



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Memorial Day For Peace

Monday, May 25, 12 p.m. Christopher Columbus Park, Atlantic Ave., Boston

BOSTON — Veterans For Peace and Military Families Speak Out will come together on Monday, May 25, at 12 p.m. in Christopher Columbus Park near Long Wharf, Boston, for a Memorial Day For Peace.

This is the second year that these groups have organized an event like this. Last year's inaugural event drew more than 100 people.

“We are creating a different kind of Memorial Day remembrance,” said Nate Goldshlag, coordinator of the Smedley D. Butler Brigade of Veterans For Peace. “We mourn and remember those who died in wars, but we also want to say that we want no more wars for oil and American Empire. Most other Memorial Day events stress militarism. We stress peace. And the other events only remember Americans while we remember and mourn all victims of war.”

The event will feature four speakers who will give short addresses. Speaking will be Pat Scanlon of Veterans For Peace and Maureen Hearn of Military Families Speak Out. Joyce and Kevin Lucey will be the third speaker. The Lucey's son, Jeff, came back from Iraq and later committed suicide as a result of untreated post traumatic stress disorder and psychological wounds from the war as real as any bullet.

“One by one we will read the names of the 86 Massachusetts soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, ring a bell, and have a flower for each soldier,” Goldshlag said. “And we will remember not only the other 5,000 plus Americans killed but also the estimated over 1,000,000 Iraqis and Afghans, over 1,400 killed in the Israeli invasion of Gaza, and those who died later as a result of war like Jeff Lucey and Vietnamese deaths from Agent Orange, and also the victims of all wars.”

Two of the guiding principles of Veterans For Peace are to increase public awareness of the costs of war and to abolish war as an instrument of national policy.

The Smedley D. Butler Brigade Chapter 9 of Veterans For Peace was established in the mid-1980s and includes more than 100 Veterans from the Boston area who are involved in antiwar activities. The local chapter is part of the national Veterans For Peace and is named in honor of Marine Gen. Smedley D. Butler, the most decorated Marine in U.S. history, who turned against war and famously said “War is a racket. A few profit, the many pay.”

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Web site of the Smedley D. Butler Brigade of Veterans For Peace: <http://smedleyvfp.org>
National web site of Veterans for Peace: <http://veteransforpeace.org>
National web site of Military Families Speak Out: <http://mfso.org>