



David Cline, We Salute You

*A Letter from National Veterans For Peace Executive Director,
Michael T. McPhearson*

David Cline passed away early September 15, 2007. Most of you know that David was a giant in the Veteran's anti-war and peace movements. A national coordinator and long time member of Vietnam Veterans Against the War as well as former President of Veterans For Peace, David was a crucial part of the explosion in VFP's growth and led us in our planning and actions as we have resisted the invasion and occupation of Iraq. David was a giant among people who motivated all of us to action by modeling leadership and providing inspiration.

David was my boss, mentor, friend and I loved him. He recruited me into VFP by simply being the person he was, a veteran working for peace. There are few people outside of my family whose death means such a loss to me personally. There are few in our nation whose loss means so much to our movement.

A quote David loved so much guided his thoughts and actions. He carried it in his wallet so that he could whip it out to motivate us at any time. Of course he also had it memorized.

"If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom, and yet depreciate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters. This struggle may be a moral one; or it may be a physical one; or it may be both moral and physical; but it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will. Find out just what a people will submit to, and you have found out the exact amount of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them; and these will continue till they are resisted with either words or blows, or with both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress." Frederick Douglass

David Cline We Salute You.



David Cline speaks at a rally

Memorial Fund

VFP has setup a fund to help Gladys Simer, David's life companion, with burial cost and expenses. Donations will also help Gladys transition from her life with David sharing everyday expenses to a life without him in her presence, but now in her heart. Please note on your check that the donation is for the David Cline Burial and Expenses Fund, and mail to:

David Cline Burial and Expenses Fund
Veterans For Peace
216 South Meramec Ave.
Saint Louis, MO 63105

Celebration of David Cline's Life

In remembrance of a person who would want us to keep up the struggle and have fun along the way, there is planning in the works for a celebration of David Cline's life, a concert event. The happening will be held in New York City. The tentative date is January 11, 2008, more details to follow.

More Online

Find links on the national VFP website <<http://www.veteransforpeace.org/>> where you can read more about David, see photos, and articles that he wrote, as well as read and contribute to an online memorial.

The Petraeus Report

by Stan Goff

*Reprinted from the September 12, 2007 issue of the online magazine, Counterpunch
<<http://www.counterpunch.org/goff09122007.html>September 12, 2007>*

In military drill there is something called the preparatory command and the command of execution. These were the two commands, followed in lockstep by the press yesterday:

Prepare to kiss ass.

Kiss ass.

Or should I say David Petraeus' ass, followed by a whole raft of retired generals who were immediately featured on the television "news" to re-spin the Petraeus' spin, where he used the terms "al Qaeda Iraq" and "ethno-sectarian" about 2,000,000 times apiece in the space of a few hours.

Members of Code Pink and Iraq Veterans Against the War, who had infiltrated the hearing room, were serially arrested when they took their turns shouting things like "How long will you listen to these people?" and "Liar!" from the back of the room. God bless 'em.

The articulate, level-voiced General, though he only went to combat when Bush invaded Iraq, has more fruit salad on his chest than any veteran of three previous wars.

Cheney's input was in evidence in the psyop, mantra-like repetition of the key phrases as a form of mass mesmeric suggestion... "al Qaeda Iraq" ... "ethno-sectarian"... "al Qaeda Iraq" ... "ethno-sectarian"... "al Qaeda Iraq" ... "ethno-sectarian"... "al Qaeda Iraq" ... "ethno-sectarian"...

All designed to instill the same refrain we heard in the runup to the war, Iraq associated with 9-11...oh, that's tomorrow! Surprise!

...and of course, the war is an affair of those ethno-sectarian primitives (the former guerrillas who were handed Anbar Province have been re-spun into "tribal" leaders and sheiks"). The US occupation force (therein referred to as "coalition forces") is just there trying to keep them from slaughtering each other, provoked as they have been by who? Oh yeah, "al Qaeda Iraq."

