condemning the invasion of Afghanistan that featured Ozomatli, Boots Riley and The Coup, Saul Williams, Dilated Peoples, and many more.

2. Fwd: Veterans For Peace Armed Forces Day Event in Daytona Beach, Sat
Posted by: "Shelly Rockett" shelly@veteransforpeace.org
Fri May 18, 2012 12:30 pm (PDT)
[Attachment(s) from Shelly Rockett included below]

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: <RestinoP@aol.com>
Date: Fri, May 18, 2012 at 2:24 PM
Subject: Veterans For Peace Armed Forces Day Event in Daytona Beach, Sat
5/19, 12-6pm
To: RestinoP@aol.com

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Hello Everyone,

Just a reminder that tomorrow, Saturday May 19th from 12 Noon to 6:00 PM,
Veterans For Peace will be holding an outdoor "Armed Forces Day" event at
the NW corner of Nova Road and Intl Speedway Blvd in front of the Steak N
Shake in Daytona Beach. We will be tabling, sign-waving, interacting with
passersby who stop to talk with us, passing out flyers and DVD's, and
plenty of good fun and comradery. Afterwards a bunch of us plan on heading
2 miles south on Nova Road for a bite to eat at Steve's Famous Diner in the
Office Depot Shopping Center.

Attached is the 1-page flyer "A 2012 Armed Forces Day Message from Veterans
For Peace" that we would like to have distributed as wide and far as
possible, so we do appreciate your help in doing so.

I must say that the idea for our "2012 Armed Forces Day Message from Veterans For Peace" was the result of Shannon's and the others' thoughtful responses to my group email last week where I was suggesting we protest and/or "mike check" the Volusia County Democrats as they hosted their Armed Forces Day dinner/gala honoring our military service men and women, along with honored guest Senator Max Cleland who himself is a triple-amputee decorated Marine veteran of the Vietnam War.

Once again, I want to thank Shannon, Flora, Garth, Donatella, and all the others for their thoughtful and very valuable responses as even though the Democrats at all levels need to be publicly called on their major role in the continuance of the genocide being committed by our military in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia, Libya, Uganda, Sudan (soon to come: Syria, Iran, elsewhere in North Africa ... and who knows where else), the Volusia County Democrats' Armed Forces Day Dinner would not be the time and place to do such a protest and/or "mike check".

Thank you all for your valuable feedback, and for all the good work that you continue to do for our community with Occupy Daytona Beach and the other groups you are involved with. Hopefully we will see some of you down at Nova and ISB at some point tomorrow afternoon !

*Peace everybody,*  
Phil Restino  
Chapter Co-Chair, VFP Chapter 136  
Central Florida Veterans For Peace  
ph/fax: (386) 788-2918

PENTAGON BAU ENVIRONMENTALISM May 5, 2012  
From “The Cat and the Banana Tree”

Yesterday, I read a couple of articles about the state of the Empire as it faces financial and economic failure, environmental degradation, climate change and diminishing energy supplies.

The first article recapped a speech given by Leon Panetta to the Environmental Defense Fund this week. “Climate and environmental change are emerging as national security threats that “weigh heavily” on the Pentagon’s strategies ...” the article stated. “... The quest for energy is another area, he said, that continues to shape and reshape the strategic environment ...”  

Mr. Panetta went on to discuss the Pentagon’s responses to these threats. The Pentagon spent more than $17 billion on fuel last year and the DOD faces a budget shortfall of more than $3 billion due to higher than expected fuel costs this year.
Last March, the DOD introduced a plan to reduce fuel consumption and promote energy efficiency throughout the military. “For its 2013 budget, the Pentagon is requesting more than $1 billion for efficient aircraft and aircraft engines, hybrid electric drives for ships, improved generators and micro-grids for forward-deployed bases and combat vehicle energy efficiency programs. “Another $1 billion is sought for energy improvements at military installations in the United States.”

Pretty much BAU. I could almost hear the ca-ching, ch-ching of cost overrides around the military-industrial complex as I read, the dying Empire content in the unsustainable, faux reality it has built to bolster its flagging might around the world.

“We are working to be a leader and a bold innovator in environmental stewardship, energy efficiency and energy security,” Panetta was quoted as saying, at the end of the article.

To read the entire essay:  http://conflicteddoomer.wordpress.com/2012/05/05/the-cat-and-the-banana-tree/#comment-1778

Dear James,

Peace Action along with 33 groups and over 200 activists are meeting in Chicago at the Counter-Summit for Peace and Economic Justice while NATO meets to prepare for more war.

The whole town of Chicago is talking about NATO and those who believe it is time to retire that outdated military alliance. Read Chicago Area Peace Action's opinion piece in the May 16 Chicago Tribune.

Yes, we are one of the voices included in the mainstream media. Why? Because we are voicing the majority opinion: the US-NATO war in Afghanistan needs to end because the costs are too much to bear.

The people of the US and every NATO country are bearing the costs of this outdated military alliance. It's time to retire NATO and form a new alliance to address unemployment, hunger and climate change.

The NATO summit will be in the national news for the next 5 days. If you are not in Chicago, you can still be a part of the public education on why, and how, we can have a future without NATO and its wars.

With your help, we are launching a 5 day drive to write letters to the editor to bring the message of the true costs of the war in Afghanistan and military spending into as many newspapers and online publications as possible.

Below is a sample letter to the editor

Humbly for Peace,

Kevin Martin
Executive Director
Peace Action

Use the Frequently Asked Questions for facts you can use.
http://www.natofreefuture.org/2012/05/nato-faqs-now-available/

Read some of the media coverage of the Counter-Summit.
SAMPLE LETTER to the EDITOR

Dear Editor,
As the NATO Summit in Chicago draws near, President Barack Obama should take a good look at what poll after recent poll has stated clearly: Public opinion in this country wants United States and NATO troops home from Afghanistan, sooner rather than later. With our country still trying to dig out of the economic crisis and local services being cut, most people feel that we need to stop spending money on war and fund [INSERT SERVICES THAT ARE BEING CUT IN YOUR COMMUNITY] instead. The trillions being spent on war would go a long way to restore [INSERT SERVICES BEING CUT]. In [INSERT YOUR CITY, STATE OR COUNTY] alone, tax payers will spend [GO TO National Priorities Project AND RESEARCH HOW MUCH YOUR COUNTY HAS SPENT ON THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN] http://nationalpriorities.org/en/interactive-data/trade-offs/
NATO should be retired, not re-purposed. Its Cold War-era rationale has ended, and we shouldn’t continue to funnel human and economic resources toward a military alliance that has outlived its purpose. President Obama, the pro-peace majority in this country wants to take a different path.