



Veterans For Peace Chapter 74 – The Michael Gramlich – Steve Saelzler -

Metro Detroit Chapter Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe Counties

www.vfp74.org – Chapter Contact: Bob Krzewinski – 734-218-3307 (cell/text) –

wolverbob@gmail.com - Also, visit us on Facebook, and “like” us at www.facebook.com/VFP74

January 2022 VFP Chapter 74 News Update

Receiving this Update by email but not yet a Veterans For Peace member? Please consider joining! Non-veterans can join as an Associate Member. The more VFP members there are, the more we can do. For membership information visit <https://www.veteransforpeace.org/donate/join-renew>

1. Chapter Chair Steve Saelzler Passes Away

It is with deep regret we announce that Steve Saelzler, Chair of Veterans For Peace Chapter 74, passed away on Sunday, December 5, 2021. May peace be with you our brother!

A full obituary for Steve that appeared in the Detroit Free Press and Detroit News can be viewed at <https://www.freep.com/obituaries/det109300>. Condolences for the passing of Steve Saelzler on can be sent to... Charmaine Guerriero & Family, 7121 S Huron River Drive, Rockwood, MI 48179

or

The Saelzler Family, 28355 Relda Drive. Brownstown, MI 48183



Photo's of Steve above are him helping set up the annual VFP Arlington Michigan display (one marker for every soldier killed in the Iraq and Afghan wars) at Detroit's Grand Circus Park on Memorial Day and when he appeared on a Chanel 50 TV interview in June 2017 where he was promoting peaceful resolutions of conflicts and Veterans For Peace. The third photo is Steve talking to a Peace Studies class at Wayne State University about being a combat soldier in Vietnam and why that experience made him a Veteran For Peace member.

Memorial services for Steve will take place Sunday, January 16, 2022, at the Downriver Alano Club, 2060 Council Ave, Lincoln Park, MI 48146 (map: <https://goo.gl/maps/1xWkSbhT5n9vmUQ19>) from 1pm to 4pm. Another memorial service will take place Sunday, January 30, 2022, at the Swords Into Plowshares Peace Center and Gallery, 33 E Adams Ave St, Detroit, MI 48226 (map: <https://goo.gl/maps/ywzev6hKggCgri159>) from 1pm to 4pm.

If you would like to make a donation in honor of Steve Saelzler, please consider supporting the Wayne State University Center for Peace and Conflict Studies. The goal of the Center is to develop and implement projects, programs, curricula, research, and publications in areas of scholarship related to international and domestic peace, war, social justice, arms control, globalization, multicultural awareness, and constructive conflict resolution. Steve made a number of visits to peace and conflict resolution classes, talking about his experiences in the military, why he joined Veterans For Peace and urging students to apply for Peace Studies Scholarships offered by Michigan VFP Chapter 93 (<https://www.vfp93.org/peace-scholarship>). Donations can be sent to Wayne State University, PO Box 674602, Detroit, MI 48267-4602. Also, please make the check out to Wayne State Center for Peace and Conflict Studies and put in the memo "deposit into index 225476." Thank you!

2. Now More Than Ever – Your Help Needed To Keep The Metro Detroit VFP Chapter Active!

Those who knew Steve Saelzler would readily agree on would be that after his death he would have wanted nothing more than for the Metro Detroit Chapter of Veterans For Peace to continue, grow, as well as gain new, active members and take on new projects.

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With that in mind, we invite veterans, and non-veterans, who agree with the VFP Statement of Purpose (<https://www.veteransforpeace.org/who-we-are>) and Code of Conduct (<https://www.veteransforpeace.org/who-we-are>) to become more active in the Metro Detroit VFP Chapter. Full membership is open to all veterans and non-veterans can join as associate members (details at <https://www.veteransforpeace.org/donate/renew-your-membership>).

What are the needs of Chapter 74? There are many...

- New Chapter officers are needed (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer)
- Help is needed on local membership (bringing in new members and making sure current members renew)
- Volunteers are needed to set up and staff the annual Memorial Day Arlington Michigan display in Grand Circus Park in downtown Detroit.
- Maintain and update the Chapter's web and Facebook page.
- Work on publicity for Chapter events
- Visit high schools to talk to students about all aspects of going into the military and the things your never hear from recruiters (see <https://tinyurl.com/VFP74-FullDisclosureRecruiting>)

So please, join us at our next Chapter meeting or call/email the acting Chapter Contact Bob Krzewinski at wolverbob@gmail.com or 734-218-3307.

3. Next VFP Chapter 74 Chapter Meeting - Note New Time And Day Of Week – Monday, January 10, 2022 - 7:30pm - Zoom Teleconference

The Monday, January 10, 2022, 7:30pm Veterans For Peace Chapter 74 meeting will be by Zoom teleconference only. There will be no face-to-face meeting. The change in meeting day is an attempt to see if a larger audience can attend a VFP meeting if it is held on a week night rather than a busy Saturday afternoon. To participate, five minutes before 7:30pm on Monday, January 10, 2022, click on...