Rumsfeld's ghost made its early appearance with the charts and graphs. Metrics, anyone? The Commander-in-Chief, in rallying the most revanchist sectors of his diminishing base, recently invoked Vietnam and the betrayal thesis: that liberal press and those left-wing hippies undermined the war effort, and if we could have killed just a million more Vietnamese, goddamnit, we'd have won. With Rumsfeld's metrics in Petraeus' mouth yesterday, we have

squared the circle with the simultaneous reincarnation of Robert MacNamara and William Westmoreland.

Light at the end of the tunnel, anyone?

No Cheney-Rumsfeldian tableau is complete without its diabolus ex machina—Iran naturally. Petraeus invoked Iran early and often, beginning with the now widely accepted and completely unsupported claim that Iran is supplying weapons to Iraqi "insurgents." This is one that provoked the arrest of a Code Pinker in the back benches, when she shouted "That's a lie!"

She was right, of course. This phony claim, originated out of the Public Affairs offices of the Pentagon, has nonetheless become an article of faith with the "journalists" of the American corporate fourth estate.

The most enjoyable and potentially redemptive aspect of the whole dog-and-pony show were the handful of Congress members who—under pressure from war-weary constituents and the polls showing rock-bottom approval ratings for the newly-empowered Democrats—lit into Petraeus with a vigor seldom seen in the hallowed halls of hearingdom.

Congressman Tom Lantos (D-California) assaulted the credibility of the administration with an unusual enthusiasm, with—of course—a ritual denunciation of Iran, and called for immediate withdrawal of US forces. Fellow Californian Loretta Sanchez as much as called Petraeus and his co-conspirator Crocker liars.

Others weighed in, along partisan lines mostly. Nothing shocking there, though my gut tells me that the California Democratic Party—holding within its embrace Barbara Lee, the sole Congressional dissenter against the resolution granting the Bush administration war-making powers—is thinking about its besieged national Speaker, Nancy Pelosi, now facing an electoral challenge from Cindy Sheehan.

Unfortunately, this is the backdrop. The 2008 elections, not the charnel house of American occupation in Iraq.

Behind all the panting about the "heroism" of US troops, and the "sacrifices" of military families who see that dreaded military in the driveway, this is mostly about political ambition and the family feud over which party will run the executive committee for Wall Street and the defense industries.

Not a single member of Congress yesterday cited the

Continued next page...



Bush Drops Bomb on Vets

by Rob Hepburn

Acting like a stealth bomber, on August 30, 2007, the Bush Department of Education dropped an economic bomb on the HSU Veterans Upward Bound program.

The HSU Veterans Upward Bound program was established in 1973 by Veterans for Veterans; it has been staffed these 33 years by veterans dedicated to helping their fellow veterans get their lives back on track through higher education.

This highly successful program has helped thousands of veterans earn university degrees. Even more important, by helping these veterans heal from the spiritual trauma of war, through their educational, emotional and spiritual support, the staff of Veterans Upward Bound have brightened the lives of their family members, friends, and many others. They have literally helped thousands of people!

Now with a "FedEx message" giving them one day's notice, their economic existence has been terminated!

This is the only university Veterans Upward Bound program on the entire West Coast! Now, veterans will no longer have this vital support system, and the dedicated staff of HSU Veterans Upward Bound Program will find themselves jobless!

We as veterans along with all members of our community cannot let this happen! Please call or write the following representatives, asking them to urge the U.S. Department of



Shameless: He'll use soldiers for photo ops, but Bush's agenda apparently does not include meaningful benefits for veterans.

Education to reinstate funding for HSU Veterans Upward Bound.

Congressman Mike Thompson	707-269-9595
Senator Barbara Boxer	707-403-0100
Senator Diane Feinstein	707-393-0707
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger	916-445-2841.

Beginning Monday, September 24, you can also stop in the Veterans Upward Bound office at the 14th Street HSU Annex to sign form letters to our representatives and the U.S. Department of Education. Let's save HSU Veterans Upward Bound!

Petraeus Report ...continued from page 2

most recent extrapolation of Lancet Report showing that around a million Iraqis have been "sacrificed" by the occupation. In a typical US neighborhood with families averaging four, this would be represented by a funeral in every sixth house.

