OMNI WORLD UNITY DAY/ARMISTICE DAY (Veterans Day) NEWSLETTER #6, NOVEMBER 11, 2013, WE, THE PEOPLE BUILDING A CULTURE OF PEACE, Compiled by Dick Bennett

11-11-11 RING THE BELLs

Armistices, the United Nations, and the Peace Movement

“I do not believe in the possibility of such cooperation as we are engaged in without the deep inspiration of faith in ideals which we all share. ‘Ideals’ in itself is a general word. What I mean here are the ideals established by our deepest faith and highest longings. . . .What is achieved on our long road toward a better world is achieved in cooperation between all men of good will truly dedicated as participants in a joint worldwide effort.” Quoted in Dag Hammarskjold by Roger Lipsey, p. 325.

“We cannot afford to reckon peace as merely the absence of war. We have to make it a positive and overriding discipline of international life.” Hammarskjold, Lipsey, p. 338.

OMNI NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DAYS PROJECT

My blog: War Department/Peace Department http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/

My Newsletters: http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/

Index: http://www.omnicenter.org/omni-newsletter-general-index/

Visit OMNI’s Library.

See: Armed Forces Day May 21, Imperialism, Militarism, Pentagon, PTSD, Recruiting, Suicides, (each) War, Whistleblowing, and more.

Last 3 lines of William O’Daly’s “To the Forty-Third President of the United States of America.”

“It appears the one thing we cherish more than petroleum or our children is the greased machinery of destruction”

RING OUT THE BELLS AGAINST IT.
Nos. 2008 AND 2009 AT END.

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Here is the link to all OMNI newsletters: http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/ For the foundation in knowledge necessary to a citizenry ready for the struggle to change society.
LET ALL OF US JOIN VETERANS FOR PEACE IN REMEMBERING ARMISTICE DAY. For not only is Veterans Day inseparable from militarism, it has also been incorporated into the commercial system. I just now googled Veterans Day and found almost every entry on the first page to be an advertisement. Celebrating Armistice Day will necessitate also resistance to its commodification! --Dick

Veterans For Peace

November 2013: Let Peace Ring for All People

In the month of October, we came together to promote enduring peace by calling our representatives and the President. We even saw a glimmer of hope as peaceful talks and potential negotiations started between President Obama and leaders of Iran and Syria. Members remembered the Afghanistan War anniversary through vigils and protests, with some even being arrested for their actions. Members also held actions against drones and events speaking out against Guantanamo Bay across the country. National VFP stands in solidarity with these members and these actions. The month of November offers us yet another opportunity to come together for peace and justice. Throughout the month, you have the chance to raise your voice and let peace ring.

Will you join us this month by taking action?

Reclaiming Armistice Day on November 11th: Ringing 11 Bells For Peace

Each year, Veterans for Peace chapters across the nation meet in major cities to celebrate and remember the original Armistice Day as was done at the end of World War I, when the world came together in realization that war is so horrible we must end it now. Fighting ceased in the "war to end all wars" on the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. Congress responded to a universal hope among Americans for no more wars by passing a resolution calling for “exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding … inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.” Later, Congress added that November 11th was to be “a day dedicated to the cause of world peace.”
Please consider hosting your own local event, to remember the original purpose of this holiday. Many of us will choose to ring bells, but other ceremonies include: Marches, Street Theatre, Poetry Readings, or Reading of Names of the killed.

- All participants are asked to read the **Armistice Day Statement** at their local ceremony:

  **Armistice Day Statement**

  “The Armistice of 1918 ended the terrible slaughter of World War I. The U.S. alone had experienced the death of over 116,000 soldiers, plus many more who were physically and mentally disabled. For one moment, at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, the world agreed World War I must be considered the WAR TO END ALL WARS. There was exuberant joy everywhere, and many churches rang their bells, some 11 times at 11 a.m. November 11, when the Armistice was signed. For many years this practice endured, and then slowly, it faded away. Now we do it again. We ring the bells 11 times, with a moment of silence, to remember the many soldiers and civilians killed and injured by warfare, and to make our own commitment to work for peace, in our family, our church, our community, our nation, our world.

  GOD BLESS THE ENTIRE WORLD.”

