

*Honor the Dead, Heal the Wounded, Stop the Wars*



## ABOLISH NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

Resolution 2011-4, to be approved at the National Convention of Veterans for Peace in Portland, Oregon, August 3-7, 2011. This resolution has already been approved by the East Bay and San Francisco Chapters.

**Whereas**, the nuclear disaster at Fukushima has shown once again that nuclear power plants are, next to nuclear warheads themselves, among the most dangerous devices that our species has ever created, and that, along with nuclear weapons, the construction and proliferation of nuclear power is, as Patrick Moore states in *Assault on Future Generations* (1976), “the most irresponsible, in fact the most criminal act ever to have taken place on this planet,” and

**Whereas**, as an educational and humanitarian organization dedicated to the abolishment of war and the elimination of nuclear weapons, Veterans for Peace understands the importance of linking nuclear power plants and nuclear weapons with the entire military industrial complex, the same destructive machine that gave us the wars in Vietnam and the Middle East, and

**Whereas**, in addition to the serious health, safety, environmental, and economic issues involved with nuclear power plants, and the inherent risks of nuclear proliferation and terrorist attacks associated with nuclear power plants, the multiple links between nuclear power and nuclear weapons make it impossible to abolish nuclear weapons as long as nuclear power plants continue to operate, and

**Whereas**, control over fossil fuels and nuclear energy have been and continue to be a major focus of the wars that have plagued our species in the Twentieth and Twenty-first Centuries, and

**Whereas**, there are alternative energy sources, such as wind and solar, that are safe, ecologically sustainable, and economically feasible, that do not cause climate change, and that do not carry with them the risks of nuclear weapon proliferation and terrorism, nor has the control over such resources been a cause of war between nations,

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that Veterans For Peace opposes any effort to expand nuclear energy and calls for the rapid reduction of existing nuclear power plants, and the complete elimination of nuclear power plants by 2020, and

**Be It Further Resolved** that Veterans For Peace supports the development of a safe, sustainable, and democratic energy system based on solar, wind, and other sustainable sources.

Submitted by Eugene E Ruyle, USMC 1957-1960 (enlisted), VFP East Bay Chapter #162  
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**Background at: <http://www.NoNukesNow.net>**

OUR MISSION: Veterans For Peace, Inc. (VFP) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational and humanitarian organization dedicated to the abolishment of war. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE We, having dutifully served our nation, do hereby affirm our greater responsibility to serve the cause of world peace. To this end we will work, with others (a) To increase public awareness of the costs of war (b) To restrain our government from intervening, overtly and covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations (c) To end the arms race and to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons (d) To seek justice for veterans and victims of war (e) To abolish war as an instrument of national policy. To achieve these goals, members of Veterans For Peace pledge to use non-violent means and to maintain an organization that is both democratic and open with the understanding that all members are trusted to act in the best interests of the group for the larger purpose of world peace. <http://www.veteransforpeace.org>

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## ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY THE YEAR 2020

Resolution 2011-5, to be approved at the National Convention of Veterans for Peace in Portland, Oregon, August 3-7, 2011. This resolution has already been approved by the East Bay and San Francisco Chapters.

**Whereas**, President Barack Obama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in large part for his “vision of a world free from nuclear arms,” but until the underlying roots of the nuclear weapons complex are addressed such words remain empty rhetoric, and

**Whereas**, in 1967, a few months before his assassination, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., another American Nobel laureate, in speaking about the war in Vietnam, noted that the United States government was “the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today,” a sentiment which continues to resonate in light of the continuing wars in the Middle East, and

**Whereas**, neither Barack Obama nor any other United States President has ever issued a “no first use” policy on nuclear weapons, but instead the United States government has, on at least 25 occasions, threatened to initiate nuclear attacks on other nations, and

**Whereas**, the Obama Administration’s Nuclear Posture Review, released in April 2010, contains plans for a vital and continuing role of nuclear weapons in US foreign policy with no plans to eliminate nuclear weapons in the foreseeable future, and

**Whereas**, there are powerful economic interests, often called the “Merchants of Death,” which profit from United States nuclear weapons and the rest of the U.S. war machine and which exert an undue and undemocratic influence on U.S. policy, and

**Whereas**, Mayors for Peace, an international organization led by the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and representing nearly 5000 cities in 150 nations, has developed Vision 2020, a practical plan for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2020, and

**Whereas**, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in his “Beyond Vietnam” speech quoted above, stated that the “war in Vietnam is but a symptom of a far deeper malady within the American spirit” and that “we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values,” sentiments which command consideration in light of our continuing wars and continuing reliance on nuclear weapons as an crucial part of our foreign policy,

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that Veterans For Peace endorses the Mayors for Peace Vision 2020 campaign for the complete abolition of nuclear weapons by the year 2020, and

**Be It Further Resolved** that Veterans For Peace urge President Barack Obama and other U.S. policymakers, as well as our members and supporters, to read Dr. King’s “Beyond Vietnam” speech and reflect on its meaning for the Twenty First Century.

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