'Spouse I've said this before, but the target of our misbehaviors (at least Code Pink and IVAW were on hand to disrupt yesterday) must be the Democratic Party. They can ignore another protest on the National Mall, but they can't ignore people occupying their local Congressional offices. These occupations to end the occupation need to become ubiquitous.

Last year, I shocked many colleagues by recommending they vote for Democrats across the board in 2006, but folks didn't read the fine print. We needed to put these people in power to expose them. They were taking cover in the "we're-just-a-minority" bunker. Now they are in the open, and the institutional rot as well as the class loyalties of the Democratic Party are on vivid display.

What we saw on Monday, aside from the Petraeus-Crocker Show, in the loss of good manners by a few Democrats, was a display of the latent power of a wakeful people. The Code Pinkers and Iraq Veterans Against the War represent a minority in American politics right now, just as anti-slavery advocates once were. But let there be no confusion; this minority—which numbers now in the millions—has the power to put its principles into action in an instrumental way: by threatening the fortunes of one of the ruling class parties in the United States on the issue of a criminal imperial war.

Misbehavior works. Delegitimate. Disobey. Disrupt.

Stan Goff is a member of Veterans For Peace from North Carolina. He is the author of *Hideous Dream: A Soldier's Memoir of the US Invasion of Haiti* (Soft Skull Press, 2000), *Full Spectrum Disorder* (Soft Skull Press, 2003) and *Sex & War* which will be released approximately December, 2007. He is retired from the United States Army. His blog is at <www.stangoff.com>.



VA Cancer Data Blockade May Imperil Surveillance

by Michael Smith, Senior Staff Writer, *MedPage Today*, August 31, 2007

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 31—Stonewalling by the Veterans Administration is putting U.S. cancer surveillance and research in jeopardy, according to many of the researchers involved in those fields.

After decades of sharing data freely and allowing researchers to get in touch with its patients, the agency has been blocking such activity for the past several years, according to Dennis Deapen, Dr.PH., of the Los Angeles Cancer Surveillance Program and the University of Southern California.

The result, Dr. Deapen said, is that California state data on cancer incidence rates are being skewed. And that, he said, is likely to have serious effects on national data.

The California Cancer Surveillance Program has seen a sharp drop in the agency's reporting of new cases to Californian cancer registries beginning in late 2004—from 3,000 cases in 2003 to almost none by the end of 2005, according to an article in the September issue of *Lancet Oncology*.

But the problem is not restricted to California, according to Holly Howe, Ph.D., of the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) in Springfield, Ill.

"California has been very energetic in evaluating the impact of the loss of VA cases on completeness and the ability to produce accurate incidence data," Dr. Howe said.

"But it's not just California—it's nearly every state," she said.

However, California and Florida—where VA reporting of cancer cases has also been blocked—have large populations of veterans and large VA medical facilities, she said.

Missing data from those two states has the potential to warp national estimates, she said.

Lancet Oncology quoted Raye Ann Dorn, the VA's national coordinator of cancer programs, as saying that only California and Florida were withholding data, mainly because of privacy concerns.

Dorn was not immediately available for comment on the eve of the Labor Day weekend.

Lancet Oncology said other VA officials pointed out that of the 130 medical centers that collect cancer data, only 29 withheld cases from state cancer registries in 2006.

But the journal also said that, according to CDC data, VA centers in seven states are not reporting cancer cases and in six others, at least one VA facility is not reporting.

All told, "40 000 to 70 000 cases are potentially missed nationally each year," the journal quoted a CDC spokesman.

Dr. Howe said her organization and others have been trying to persuade the VA to resume wholehearted data-sharing, but with little success. "We've been trying to solve this for over

five years," she said.

Asked if she knows what's behind the policy, Dr. Howe said flatly: "No."

Representatives of a "whole cadre of associations"—including NAACCR, the CDC, the American Cancer Society, and the National Cancer Institute—met in early August to discuss the issue, Dr. Deapen said.

He said the VA position has two main effects.

The skewing of national and state cancer incidence rates, he said, is "correctable."

"The VA still has the data," he said. "They could hand it out and then we could correct incidence rate data."

What is "incorrectable," he said, is the effect the data blockade could have on research.