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Ringing Bells for Armistice Day 2013 (11/11 at 11)
[This event was created on behalf of the Smedley D. Butler Brigade of Veterans for Peace as we are trying to encourage houses of worship across Massachusetts to ring their bells for Armistice Day (Veterans Day) this November 11. All houses of worship everywhere, of course, are encouraged to participate!]

Before it became "Veterans Day" in 1954, November 11 was known as "Armistice Day" - a holiday "to be dedicated to the cause of world peace". The first Armistice Day was November 11, 1918 when World War I ...

PLEASE CONTACT DICK BENNETT TO ADD YOUR EVENT TO NWA’S BELL RINGING FOR PEACE, or however you choose to remember Armistice Day.

j.dick.bennett@gmail.com

" Armistice Day Event To Remember Veterans and Civilians (Iowa Chapter) 
November 8, 2013 | Author Ed Flaherty

Armistice Day is a day to promote peace and to remember the victims of war, both veterans and civilians.

Veterans For Peace Chapter #161 is sponsoring an Armistice Day Observance to be held on **Monday, November 11th at the Clinton St. entrance to Old Capitol, Iowa City**. Gather @ 10:20AM. The observance will begin @ 10:30AM, and bells will be rung @ 11:00 AM, (11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month) as they were rung around the world at the end of
WWI in 1918 and on each November 11th for decades thereafter. Veterans for Peace Armistice Day Observance will recall the hopes of peoples for an end to war when the Armistice ending World War I on the Western Front was celebrated 95 years ago on Nov. 11, 1918.

Bells rang throughout many lands as the guns fell silent across France and Belgium—"the war to end all wars" was over—but the hopes for lasting peace foundered over the repeated conflicts which followed during the remainder of the 20th century and into this century.

Ed Flaherty, who will preside at the commemoration, notes that the legislation establishing Armistice Day as a national holiday declared it “…a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace…Too often rhetoric and patriotic symbols are used instead of genuine compassion for the extraordinary sacrifices and service of military personnel. Honoring veterans alone distracts the public from the awful price paid by those other than members of the military.” He also notes that Veterans for Peace calls for “waging peace” as well as ending wars and the “terrible” human and financial costs resulting from wars and our military policies.

The event will feature Veterans for Peace from throughout the state of Iowa. The presidents of the three Iowa Veterans for Peace chapters will speak. John Jadryev is president of VFP #161 in Iowa City. Gil Landolt is president of VFP #163 in Des Moines. Joe Aossey is president of VFP #169 in Linn County.

James Yee, the Army Captain who was the Muslim chaplain at Guantánamo in 2003, will also speak. A graduate of West Point, Captain Yee objected to the torture of Guantánamo prisoners. Subsequently he was imprisoned for 76 days in solitary confinement and falsely accused of aiding the enemy. Months of government investigation led to all criminal charges being dropped. Yee authored the book, For God And Country: Faith and Patriotism Under Fire, a gripping account of his Guantánamo experience and struggle for justice.

The event is free, and the public is welcome. For further information, please contact Ed Flaherty @ 319 621-6766 or John Jadryev @ 319 430-2019.

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS TIMES’ MILITARY ENTHUSIASM 2012.
By Dick Bennett

The Northwest Arkansas Times went all-out for all vets and all wars for Veterans Day 2012. On Nov. 4, 6, 8, and 10 it reported a total of 8 separate events plus paid ads for the Nov. 11 parade. Especially were the public schools exploited for patriotic war indoctrination.

On Nov. 4, a half-page article by reporter Amy Buckley recounted a talk by Retired Marine Cpl. Aaron Mankin to the students at Westside Elementary School in Rogers. Corporal Mankin had suffered severe facial burns from a roadside bomb in Iraq. (According to Buckley, Mankin said he “gave his face for his country “Teachers talked to students about Veterans Day all week, but when
Mankin told children he gave his face for his country, that made it all sink in, said Amy Putnam, Westside principal.” Among his other pro-military, pro-war statements: “‘Veterans Day, in my heart, is a call to national service.’” (Oh no. It’s a call to militarism and empire, illegal and unnecessary wars, which is why Veterans for Peace has returned to its original name, Armistice Day, to celebrate peacemaking and peacemakers, instead of warriors. But Mankin’s recruiting speech worked: “Children said they identified with Mankin’s message of honoring veterans.” “Veterans Day is the most important holiday, Ethan [Rafter, a fourth-grader] said.”)

