

SPRING 2021

PEACE TALK

NORTH CAROLINA PEACE ACTION NEWSLETTER

North Carolina Peace Action hosts Statewide Unity Gathering

On April 10 NCPA held a statewide gathering via Zoom.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B749fxm8RT0&t=767s>

Presenters were Kim Porter, co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign ecological section.

Ken Jones, who discussed Raytheon's presence in western NC and more; Ashley Carrington, with Fed Up, Raise Up; and Kevin Martin, national chair of Peace Action.

Kim talked about Duke Energy and its 15-year plan. We advocate for 100% renewable energy by 2025. We are encouraged to make comments to the NC Utilities Commission and to keep up with NC Warn.

Ashley reminded us of White Supremacy, White Fragility, White Privilege, all being part of our makeup as a country. What used to be thought of as a "black problem" is not that at all. White people need to examine our own racist behavior because the legacy of slavery and racism "has touched all our souls."

The military industrial complex is alive and well.

That is real security.

Specifically, as to Raytheon, it is in NC because We are the most military friendly state in the US.

A secret deal occurred between the defense contractor and state

and local level politicians and businesses to give Raytheon \$27 million AND 25 acres of land for FREE. The forest has already been cleared (outrageous), as usual the "promise of jobs" wins out over environmental preservation. They are going to be making parts for the F 35 fighter jet. Not exactly a feather in our, meaning peace activists' cap.

What can be done?

Reject Raytheon in Asheville. They are planning ongoing Street actions. The next is Sunday May 2at 7pm. We need to let state officials know we are not happy about this%

Reject Raytheon AVL:

Website: <http://rejectraytheonavl.com/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RejectRaytheon>

Ken Jones in WNC mentioned that in Eisenhower's speech about the MIC a phrase was deleted: the Military Industrial Congressional complex. Perhaps he should have left it in because we see it now for sure. Things that stood out to this writer: the Pentagon spends 1 million dollars every minute, Wall Street is the ultimate profiteer, the Big Five contractors, Lockheed, Northrop Boeing, Raytheon, and General Dynamics all profit immensely from our overblown "defense" budget.

The US still has 800 military bases around the world. Some of our tax dollars are used to fund mercenaries.

The US still has a goal of dominating land, sea, air, space, and cyber sphere. It goes without saying that \$800 billion for weapons of war could finance education and health care for Americans.

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/rejectraytheonavi/>

Finally, we heard from Kevin Martin.

What are the national priorities?

Nuclear disarmament, military budget, peace voter, defund the police and defund the Pentagon. He reminded us that our actions should be fun! And to get into good trouble.

He gave us A line from a David Crosby song that we need to keep in mind is

"Peace is not too much to ask. "

REJECT RAYTHEON

Reject Raytheon teach-in on the military-industrial-congressional complex webinar

Christian Sorensen is a researcher, journalist, and author focused on the U.S. war industry. He contributes frequently to independent media outlets. He is currently a senior fellow at the Eisenhower Media Network, an organization of independent veteran military and national security experts. Understanding the War Industry is his seminal book describing today's military-industrial-congressional complex. His website: <https://warindustrymuster.com>. Twitter: @cp_sorensen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qUtlJku51C8>

Climate & Militarism Teach-In – Resources

"Below are the recordings, slides, and references from all sessions. Here is the [Zoom Recording](#) link from the last session so you can see all of the places to plug in! Each page has links to slides, references, and Zoom recordings.

[Day 1 Resources](#) | [Day 2 Resources](#) | [Day 3 Resources](#) | [Day 4 Resources](#)



2021 Memorial Day Commemoration for Victims of War

Each year, as an alternative to the usual glamorization and glorification of war that accompanies Memorial Day, the Orange County Peace Coalition invites the greater Triangle community to its Commemoration for Victims of War -- war casualties, military families, civilian casualties, and the social structure deprived of resources due to the many costs of war.

We honor those in the military who have died, living veterans, and those who resisted, while bringing attention to the causes of conflict, the harm it does to society, and the many ways it intersects with other social ills.

This year's observance, a virtual Zoom gathering, will be held from **1 to 3:00PM. Monday, May 31.** For more information, contact Wes Hare wabbit4pz@nc.rr.com

The keynote address, "Everyday Resistance: The Art of Living with Endless War," will be offered by Dr. Joseph W. Groves, retired professor of Peace and Conflict Studies and project director of Palestine/Israel: The Economics of Inequality, Nonviolence International. Dr. Groves lived in Iraq from 1966-69, has traveled extensively in the Middle East, and has led several delegations to Palestine/Israel with Eyewitness Palestine.

Also on the program will be songs of peace by Mary Johnson Rockers and the Raging Grannies, selected poetry and other readings, an annual message from Veterans For Peace, and Memorial Day proclamations from the mayors of Chapel Hill and Carrboro. The program will conclude with the playing of "Taps" by Christopher Meglan.