Dr. Deapen said, for example, that researchers investigating the causes of a particular type of cancer might be misled if they were not aware of a cluster of cases being treated in VA hospitals.

"Once that study is done, (the researcher) doesn't get to go back and do it over," Dr. Deapen said. Research during this period "will forever require an asterisk" to remind other researchers that it might not be correct.

But even when states get VA data, some cases may slip through the cracks under a related VA policy that forbids interstate data-sharing, he said.

For instance, he said, it's common for veterans in some eastern states to seek treatment in neighboring states.

The host state doesn't count them, because they live next door. And the VA refuses to notify the home state or let the host state do so, so that some cases are simply never counted, Dr. Deapen said.

Several of the cancer registries that are being locked out of VA data take part in the Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) program, according to Brenda Edwards, Ph.D., of the National Cancer Institute, which operates the database, a valued resource for epidemiological research.

"This will significantly impact reporting in SEER," Dr. Edwards told *Lancet Oncology*.

The collection of disease incidence data is a state responsibility, Dr. Deapen said, but the VA—as a federal agency—is under no obligation to comply with state laws.

Nonetheless, for years the VA voluntarily shared its data and allowed access to patients, he said.

"We had it right and we were doing a good job," Dr. Deapen said. "Now we need to get back on track."

This article was submitted by Fred Hummel. Source reference: Bryant Furlow. "Accuracy of US cancer surveillance under threat." *Lancet Oncology* 2007;8: 762-63.



Our Vision: An “Oasis of Healing” for Veterans

by Mark B. Knipper, VFP-56 Veterans Service Committee Chair

With a budding national interest in serving returning veterans from models such as Swords to Plowshares or Global Village programs and wilderness and adventure based therapy concepts, there is a movement afoot. One that is matching aging farmers with returning veterans who need a place to unwind and learn techniques to manage the farm, ranch or dairy themselves. Farmers–Veterans Coalition and California Farm Link are working nationally and statewide respectively, to provide farming and mentoring opportunities to returning veterans.

Nadia McCaffery and her Sgt. Patrick Ryan McCaffery “Veterans Village” concept has begun on 80 acres in North Carolina. The project is being coordinated by a wounded Marine Iraq War veteran. Global Village offers Buddhist retreats for returning veterans, taught by Buddhist monk Claude Ashan Thomas, a Vietnam combat veteran. Vets Stage is working with returning veterans on developing their manuscripts for plays from their personal experiences and acting out their part. A person with internet access can Google any one of the programs mentioned above and discover more in regard to programs and ideas for supporting wayward veterans upon their return; there are some amazing links on these pages as well.

We have begun working locally to obtain land for veterans to initially camp on, and eventually build ‘green,’ self-sustaining structures for housing, dining, workshops and farming, with buildings for art and theater to follow. Our vision is to create an ‘oasis of healing’ for houseless veterans returning from current conflicts in the Middle East and Afghanistan as they are mentored by houseless veterans from the Vietnam and other conflicts. Interwoven throughout the retreat program will be the theme of engaged Buddhism. Our belief is that with this thread begins an adventure of self discovery and learning, such as personalized coping skills in order to heal, and maintain the healing. An individual’s personal spirituality will always be respected, as it is in Buddhist teachings.

The entire program and structure will be coordinated and facilitated by onsite Wilderness, Adventure Based Therapy and Dharma trained clinicians, social workers and support staff, with input on appropriate topics from the participants.

Our concepts and theories build from a foundation of the therapeutic values of working in the soil and organic farming, learning green building techniques and participation in eco adventures and vision quests. We will develop and provide art therapy workshops, delving in clay, music and theatre. We will develop and provide yoga classes to promote self awareness, understanding, transformation and inner peace. We will develop and provide working relationships and job skills in

animal husbandry, culinary skills, carpentry, irrigation and plumbing, biomass conversion, composting toilets and off grid electrical and hydro systems. All this will be supported and created through group discussion, therapy, and wilderness adventures. Individuals will also be provided with one on one therapy as needed.