And on the same day the paper revealed “Community College Plans [for] Veterans Day,” with Ric Clifford, “a Vietnam-era veteran and a member of the college’s board, as the guest speaker.” His several Air Force service awards were given—Longevity, Good Conduct, and Commendation. Clifford was an AF chapel management technician.

On the 6th, the newspaper told about the Veterans Library Project at NWACC, in which veterans described their experiences to students, audio recorded. Mary Moore was the teacher of the sponsoring class.

Two items appeared on the 8th—a half-page by reporter Dave Perozek about a WWII vet, Retired Sgt. Eugene Keister, the annual parade (moved from Fayetteville to Springdale), and “a patriotic concert...at the nearby First United Methodist Church”). We are told that Keister “wears a USA cap and flies an American flag from the back of his pickup,” and that for 30 years “every few weeks” at a Harp’s store he had solicited donations for the VFW National Home for Children. (We can appreciate his devotion, while at the same time remembering that because of US invasions and interventions (Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, etc., over 40 since 1945) we now have millions of veterans in the US, only a small percentage of whom oppose the permanent war.)

On the same day another article anticipated the visit to Bentonville Nov. 10 by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz, at “an event hosted by Walmart” on the Bentonville Square, accompanied by Rep. Steve Womack, R-Rogers. And by the way, the article continues, Bella Vista’s American Legion and VFW will hold a ceremony at the Veterans Wall of Honor (honoring all vets and all wars). The speaker there will be Mary Erdman, commander of the American Legion Department of Arkansas.

But the editors of the newspaper felt they had not done enough to reinforce the military way to masculinity (for women as well as men), so on Nov. 10, the paper published two more effusions in support of our militarized USA: a story with two photos of the University of Arkansas Air force Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (women and men) presenting a flag ceremony at the Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks. The presentation included the Fayetteville High School Band and speech by Air Force Col. Jeffery Vinger. The second photo showed retired Marine Corps Lt. Col. E. S. Lawbaugh saluting the flag.

And then the Northwest Arkansas Times climaxied its pre-Veterans Day military drumming by showing how successful were all the veteran celebrations via six letters from children, entitled “Students Offer Thanks to US Veterans.” Here’s the Editor’s introduction: “Students at Springdale’s Southwest Junior High recently wrote letters to veterans and active-duty military personnel as part of their school work and will have an assembly Monday to recognize veterans. Below is a sampling of letters from students.” Here is a sample of the effects of the ignorance and fear engendered by the “patriotic” blitz that has produced ongoing, indefensible US wars: “Today I don’t have to fight for my life because you are fighting for me.”

And a color ad for several days invited people to attend the Veterans Day Parade and the NWACC war exhibits in Springdale on Sunday Nov. 11. The displays were presented by the National Society of Leadership and Success, NWACC Chapter, “with memorabilia provided by local military and history
The parade was to include local military units and vehicles, Veteran organizations, ROTC and CAP, civic groups, marching bands, and “the unique sound of the Ozark Highlander Pipe Band,” followed by the “Patriotic Concert” at the First United Methodist Church. “Proud sponsors” of these events were Xerox, Signature Bank, Moore’s Funeral Home, Nelson-Berna Funeral Home, and NWA Media.

