

UUAA Veterans for Peace Annual Report 2020-2021

Group Leader: Michael Muha

UUAA Veterans for Peace is part of a larger organization, Veterans for Peace, which is a global organization of Military Veterans and allies whose collective efforts are to build a culture of peace by using our experiences and lifting our voices. We inform the public of the true causes of war and the enormous costs of wars (including physical, psychological, emotional, environmental), with an obligation to heal the wounds of wars. Our network is comprised of over 140 chapters worldwide whose work includes: educating the public, advocating for a dismantling of the war economy, providing services that assist veterans and victims of war, and most significantly, working to end all wars.

We didn't do what we anticipated because of not having the usual social contact. Along with our parent organization, Veterans for Peace Chapter 93, accomplished the following:

- Martin Luther King Day presentations EMU, UM, and Ann Arbor Public Library, with the theme "Beyond Militarism: Where Do We Go From Here?" (<https://aadl.org/node/575155>)
- Ann Arbor's Veterans Park on Veterans Day, and Detroit's Grand Circus Park on July 4, erected a memorial for military members from Michigan killed in Iraq and Afghanistan - to remind people of the costs of war
- Awarded scholarships to student who will pursue studies in a Peace Studies program or other program that actively promotes the study of global conflict resolution or issues of peace and justice.
- To fund our scholarships, hosted a virtual John Lennon Birthday Concert with local musicians, and created a CD: <https://www.vfp93.org/john-lennon-concert-cd>

We definitely relate to the Sixth Principle: The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all, as well as the First Principle: The inherent worth and dignity of every person, and the Seventh Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.