Once the farm/retreat is established we will build a small theatre for music and stage performances, as well as any other special occasions. The farm will work to become self sustaining financially by producing food, arts and crafts, and fundraisers, and by conducting eco hiking, biking and rafting/kayaking tours.

The farm will incorporate a mentoring match program for youth and young men who are houseless and in need of guidance, these young men will serve as support staff on the farm in construction, janitorial, food preparation, soil preparation, animal husbandry, composting, invasive plant removal and other necessary tasks on the farm, while learning these and other marketable skills, they will receive individualized mentoring from a veteran participant and or counseling from an on site clinician or social worker as needed.

These dreams are not that far fetched. The nonprofit status is available, the land is available, now all we need is the money—ain’t it always so?—and yet there are grant monies available out there, and fundraising potential, with a Farm Aid for veterans concept, which can happen locally. Our “Getting Grounded” Veterans and damaged at-risk youth retreat ideally will be located next to the Trinity Wilderness Area, (Somes Bar), or any rural ranch or farm available in extreme Northern California. We will be happy to continue to keep you all updated as we move forward with this project, and in regard to the many other programs nationwide as well.



Shut Down the School of the Americas!

Northern Humboldt Welcomes the Founder of SOA Watch...



Fr. Roy Bourgeois

Wed. Oct. 3

1:30-3:30 & 4:00-6:00 – FREE TALKS

Green & Gold Room, Founders Hall, HSU

7:00 PM – DINNER WITH ROY

Chicken & Vegan entrees; \$15 to \$20 don.

Marsh Commons, 101 H Street, ARCATA

Reservations appreciated: 498-5889

Thurs. Oct. 4

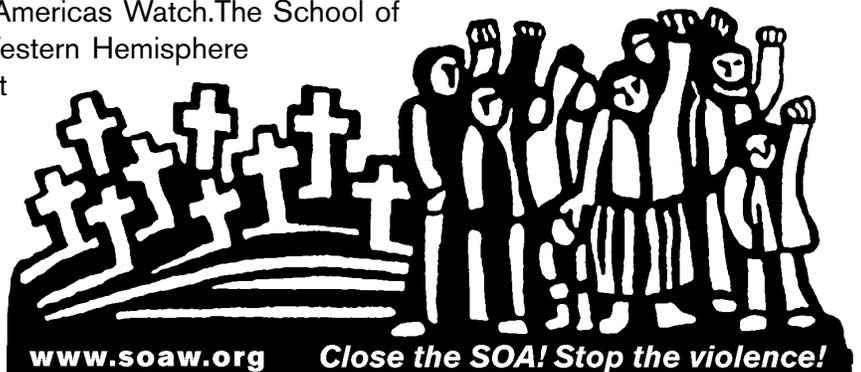
6:30-8:30 PM – FREE TALK

Labor Temple, 840 E Street, EUREKA

Fr. Roy Bourgeois served as a Naval Officer for two years before entering the seminary of the Maryknoll Missionary Order. Ordained a Catholic priest in 1972, Roy went on to work with the poor of Bolivia for five years before being arrested and forced to leave the country, then under the repressive rule of dictator and SOA grad General Hugo Banzer. In 1980 Fr. Roy became involved in issues surrounding US policy in El Salvador after four US churchwomen—two of them friends of his—were raped and killed by Salvadoran soldiers. Roy became an outspoken critic of US foreign policy in Latin America. Since then, he has spent over four years in US federal prisons for nonviolent protests against the training of Latin American soldiers at Ft. Benning, Georgia. In 1990, Roy founded School of the Americas Watch. The School of the Americas (SOA), in 2001 renamed the “Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation,” is a combat training school for Latin American soldiers, located at Fort Benning, Georgia.

No more murder in our name!

Father Roy in Northern Humboldt is brought to you by VFP Chapter 56. Co-sponsored by the Green Party of Humboldt County. For more info. call Gordy, 498-5889.



www.soaw.org

Close the SOA! Stop the violence!