Naturally the newspaper continued its advocacy on Veterans Day itself with an article and its editorial. The report recounted Sen. McCain address to “a crowd of hundreds” on the Bentonville Square, where Sam Walton’s first store remains as a museum. **McCain expressed his gratitude to all active duty personnel and veterans that served in the military,” with particular thanks to the veterans of WWII, the “greatest generation.”** One veteran of that war appreciated McCain for remembering “the people who have sacrificed so much to defend the country.” McCain praised the “military men and women [who] have sacrificed a great deal in Iraq and Afghanistan,” the reporter continue, and he was proud people may disagree about the war, but still honor and support the service of our brave Americans.” And he praised Walmart for “supporting veterans” and for helping Hurricane Sandy victims and other disasters. And he urged the crowd to be ready for the next wars, to meet “the dangers throughout the world,” when “‘American will again have to bear the burdens that only the brave can endure.’” Rep. Womack, R-Rogers, thanked McCain and Walmart. Finally, Army Lt. Gen. Mick Kicklighter, director of the Vietnam War Commemoration, thanked Walmart for supporting veterans, “especially for helping to honor Vietnam veterans as part of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War,” and he presented Bill Simon, president and CEO of Walmart U.S., with one of the flags that will be flown at each Walmart in the country to honor veterans of the Vietnam War. Simon was grateful and backed the general’ PR for war all the way: “I’m proud to be part of a company that supports active duty and veterans in every way we can.” He said, as the reporter ended his report, “it’s a legacy that dates back to Sam Walton.”

And at last the newspaper itself spoke directly on November 11 in its editorial entitled: “Nation Pays Respect To All Veterans.” (But of course the editor did not mean “all.” He did not include the COs, the refusers, the AWOL to avoid killing. Nor did he mean the rapists, torturers, and murderers among the troops, such as Sgt. Bales, full evidence of which will appear gradually, as following the Vietnam War, until the nation knew My Lai was the tip of the iceberg, that few remember or acknowledge that now.) The editor opens his argument with praise for a Sunday observance, which “will impress upon us the reverence owed to the men and women who committed themselves to service to the nation through the years.” (But he does not really mean that. If a policeman obeyed orders to attack an innocent person, we would give him no reverence. Likewise, we owe no reverence to the troops who illegally invaded the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Panama, Afghanistan, or Iraq, in which innocent men, women, and children were killed by our troops, though we can be sympathetic to those troops, because military basic training is designed to reverse moral values to make killing acceptable, and depending upon the degree to which they were deceived by the Pentagon, or were influenced to enlist by poverty or their parental military tradition.)

The editorial continues by quoting the head of the VA, Eric Shinseki, General Ret., that soldiers (22 million living today because of permanent war!) “have been the bedrock of our sovereignty as a nation, our values as a people, our security as a democracy, and our offer of hope to those in other lands.” Perhaps he thought he could get away with these prevarications because it was Veterans Day and patriotic fervor would prevent ordinary critical thinking from functioning. The millions in military service have not been the foundation of US sovereignty, the Constitution has; not provided the underpinning of our values, our Constitution and religions and education have; not the bedrock of hope in life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, the Declaration of Independence, the Statue of Liberty with
Emma Lazarus’s poem have.

The essay gets no better. “...the American military isn’t there because the nation likes a fight” (Name a necessary and legal invasion or intervention: Iran coup 1953? bombing neutral Cambodia 1969-70 and overthrowing its ruler 1970? bombing Laot 1965-73? Cuba 1959 to present: bombings, full-scale military invasion, sanctions, embargos, assassinations? Is the editor ignorant, covering up, or thinks his readers stupid?) “Our military exists, and must remain strong, so that we can remain a deterrent against threats. . . “ (What threats? What countries have threatened the U.S. Compete with us yes. Differ with us ideologically yes. But threaten the US, threaten the people of the US, requiring the tax payers to pay for armed forces costing more than the next ten nations’ military? No. But threat/fear-mongering defuses public dissent)

And here is the outrageous cant: “. . .while keeping the ever-present hope that international dialogue can sustain peace.” (The U.S. has invaded or intervened in over 40 countries since 1945. Not armed force as the last resort, but diplomacy.)

And then the frayed Axis Powers ploy: Just as we needed overwhelming military strength to defeat Hitler, Mussolini, and Hideki, we need overwhelming tanks and bombs and planes against “organizations and some nations [not named] who wouldn’t mind if the United States of America became weak and ineffective.”

