



The Center on  
Conscience & War

# The Reporter for Conscience' Sake

Volume 60

Fall 2003

Number 3

## March on Washington: Keeping the Peace Flame Burning

J.E. McNeil

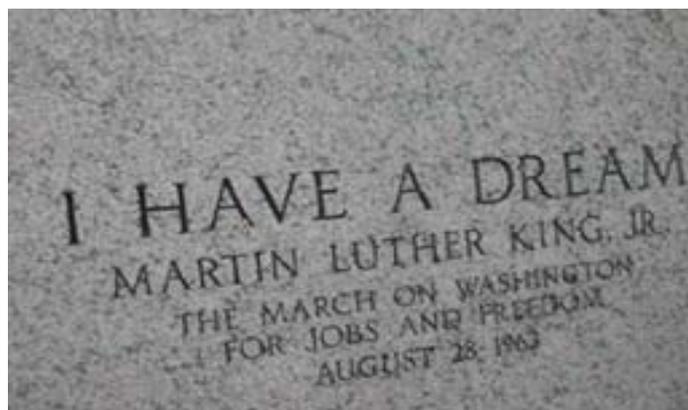
August 23, 2003, on the 40th anniversary of the historic March on Washington, thousands gathered at the Lincoln Memorial to celebrate and renew their commitment to Dr. Martin Luther King's vision. The Center on Conscience & War had a large presence there in a number of ways, making sure that King's call for peace was heard as clearly as his call for economic and racial justice. The event continues in a rolling mobilization to register voters in the next 15 months.

The Center, in fact, participated in both sponsoring the event and some of the planning. We helped draft the joint agenda which was subsequently published and distributed to thousands at the March by the National Urban League. The joint agenda included support for the end of Selective Service, reform of the military justice system to include conscientious objection as an affirmative defense, and the Military Selective Service Act. Also included were a call for the end of the School of the Americas and the Clem Diamond Trade Act (re: diamonds used to fund civil war in Africa).

The celebration, itself, began with an official unveiling of the engraving that marks the place where King stood when he gave his historic address. The engraving came about when an average citizen,

Thomas Williams of Louisville, KY, wrote his Congressional member, Republican Anne Northup, after not finding anything on his visit to the Nation's Capital. Williams told his story as others recalled the historic day. Before approximately 1,000 people, in spite of a thunderstorm approaching, the engraving was unveiled by Corretta Scott King and some of her children. Also speaking were Eleanor Holmes Norton,

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*Engraved Stone at the Lincoln Memorial*

## GI Joe: Conscientious Objector

Theodore Sittler

Imagine for a minute and do a mental exercise; jog back with me and put yourself in the place of GI

Joe. Joe is a senior in high school and graduation is just on the horizon. Joe has ambitions of going to college, but there is a problem, he is worried about the financial burden that will fall on his parents. The high school decides to host a college fair and many different colleges are present. Joe checks out the plethora of information that

the various tables have to offer and it is all so exciting. But at the same time, he is worried about the cost. One of the last tables that he comes to is setup by the local recruiting station for the U.S. Marine Corp and the first pamphlet that he picks up talks about gaining \$50,000 for college. Joe sees this as a solution to his problem. The recruiter, who is a friendly man, begins to talk to Joe about all the great things that the Marine Corp can offer. He talks about "more than 35 different career paths" from which he can choose. But Joe is more interested in the college money and he asks about it, which gives the recruiter a window into Joe's interest. He then entices Joe by telling him how "easy" it will be for him to earn the \$50,000. Then Joe fills out a card and walks

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**Jim Feldman, Sec.**  
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*The Reporter for Conscience' Sake* is a publication of the Center on Conscience & War.

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## News Briefs

### Prisoners of Conscience

Editor's Note: Many peace activists make great sacrifices for their activism. Many have paid the price by serving jail time by doing civil disobedience. On November 21st-23rd a solemn vigil is going to be held at Fort Benning, GA, home of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, also known as the School of the Americas. Here is a short list of those who, due to their peace beliefs, are currently serving jail time.

