



We Need a Peace to End All War

This week, I attended a session with representatives of Veterans for Peace. As the group does every Veteran's Day, two Vietnam veterans and a Gulf War veteran read letters from veterans and some family members, of many wars, including veterans who Americans would have perceived as 'enemy'. One striking thing is how much the veterans all have in common. The trauma, pain, terror, guilt, and loss they experienced is something they all said they lived with every day. These memories continue to haunt them. No one said they were better for it. No one expressed feelings of accomplishment. No one said coming home after war was easy or brought relief from the damage done to them by their experience. Veterans in the audience who were not supporters of Veterans for Peace, said their experience of war and its aftermath has been largely the same. A key sentiment expressed was that fighting "a war to end war," often held up as a goal, will never work. The veterans said, "we must work for the kind of peace that will end all war, only that is the answer." Only peace will save civilians and soldiers from the horrible tragedy of war.

After Thursday's school shooting, when word came that the shooter was no longer a threat, one commentator emotionally expressed thanks that "it's over." For those who lived through this day, and the families of those who did not survive, "it" has just begun. . . The trauma, pain, terror, guilt and loss will be relived often. To end war, we must learn to use peaceful tools including negotiation, diplomacy, forgiveness, and honesty. The same tools are needed to end such violence in our schools.

This week, in your prayer time remember:

- **2 are dead and 4 are wounded in a school shooting** in Santa Clarita California. Pray for all those effected as they begin the journey of living with what happened to them.
- **The people of Ukraine. Also the Kurds & others suffer from** ethnic & religion-based violence.
- **Those facing fire and storms** in California, Australia, and elsewhere in the world.
- **For remembrance, 1619 is set as the first year enslaved Africans were brought to North America. That is 400 years ago this year.** (In fact, enslaved people were bought to the Americas as early as 1501.) Slavery was not abolished in the US until 1865, & Jim Crow laws kept people of color from full citizenship for 103 years after that. The country still struggles to overcome this legacy. "This anniversary is an opportunity to remember and lament each of the millions of human beings--made in the image of God--who have been enslaved, tortured, and killed in the name of slavery, segregation, and white supremacy. We must [also] remember and lament that many American families benefited from these dehumanizing practices, whether through action or inaction. For this, we [must] repent." Alexandra Toms for *Newsline* 10 24 2019
- **Young People who are covered by DACA are waiting to hear what the Supreme Court will decide about them.** People in the DACA program voluntarily complied with requirements to provide all their personal information to the government. Back ground checks have been done on them so it is known that they are not criminals, on drugs, etc. They are students and hardworking people. Many US companies depend on their skilled work. People in DACA have no home in any other country, they were brought to the US as young children. This is their home



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