But the editor is exhausted with this chicanery, and ends by repeating himself, calling upon us to respect all those who served and serve in the military, and with this desperate question, hoping his readers have by now quit thinking utterly: “Where would our nation be without the Americans willing to be our warriors?” (For one thing, we would be guiltless of killing millions of innocent people.) The paper was not done of course. Nov. 11 events were reported on Nov. 12. “Generations Bond at Veterans Event” by Kayla Paine, Page One with large photo, recounted the Day’s events. The officers of the Northwest Arkansas Veteran’s Day Association Inc. were introduced—vice president Krystal Osbon and president Lt. Col. (ret.) Steve Gray, military liason to Senator Boozman, R-Ark. Rained out, the parade became meet and greet indoors. “A young, clean-shaven man wearing his uniform, complete with shined shoes, met a much older veteran. . . .The young soldier lowered to one knee and shook the veteran’s hand. . .” Another young soldier said “sometimes my generation doesn’t understand how much they really do depend on their troops for all of the freedoms they have. . . .” (Of course, he gave no example, and the reporter did not ask. At no time does anyone ask about those freedoms, about the decreasing capacity of our corporate-military society for personal and social advancement and fulfillment, about how freedoms in the service of greed, aggression, and fear have led to breakdown of community, destruction of environment, and economic inequality.) The Ozark Highlander Pipe Band played “God Bless America” Gray repeated the Day’s purpose, to “recognize the immense acts of service.”

And more photos on Nov. 12: “Concert for Veterans” (2 photos); and on Nov. 13 two photos under the title of “Service Honored,” showing UA’s R.O.T.C. color guard honoring five UA alumni Medal of Honor recipients, all service members, and the victims of the 9-11 “terrorist attacks.”

(In addition, the NW Arkansas edition of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette also reported Veterans Day events and the brainwashing of children for war; for example, “Veterans Day Assembly Planned” (11-6-12) describing a Veterans Day assembly at Central Junior High School in Springdale, a major school event featuring members of the school’s band, choir, dance team, cheer squad, student council, and National Junior Honor Society. Nov. 11: three annotated photos by Samantha Baker of “Veterans Day Celebration” and glance down-state at the Methodist College, Hendrix, and its new stadium named in tribute to “3 Fallen Alumni,” who are “exemplary as to what it means to give the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.” Nov. 12: article on the Governor by Spencer Willems: “Beebe Praises U.S.
Veterans”; photo showing Gray speaking to another veteran. Article on Roger Waters performing for wounded veterans at the annual Stand Up for Heroes benefit in New York City. Article on Pres. Obama commending veterans and their families, and photo captioned “Honor Our Nation’s Veterans about the Pres. presenting a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknows at Arlington National Cemetery. Nov. 13: photo of saluting veterans in Huntington, Ind. And for several days a listing of all “Veterans Day Closings”: garbage, government offices, Post Offices, Libraries, Schools and Universities. As in the Northwest Arkansas Times, God and Country. Solidarity. Hardly a whisper of imperialism and militarism heard. No questions asked. And in addition—endlessly—commercial television assured its viewers of its patriotism by similarly iterated testimonies, and even PBS with its “National Salute to Veterans” of six programs and saluting soldier on its November cover, at least in Arkansas.)

From November 1 to 11 almost every day this newspaper explicitly celebrated US warriors and war. I presented the reports circumstantially, citing names and activities, to show how pervasive is militarism here. And the journalists? Not one of the dozen or so journalists mobilized to present jingoism to the public asked a critical question. I assume the editor backed by the owner Warren Stephens commanded such coverage, so what could they do?

From Walmart and a former presidential candidate to a retired WWII Sgt. and terribly burned Iraqi War veteran to a college and public school teachers, and especially from our local newspaper, when it comes to the US National Security Warfare State little qualifies this newspaper’s hyperpatriotic fervor and cant, while alternative and dissenting viewpoints are suppressed and our children are pressured from all angles to revere militarism, a word of course never mentioned by these deceitful indoctrinators.

By itself such obsession with one military propaganda day would not be so alarming. But the newspaper also drums flag and war patriotism for Armed Forces Day, Pearl Harbor Day, Memorial Day, Patriot Day, Flag Day, and Columbus Day. (We can perhaps anticipate World Conquest Day brewing, but fortunately Torture Day will probably not be proposed, though that does not mean our leaders will cease the practice.)