### School of the Americas

Patrick Lincoln #91400-020 (6 months - out 12/8/03)

FCI Cumberland, 14601 Burbridge Road SE, Cumberland MD 21502

Charity Ryerson #91335-020 (6 months - out 1/18/04)

FCI Pekin, POB 7000, Pekin, IL 61555

Vera Brown #91321-020 (6 months - Out 11/17/03)

Baltimore CCM 10010 Junction Dr. STE 101-N Annapolis Junction, MD 20701

Rev. Clifford Frasier #91370-020 (6 months - out 11/24/03)

Fort Dix FCI POB 38, Fort Dix, NJ 08640

Judy Bierbaum #89756-020 (6 months - out 11/17/03)

Victorville Med FCI, POB 5400, Adelanto, CA 92301

Derryln Tom #91362-020 (6 months - out 12/6/03)

FPC Dublin, 5775 8th St., Camp Parks, Dublin, CA 94568

### Conscientious Objector now in Jail

Stephen Funk (6 months - out 3/6/04)

Building 1041 PSC 20140, Camp Lejeune, NC 28542.

*Funk was (UA ) AWOL for 47 days so he could work on his CO application for discharge . He publicly opposed the invasion of Iraq. He is to receive a bad conduct discharge after his jail sentence is over.*

### Fighting is not over!

The White House said Friday, November 14, that U.S. troops would remain in Iraq until Saddam Hussein is killed or captured. President Bush told the Financial Times of London that the United States will maintain a military presence in Iraq and Afghanistan "until the job is done."

Next year, the Army will undertake its largest series of troop rotations since World War II, when it sends 85,000 new Army and Marine combat forces to Iraq to replace soldiers ending one-year tours.

Under the rotation plan, the overall number of American troops on Iraq will supposedly fall to 105,000 by May, from the current 131,600 .

### Enola Gay Controversy

"Do you want to do an exhibit intended to make veterans feel good, or do you want an exhibition that will lead our visitors to think about the consequences of the atomic bombing of Japan? Frankly, I don't think we can do both."- Tom Crouch, NASM curator

The controversy over how history should represent dropping an atom bomb on Japan is coming to a head. On December 15, the Smithsonian plans to exhibit the Enola Gay- which dropped the Atomic bomb on Hiroshima—as a magnificent technological achievement. However, they don't plan on mentioning the historical context or the controversy over the bombing.

By unleashing the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, the Enola Gay represents "a butchery of untold magnitude" to use the words of Pope Paul VI.

There will be a solemn vigil of nonviolent protest in front of the Enola Gay exhibit at 11a.m. on Monday, December 15, at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia. This is not the first time the exhibit has received controversy.

In 1994 the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum opened an exhibit entitled "The Crossroads: The End of World War II, the Atomic Bomb and the Cold War". The exhibit originally been planned to  
*(continued on page 5- Enola Gay)*

## Tim's Farewell

I leave the Center after a year of rapid personal growth and equipped with a new scope through which to see the world. I leave with a love for my country's youth questioning registration and conscientious objection and with a magnified love for my country's military personnel who are human beings, just like me. I am thankful for the loving community that I was able to work with in the office. I will continue to support and remember the Center morally and financially (as much as possible) for a long time. I will be moving back to Harrisonburg, VA, my home, for some time before continuing my education. Thanks for all of your support during my time here. Please continue your support of the Center, for I know from experience that they change peoples' lives every day.

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## Alec Hamilton Helps Out

Alec Hamilton

I am a 27 year-old activist and body-piercer, currently living in New Orleans but working in Washington DC for a month. My activism in New Orleans includes working with Food Not Bombs on food security, with the Plan B bicycle collective on bike accessibility and education, with the NO/AIDS taskforce, with the Humane Society's animal foster program, and with the New Orleans Food Co-op Planning Committee. I also work as a piercer and do bike delivery in the French Quarter. I believe in peace, demilitarization, equal rights, community and the power of a good vegan sandwich.

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## CCW gets another Brethren volunteer

Hello, my name is Eli Bainbridge. I have recently joined the Center's staff through Brethren Volunteer Service. I'm very excited to be working at the Center, and I look forward to all of the great learning possibilities. At the Center, my duties will include the Newsletter, GI rights/Draft counseling, and I handle most of the Center's data processing needs. I have been an advocate for peace my whole life, and I think working at the Center will be a great opportunity for me. During my service at the Center, I hope to accomplish a couple of things. First, I want to educate people about the military, and really separate the *Lies* from the *Truth*. Second, I want to help spread the message throughout the world that war will never be the answer. Finally, I want to bring awareness to the word Conscientious Objection. It is clear to me that not enough people understand that there is a word for what they believe. If I can do these things, I will have successfully finished my year and, more importantly, I will have made the world a better place.

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## James leaves

James Reichard, the Centers computer whiz leaves after a great run. During his time, he improved the website, and kept the action alerts up to date. We thank him for the job well done, and wish him nothing but the best in the future. We know that staff meetings will never be the same.