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88688750187?pwd=UHNjY1lyT21tSEV3aEF0S1NuZjhudz09> - To join the meeting by telephone only, call 312-626-6799 and when prompted, enter a Meeting ID of 886 8875 0187. Anyone can participate in this meeting, or any other VFP Chapter 74 event, be they veteran or not. The meeting agenda is as follows...

1. Introductions and welcome
 - a. VFP mission statement
 - b. Members and guests present
2. General business
 - a. Steve Saelzler Passing & Memorial Services
 - b. Treasury report
 - c. Membership
 - d. Other
3. Old Business
 - a. Peace Pole WSU & Schools
 - b. Deported Veterans Mural Project
 - c. Mayors For Peace Michigan organizing
 - d. Other
4. New Business
 - a. Chapter growth and new officers
 - b. Arlington Michigan Memorial Day display at Grand Circus Park
 - c. Michigan Peace Alliance
 - d. Other
5. Upcoming events
6. Next meeting date
7. Adjournment

4. TAKE ACTION - Honor Steve Saelzler & Other Vietnam Vets – Have Representative Debbie Dingell Cosponsor HR 3518 - Victims of Agent Orange Relief Act of 2021

One suggestion, to honor the recently deceased VFP Chapter 74 Chair Steve Saelzler, is if your U.S. Representative is Debbie Dingell, to ask her to cosponsor HR 3518, the Victims of Agent Orange Relief Act.

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Sending an email message to Debbie can be easily done by going to this web site - <https://veteransforpeace.salsalabs.org/vaorrc-3518/index.html> - and adding your name and address. We also suggest you delete the second paragraph ("I'm urging you to co-sponsor HR 3518, the Victims of Agent Orange Relief Act, introduced by Representative Barbara Lee) and replace it with the following text...

In honor of your former constituent, Steven Saelzler, I am asking you to cosponsor H.R. 3518. Steve, who was for many years the Chair of Veterans For Peace Chapter 74, died in early December after a long fight with the after-effects of agent orange exposure while deployed to Viet Nam.

If you are in any other U.S. Congressional District, use the same link above and once you put your address in, the email program will automatically add the address of your U.S. Representative. Currently there are no Michigan U.S. Representatives who have cosponsored HR 3518.

5. January 6 Vigil for Democracy

The group "January 6 Vigil for Democracy" has set up a web page and urging local actions centered around the January 6, 2021, coup attempt and note that "*January 6, 2021 was a violent and deadly attack against all Americans – against our country, our democracy, and our freedom as voters to choose the leaders that represent us so that we have a government of, by, and for the people.*

One year later, the same faction that attacked our country on January 6th is hard at work silencing our voices by restricting our freedom to vote, attacking fair voting districts, and quietly preparing future attempts to sabotage free and fair elections and with it our democracy. So this January 6, exactly one year later, Americans across race, place, party, and background are holding candlelight vigils to say: In America, the voters decide the outcome of elections.

The promise of democracy is not a partisan issue but a calling that unites us as Americans. To prevent this kind of attack from happening again, our elected leaders must pass urgent legislation that will protect this country from anti-democratic forces who are continuing their efforts to destroy it. Coming together, we can prevent another January 6th attack and realize the promise of democracy for all of us - no matter our color, zip code, or income - so we all have an equal say in the decisions that shape our daily lives and futures."

As of the date this newsletter was published (1/1/2022), a "virtual" Detroit event was being worked on with a public event in Rochester Hills... Thursday, January 6, 4:30 – 6pm EST, Veteran Memorial Pointe, 1015 S Livernois Road, Rochester Hills, MI 48307 – Map at <https://www.mobilize.us/democracylvigils/event/433566/> - More details at <https://www.mobilize.us/democracylvigils/event/433566/>. For more on "January 6 Vigil For Democracy" and new local events, visit <https://www.mobilize.us/democracylvigils/>

6. Michigan Peace Alliance Formed

Over the past few months, peace and justice advocates (including Veterans For Peace Chapters in Michigan) have been working to form a new organization, the Michigan Peace Alliance, that "connects Michigan based organizations dedicated to peace, to share knowledge, resources, actions, and calendars to build a more peaceful, just and nonviolent society." A web page for the Michigan Peace Alliance is in development but the group does have a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Michigan-Peace-Alliance-100512129175722.

7. Activist Buttons – Union Made In Southeast Michigan

If you need peace and justice related buttons and stickers, consider visiting <http://www.peacebuttons.info>. The website also has signups for a peace and justice history e-newsletter.