And don’t forget the newspaper’s past egregious militarism. On Sunday, November 8, 2009, one of the owners of the Northwest Arkansas Times, Warren Stephens, introduced the first in “a 54-part series that tells the stories of heroism and bravery by the men and women in the United States Armed Forces.” He declared himself “privileged and humbled” by these stories of citizen and professional soldiers who “have left the safety of home and family…to serve their country with distinction” in Iraq and Afghanistan. He wishes to “thank them,” and he pledges “to continue to detail American sacrifice and bravery until the last soldier comes home. Truly, they are the heroes among us.” Beginning on January 18, 2010, Stephens Media commenced 12 additional “Salutes to American Valor.” (My response: “We Are Winning: Two Wars, Two Colonels, and a General,” Fayetteville Free Weekly (January 28, 2010).)

This 2012 pre-Veterans Day week reveals pro-military propaganda iterated throughout our community and shows how successfully it is integrated into our schools.

How might we respond? You know the answer. First, since glorification of soldiers and pro-war cant are essential to solidarity for conquest, these tools of empire in our media deserve close examination regarding our invasion and occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq (and Pakistan and Yemen, and Iran threatened). Second, we must protest. Our schools should not be recruiting grounds for
warriors and wars. Speak to school superintendents and principals. Contact your Parent-Teacher Association. From the President to local media officials, we must call for an end to Pentagon propaganda and its countless agents, which is expanding as I write these words.

Recommended Reading
Fortunately, dissent, alternative views and practices, are numerous in books, articles, films, and online. Here are a few books.
You may not know that the Fulbright College at UA is named for former Senator J. William Fulbright, author of Arrogance of Power, Pentagon Propaganda Machine, The Price of Empire, The Crippled Giant. These books are persuasively relevant today. William Blum, Killing Hope, Rogue State. These books give a circumstantial history of illegal US invasions and interventions.
Contact Dick Bennett for a bibliography giving comprehensive circumstantial support for everything I have claimed, which the editor did not offer, dared not offer.

Toward Peace and Justice, October 2013
[Interdependent World. AFSC 2013.]
Shan Cretin, AFSC via uark.edu

James,

[MEXICO/US BORDER.] An 18-foot fence, built of metal and corrugated steel plates, runs inland for miles from the Pacific Ocean, bisecting a sloping mountainside in the desert. It marks the arbitrary line that divides what once were interconnected communities, an imposed boundary between “us” on the American side and “them”—everyone to the south.

That fence embodies an approach to immigration that relies on military-style enforcement, an approach that has created a human rights disaster along the U.S./Mexico border. Under the immigration policy reform proposals Congress is considering, the border now stands to become one of the most militarized borders in the world.

The American Friends Service Committee is hosting “Boots on the Border,” an hour-long discussion on border militarization, on Oct. 30. I hope you will tune in to learn more about these proposals for so-called “border security” that put at risk humane immigration reform, and our democracy itself.

Constructing barriers between people in the name of “security” ignores the reality of the global community—that our fates as individuals, nations, and the world are interdependent.

Using violence to enforce those arbitrary lines does more to threaten our security by further driving people apart. As with shows of military force at the border, drone strikes and threats of war in any part of the world create new enemies, making our country less safe, not safer.
The new issue of Quaker Action explores how, from Somalia to the West Bank, the U.S. could become a powerful force for healing a broken world, if we and other major powers choose to invest in shared well-being instead of national competition.

I hope that as you read the stories of young Somalis striving to make a living and repair ties between neighboring towns, you, too, will see how—when given the chance—youth can harness their creativity and energy to assert themselves, using the power of nonviolence to rebuild their communities that have lived so long in the shadow of violent conflict.

In Peace, Shan Cretin, General Secretary

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Recent Books on US Empire from OMNI Bibliographies

This newsletter continues OMNI’s NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL DAYS PROJECT. Half of the Project affirms nonviolent DAYS, such as 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)

**In Memoriam, [Ring out, wild bells]**
by Lord Alfred Tennyson

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,

   The flying cloud, the frosty light:

   The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,

    Ring, happy bells, across the snow:

      The year is going, let him go;

Ring out the false, ring in the true.

- See more at: http://www.poets.org/viewmedia.php/prmMID/16131#sthash.qqqL6uhy.dpuf

END ARMISTICE/WORLD UNITY DAY 2013

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Dick Bennett

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National/International Days
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