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## CCW staff is headed for Georgia

The CCW office will be a strong presence at this years SOA vigil. The center will have a table, and will be leading workshops throughout the weekend. It will be yet another opportunity to relay the message of non-violence.

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## CCW has Board/Staff Retereat

On November 2-3, the Center had a retreat for its staff and board members. The New Windsor Conference Center, in New Windsor, Maryland, provided the perfect setting.

It was the perfect opportunity for the staff to get together and meet the board members and, in many cases, introductions were made for the first time. During the retreat, we were able to share fellowship and discuss the future of the Center. We discussed the day to day tasks and were able to explain our duties and responsibilities to the board.

Long term goals were set and several different ideas were discussed. One idea that came from the retreat was the concept of adopting board members. A member of staff would adopt board members of their choice and it would be the responsibility of that staff person to keep the board member up to date with the current day to day functions of the Center. Whether we are going to draw straws or names from a hat, has yet to be determined.

It was a time to share and evaluate. I think everyone left the retreat with a better understanding about each other. Whether you were a board member or on staff, you definitely came away knowing more about the CCW family.

It will be nice now to put a face with a name. Everyone knows for the Center to achieve its mission that the staff and board must work together. This was a perfect time to get together, and check in. Faith journeys were shared and a clear understanding of each others role and duties were defined.

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the representative from Washington, DC; John Lewis, Congressional Member from Georgia and Rev. Walter Fauntroy. After the ceremony, hundreds crowded to see the words engraved in the granite.

As darkness fell a local Hip-hop group began to rap Peace and Justice poems even as the Park Service cut off first,



Corretta Scott King and Children

the microphones and then, the lights. In the increasing dark, the words rang true across the mall calling for freedom, justice and peace.

On the day of the march the weather was, thankfully, fine. The whole staff of CCW

attended the march. We established a booth in the Peace Tent and next to Fellowship of Renconciliation. Hundreds of people passed our table, and people who had never seen the fliers about military lies and conscientious objection stopped and talked. Several told us how the military had helped them, but we were always able to point out that they were from an earlier



Rep. John Lewis, Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton, & Corretta Scott King

time.

Executive Director J. E. McNeil spoke to a crowd of a few hundred in the Peace Teach-in. Her topic was primarily about the militarization of our youth and our country. McNeil spoke about the lies recruiters used to get the "Let No Child Be Left Unrecruited Act" passed [see Reporter Summer 2002 (Vol. 59 #2) edition]. She spoke about how recruiters and ROTC target minorities using the economic draft. She argued that this militarization was part of the 1990 papers which called for the invasion of Iraq to consolidate the power of certain individuals over the country and the world. She called the audience to the mission of keeping this militarization of our country from happening.

The main event was in the afternoon before a crowd of approximately 10,000. While most speakers remembered the often quoted "I have a dream" speech, Corretta Scott King admonished the crowd to remember that her husband's legacy was not just about racial and economic justice, but also peace. "We must make our hearts instruments of peace and nonviolence because when the heart is right, the mind and the body will follow," she said.

The movement behind the rally continues with a nationwide effort to register voters. The organizers believe that the true greatness of our nation is not found in the military might which many tout or in the economic power that we wield, but in the democratic voice of the many which, in recent times, has gotten lost. For this reason they seek to give Martin Luther King a birthday present of hundreds of thousands of registered voters who will again have a voice in the nation and the Congress which asks them to unquestioningly fight and kill in their country's name.

This latter part of the 40th Anniversary event may well be the most important part. If people allow a few to dictate how our country is run we may well live to see some of our most cherished rights we worked so hard to obtain destroyed before our very eyes.

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## World War I Pacifist Suffered for His Faith

**Melissa Jones** *Once despised, now honored, Ben Salmon endured jail, force-feeding and public contempt for his convictions*

The three Dominican nuns who were recently imprisoned for breaking into a missile site aren't the first witnesses for peace to cause a sensation in Denver. In 1917, during "the war to end all wars," labor activist Benjamin J. Salmon announced that he would not serve in the military. He was one of only four Catholics to resist military service during World War I. Salmon instantly became a target for contempt.

Catholicism's "just war" teaching has generally kept it from being considered a pacifist religion -- at least not in the same way as Quakers, the Church of the Brethren, and Mennonites have been considered. In 1917, there were no provisions for conscientious objectors of any kind, but members of the traditional "peace" churches could serve alternative service. Most Catholics were willing to serve in battle during World War I, in part because so many of them were immigrants who wanted to prove their patriotism. Salmon's choices were military duty or prison. He chose prison.