8. Web Reads

[Why Are US Right-Wingers So Angry? Because They Know Social Change Is Coming](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/dec/20/rightwingers-us-social-change-coming)

As this article from The Guardian points out... "While the right has become far more extreme and has its tens of millions of true believers, it is morphing into a minority sect. This has prompted their desperate scramble to overturn free and fair elections and other democratic processes. White Christians, who were 80% of the population in 1976, are now 44%. Mixed-race and non-white people are rapidly becoming the majority". Read the whole article at <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/dec/20/rightwingers-us-social-change-coming>

[Congress Approved \\$778 Billion For The Pentagon. That Means We Can Afford Build Back Better](https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2021/12/16/congress-approval-778-billion-pentagon-afford-build-back-better-525130)

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9. Announcement, Anniversaries & Reminders

Every Friday - Welcoming New Detroit Immigrants

Welcome new refugees to the metro Detroit region Fridays at Detroit's Clark Park on the corner of Verner and Clark (map at <https://tinyurl.com/ClarkPark-Map>) from 3:45pm to 4:45pm. The name of the event is We Stand With Our Neighbors Immigration Vigil. This weekly vigil was started in response to school children in Southwest Detroit whose teachers and counselors are deeply concerned about the trauma students are experiencing as they face the threat and reality of detention and deportations. Our message is: No deportations! No ban! No wall! No harassment and intimidation! Their Facebook page is www.facebook.com/WeStandWithOurNeighbors.

VFP National Online Social Hours – Now Every Friday At 6pm EST

VFP has experimented with VFP Social Hours and members enjoyed the chance to chat and catch up (or meet) with other Veterans For Peace members. VFP will continue these every Friday at 6pm. (EST). To join the Social Hour, go to <https://zoom.us/j/324812650> or go to <https://zoom.us/join> and click join meeting and enter in Meeting ID: 324 812 650

Veterans For Peace National Weekly E-News List

Get updates on upcoming VFP national actions, ongoing campaigns and news from chapters across the country. Additionally, the e-news provides resources and helpful tips for engaging your own actions. To sign up visit <https://veteransforpeace.salsalabs.org/eblast0/index.html>.

Metro Detroit Peace Events Calendar

For a complete update of Metro Detroit area, visit the Gray Panthers of Metro Detroit website at www.graypanthersmetrodetroit.org/events-calendar

VFP John Lennon Birthday Benefit Concert CD

VFP Chapter 93, just to the west of us, has a compact disc (CD) recording of the musical artists performing at their October John Lennon Birthday Benefit Concerts over the years for the Chapter's Peace Scholarship program. And like the Concert, a purchase of the CD also goes to benefit the Peace Scholarship program. The John Lennon Birthday Benefit Concert CD can be purchased for \$15, plus \$3 for shipping, by PayPal, credit card, or by check, by visiting www.vfp93.org/john-lennon-concert-cd.

VFP Michigan Peace Scholarships

Applications are being taken now for the Veterans For Peace Michigan Peace Scholarships, sponsored by VFP Chapter 93. The Scholarships, out of an endowment provided by Yoko Ono to Veterans For Peace, are awarded to college students enrolled in a peace studies or conflict resolution related program. Awards are given to either Michigan residents, or students enrolled at a Michigan college, with a preference given to military veterans. For more information, visit <https://www.vfp93.org/peace-scholarship>.

Thinking About Joining The Military? Already In The Military Seeking Conscientious Objector Status, Delayed Enlistment Problems, Or Release From Service?

Visit our new "Thinking About Joining The Military? - Please Read This First" web page by [clicking here](#). The page includes before enlisting, how you should be able to honestly answer some basic questions, and have realistic expectations, about military life, a link to the 24-hour GI Rights Hotline for people already in the military, and a link to Project YANO (Youth And Non-Military Opportunities) with information about military enlistments, the delayed entry program and resources for alternatives to the military. Also, you will find a link to the Center On Conscience And War which has information on Selective Service registration, the draft, and conscientious objector status.

Our VFP Chapter Can Use Your Help

Currently our VFP Chapter has only a few people doing all the work and projects and to say we could use help is an understatement. Most of these jobs do not take up that much time at all, and would help out the Chapter immensely. One thing we are trying to promote is for people to sign up for a "volunteer email list". We always need extra people to help staff events like the Arlington Michigan display on Memorial/Veterans Day. Just tell us you want to be on the volunteer e-mail list and when an event date starts rolling around, we will email you to see if you can help out. If you can, great. If not, we understand. Even if you are not a veteran, we could still use your help. To be placed on the "volunteer email list", just send an email to Bob Krzewinski (Chapter Contact) at wolverbob@gmail.com or call— 734-218-3307 (cell/text) and he will get back in touch with you. Thanks in advance for your consideration of this request!!!