



## PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Veterans For Peace Kept Out of Veterans Day Parade, Will March Behind the Street Sweepers**

BOSTON — Veterans For Peace (VFP) has once again been denied the right to march without conditions in the 2008 Veterans Day Parade run by the American Legion on Tuesday, November 11 at 1 p.m.

For several years the American Legion, who runs the Veterans Day parade, has prevented VFP from marching in the parade with signs, cadences, and flags, therefore denying VFP its right of free speech. Instead, this means that VFP has had to march unofficially behind the street sweepers. The Legion will also not allow VFP a speaker at the event on City Hall Plaza.

Last year 15 veterans and 3 supporters were arrested while wearing gags and holding signs saying “American Legion SILENCES messages of peace from veterans.” The charges were later dismissed.

“We want the right to march as we please, with signs and cadences, and we want a speaker on the Plaza to counter the pro-Bush, pro-war rhetoric that the American Legion and its friends always puts forth,” said Nate Goldshlag, an U.S. Army veteran and coordinator of the Smedley D. Butler Brigade, Chapter 9 of Veterans For Peace. “Messages of peace must be heard on what was originally Armistice Day, a day of peace. Mayor Menino has refused to have the city take back the parade and run it in a fair manner. Therefore, the American Legion and the City of Boston are both at fault.”

Letters, emails, and a meeting with city officials have not produced any change in policy, so Veterans For Peace will assert its right of free speech and will march with its signs, flyers, flags, and cadences against the current wars and occupations.

“The City outsources these events and abdicates its responsibilities for fairness,” Goldshlag said. “The American Legion does not tell the bands which tunes to play, or the JROTC students which cadences they can chant. Only the voices of peace are suppressed.”

Veterans For Peace will also be present at the State House at 10:45 a.m. as the event at the Hall of Flags ends, to pressure Governor Patrick to join an upcoming campaign to bring the National Guard of Massachusetts home from Iraq and Afghanistan.

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>