MLK Beyond Vietnam

On April 3rd NCPA and the NC Poor People's Campaign held an online reading of Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech from April 4th 1967 at the Riverside Church. The event was livestreamed on the NC Poor People' Campaign Facebook page. Watch it [here](#).

The Kings Bay Plowshares 7 to receive Award

The Kings Bay Plowshares 7 will receive the Berrigan-McAlister Award from DePaul University during online ceremonies May 5. DePaul University established the award for Christian nonviolent action. The Kings Bay Plowshares 7 is a group of Catholic peacemakers who entered the Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay in St. Mary's, Georgia April 4, 2018 to protest the nuclear armed missiles carried by Trident submarines. There they read Scripture, prayed and spray-painted peace messages on a missile display and a building exterior before being arrested after several hours on the base.

Patrick O'Neil, a member of North Carolina Peace Action, is one of the Kings Bay Plowshares 7. In Patrick's words, "one trident submarine carries a payload of D-5 nuclear missiles that could end the human experiment. Trident is literally a diabolical doomsday machine. Since Trident is almost without opposition, we were compelled by our faith to come to Kings Bay. "

All seven were found guilty of charges stemming from their entry into naval base and were sentenced to prison terms of various lengths in federal facilities. Patrick is currently at Federal Correctional Institution Elkton in Ohio, serving a 14-month sentence. The following is his description of prison conditions that was published in the March 16 *Catholic Reporter*.

The prison has been under lockdown for more than a year. What that means for the incarcerated is that we are confined to crowded cellblocks of 64 cinder block cubicles 24 hours a day, seven days a week amid noisy, overcrowded conditions and without privacy.

In my case, my block includes a range of 110-120 men living in a room with bodies always in constant motion as men move about looking to pass time in meaningful ways. Most shuffle around in slapping flip flops. Many guys speak too loudly and there's a public address system where guards make shrieking, sometimes shocking, announcements throughout the day. The sensory overload is relentless, something akin to low-level torture.

We are let out for "rec" two or three times a week, but all we can do is walk or jog for an hour on a cement walkway or in the ice and snow that covers a gravel walking path that has been obscured since my arrival. The lockdown means we eat our meals in our cubicles, not in the chow hall; all programs, including 12-step programs, are shut down.

Patrick can receive letters at Patrick O'Neil, #14924-018, FCI Elkton, Federal Correctional Institute, P.O. Box 10, Lisbon, OH 44432. A letter to Patrick should have your full name in the return address.

We were able to use our hammers to smash a few statues of nuclear weapons the U.S. Navy erected at what we call "the missile shrine." Since Trident is almost without opposition, we were compelled by our faith to come to Kings Bay on the 50th anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. One trident submarine carries a payload of D-5 nuclear missiles that could end the human experiment. Trident is literally a diabolical doomsday machine embraced by most Americans".

On April 4, 2018, I joined 7 Catholic pacifists for a protest at the Kings Bay (GA) trident submarine base where we hammered on some idols. While no trident was in port, we were able to use our hammers to smash a few statues of nuclear weapons the U.S. Navy erected at what we call "the missile shrine." Since Trident is almost without opposition, we were compelled by our faith to come to Kings Bay on the 50th anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. One trident submarine carries a payload of D-5 nuclear missiles that could end the human experiment. Trident is literally a diabolical doomsday machine embraced by most Americans as

A group of Catholic peacemakers who acted to symbolically disarm nuclear weapons at a Georgia naval submarine base in 2018 are the first recipients of a new award for Christian nonviolent action established by DePaul University.

The Kings Bay Plowshares 7 will receive the Berrigan-McAlister Award during online ceremonies May 5, said Michael Budde, professor of Catholic studies and political science at the Vincentian school in Chicago.

"They are exemplars today of people who have made comparable sacrifices over the years to answer questions of peace and justice," Budde told Catholic News Service.

The Kings Bay group includes several members of the Catholic Worker Movement and longtime peace activists, among them Elizabeth McAlister, one of three people for whom the award is named.

The award also is named for McAlister's deceased husband, Phillip Berrigan, a former Josephite priest, and his brother, Jesuit Fr. Daniel Berrigan, who died in 2016.

Budde said the award will commemorate the 100th anniversary of Berrigan's birth May 9, 1921. The six other Kings Bay Plowshares participants are Jesuit Fr. Steve Kelly of the Bay Area in California and Catholic Workers Mark Colville of New Haven, Connecticut; Patrick O'Neill of Garner, North Carolina; Carmen Trotta of New York City; Clare Grady of Ithaca, New York; and Martha Hennessy of Vermont, granddaughter of Catholic Worker co-founder Dorothy Day.