"My Name is Rachel Corrie"

A theatrical production about the life of Rachel Corrie, a 23-year-old American college student and human rights activist killed in Palestine, will be performed at two theaters in Arcata this October. Directed by Tisha Sloan, currently of Dell'Arte, and starring local actress Kelly Nixon, the script is drawn from Corrie's diaries and e-mail, spanning her life from childhood right up 'til the moment of her untimely death in 2003 when she was crushed by an Israeli military bulldozer while attempting to block the demolition of the home of a Palestinian family in Gaza.



The production opened in London in 2005 to rave reviews, and has met with international success as well as controversy, most notably in the United States, where the postponement of its premier in New York sparked debate amidst accusations of political censorship.

But *My Name is Rachel Corrie* reaches far beyond political controversy, examining the life of a passionate young woman who felt called to action wherever she saw injustice. On fire with life from the start, a two-year-old Rachel is reported to have looked out at Capitol Lake in Washington and said: "This is the wide world, and I'm coming to it." Her words leave no doubt that she made good on that promise.

The play runs the last two weekends in October 2007:

- **Thursday through Sunday, October 18–20**
Studio Theater adjacent to Van Duzer, Humboldt State University (a.k.a. "Black Box" Theater)
- **Thursday through Saturday, October 25–27**
Arcata Playhouse, 501 9th Street, Arcata

All shows start at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 to \$20 sliding scale, and \$5 for students. Both Thursday performances are "pay-what-you-can." Call Susan at 826-0515 for more information or to reserve tickets.

* * *

This production is spearheaded by the Humboldt Branch of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and co-sponsored Veterans For Peace Chapter 56.

Pity the Nation

Amy Goodman recently interviewed Lawrence Ferlinghetti, the 88-year-old poet and founder of City Lights Bookstore in San Francisco. He read a new poem of his about which he said, "I really want to get this out."

PITY THE NATION (After Khalil Gibran)

Pity the nation whose people are sheep,
and whose shepherds mislead them.

Pity the nation whose leaders are liars, whose
sages are silenced,
and whose bigots haunt the airwaves.

Pity the nation that raises not its voice,
except to praise conquerors and acclaim the bully
as hero
and aims to rule the world with force and by
torture.

Pity the nation that knows no other language but
its own
and no other culture but its own.

Pity the nation whose breath is money
and sleeps the sleep of the too well fed.

Pity the nation—oh, pity the people who allow
their rights to erode
and their freedoms to be washed away.
My country, tears of thee, sweet land of liberty.

— Lawrence Ferlinghetti





**Veterans For Peace
Humboldt Bay
Chapter 56**

Phone: 707-826-7124
Email: VFP56@aol.com
http://www.vfp56.org

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Rob Hepburn, Steve Stamnes
Judi Rose, Linda Sorter
Jim Sorter, Steve Sottong
Gordon Anderson

STANDING COMMITTEES

WMD/DU: Peter Aronson

General Store: Doug Smith

Media: Becky Luening

**Veterans Education and
Outreach Project (VEOP):**

Carl Stanil & Jon Reisdorf

Veterans Service Committee:

Mark Knipper

LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

If you would like to submit an article, opinion, comment or response to anything you have read that might interest the members of VFP-56, please email it to turtldncer@aol.com in Word format, or mail to Jim Sorter at 1762 Buttermilk Lane, Arcata, CA 95521. Submissions will be included on a first come basis until the newsletter is full. Late arriving submissions will be archived for future issues.

- Food for Thought -

"When I despair, I remember that all through history the ways of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants, and murderers, and for a time they can seem invincible, but in the end they always fall. Think of it . . . always."

— Mahatma Gandhi

"The cause of violence is not ignorance. It is self-interest. . . Only reverence can restrain violence—reverence for human life and the environment."

—Rev. William Sloan Coffin, Jr.

"If everyone demanded peace instead of another television set, then there'd be peace."

—John Lennon



Veterans For Peace Chapter 56
P.O. Box 532
Bayside, CA 95524

VFP Dinner with Father Roy Bourgeois

Wed., October 3, 2007

7:00–9:00 pm

Marsh Commons, 101 H Street, Arcata

>> For details see page 6 <<

Next VFP 56 Meeting

Thursday, October 4, 2007

7:00–9:00 pm

Marsh Commons, 101 H Street, Arcata

Info: 707-826-7124