

## WELCOME!

Welcome Everyone! Welcome to GVCP members, friends, and allies, notably the Rochester Chapter 23 Veterans for Peace! Raise your hand if you are with Veterans for Peace! Raise your hand if you are a member of GVCP! If you are joining us for the first time, please know we are glad you came! Welcome ALL.

You may, or may not know, GVCP was founded in 1972. We are a chapter of Peace Action New York State. This is our 49th annual Hiroshima and Nagasaki Commemoration. Three of our founding members are here today, Dr's Arnold and Margaret Matlin, and Lil Lasson. I want to acknowledge another of our founding members, Gail Mott, who sends her good wishes, but is not able to stand with us tonight.

We are here to mourn, to remember, and stand, in solidarity with the Hibakusha and the people of Japan, and ALL the communities harmed by the destructive power of nuclear weapons at every level of their development, testing and use.

There's NO war that will end all wars. War breeds war. Our country is complicit in perpetuating war. In the words of the late poet Mary Oliver, "What keeps us from falling down, our faces to the ground, ashamed, ashamed?"

Still, there is hope... There are things we can do to counter war, to work to stop nuclear weapons. I encourage ALL of you to contact your representatives, ask them to co-sponsor

### **H. Res. 77:**

- embracing the goals and provisions of the Treaty in the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, including pursuing negotiations on new bilateral nuclear arms control and disarmament
- renouncing the option of First Use
- ending the President's sole authority to launch a nuclear attack
- take US nuclear weapons off hair trigger alert, and
- cancel plan to replace nuclear arsenal of the US with modernized, enhanced weapons

Also, ask your representatives to co-sponsor Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton's

### **H.R. 2775:**

The Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic Conversion Act of 2023, also known as Warheads to Windmills, the bill seeks to convert nuclear industry resources and personnel to purposes relating to addressing the Climate Crisis.

Also, ask your senators to introduce and support similar legislation to H.. Res.77 and H.R. 2775 .

Please visit our information table where we have copies of the 2023 Warheads to Windmills Summary Report, and more information.

In a moment, I will turn the mic over to GVCP member Chris Norton. Following Chris' remarks and reading, we will observe a period of silence, then enjoy an interlude of music with Rich Kronert. We will conclude our evening with luminaria, provided by Hank Stone, gathering into a circle, and singing acapella.

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