Salmon was born in Denver to a working class immigrant family in 1889. He was a devout Catholic who attended mass and was proud of his Knights of Columbus membership--until the Knights kicked him out for his pacifist views.

Salmon refused combat service because he said the gospel forbade killing. He refused to cooperate with any aspect of World War I because he believed it was a "capitalist war." He

(Continued on Page 5 - WW I)

wrote, "If Christians would have the same faith in their God that the non Christians have in a mere idealistic, "Thy kingdom come" would shortly be a reality in this world of sorrow and travail." He also wrote, "Countless millions of children will be underfed and underclothed and undereducated in the years to come in order that the debt of the recent hysteria [war] may be paid to the international bankers."

Salmons troubles began in December 1917, when he refused to fill out a questionnaire required for selective service processing. By January 1918 he was arrested, court martialled and sentenced to death, a sentence that was later reduced to 25 years in prison. Military authorities eventually offered him noncombatant service, but Salmon had vowed total non-cooperation with the military and refused. He remained in prison, leaving his pregnant wife and dependent mother without support. During his prison time he was beaten and placed in solitary confinement. His treatment in prison led him to write, "The safest place for a man who refuses to fight is in the army."

Although U.S. soldiers began to return home after Armistice day in November 1918, Salmon remained in prison. In June 1919, he began a hunger strike "for liberty or death." He went without food and water for 13 days. Authorities then moved him to the prison infirmary and began to force-feed him milk by shoving porcelain funnel down his throat. As he continued to refuse food, the government sent him to a hospital for the criminally insane. The milk diet and force-feeding weakened him to the point of death. Unwilling to be blamed for his demise in their hands, the government officials finally released Salmon in December 1920.

He returned home to a strained marital life and ostracism from the Denver community. The family eventually moved to Chicago. The religious life in the Salmon home produced a priest, a Maryknoll nun working in Nicaragua, and a dedicated Catholic daughter who had 12 children. Ben's son, Charles, is an ordained priest in the Denver diocese and chaplain at the Garden of St. Elizabeth retirement community.

Charles remembers his father as being "a very charitable individual," who showed kindness to relatives and neighbors. Charles admitted that his father occasionally became distracted with activist life and "sometimes he slighted his own family just a bit." But he added, "I'm sure it was not on purpose. He had strong opinions and I believe he was sincere."

Because of his treatment in prison, Ben Salmon suffered from physical weakness and stomach ills that led to his early death on Feb. 15, 1932. This was during the Great Depression and times were rough for the Salmon family. Charles said his mother's father, a successful businessman, helped the family after that.

Robert Ellsberg, author of *All Saints: Daily Reflections on Saints, Prophets and Witnesses for Our Time* (Crossroad, 1997), said he chose Salmon for his anthology because of "the incredible vilification he had to endure" from the church, his neighbors and his family. Although some called him crazy and irresponsible, Ellsberg said Salmon was an incredible witness to

the fact that "one's ultimate obligation is to one's own immortal soul."

Salmon had only an eighth-grade education, but he had an amazing grasp of moral issues. While imprisoned, he used a Bible and volume 15 of the Catholic Encyclopedia to write a remarkable 200-page manuscript opposing the just war theory. He could also be short and to the point, as he was known to proclaim: "There ain't no such animal as a just war!"

*This article appeared, in the September 19, 2003 issue of the National Catholic Reporter. The Center is republishing the article with permission from the Reporter, and the original author, Melissa Jones.*

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## Enola Gay (continued from page 2)

include the devastation the bomb wreaked on Japan, the devastation of the Cold War and arms race, in addition to crediting the bombing with ending WW II.

Various stakeholders in the representation of this historical event were quickly embroiled: several levels of Smithsonian officials, military organizations such as the Air Force Association and the American Legion, members of the United States Congress, academic historians, military historians, the news media, officials of other museums, and the Japanese.

In the end, the Smithsonian caved to militaristic voices, and created an exhibit that simply talked about how the bombing ended WW II and saved thousand of lives of U.S. service personnel.

The opening was met by a widespread public witness organized by the Fellowship of Reconciliation, and other peace groups in front of the museum. A press conference and vigil was held with speeches by Hibakusha (survivors), and leafletting outside the museum. Peace signs and banners were unfurled inside the museum, with civil disobedience at the exhibit. Then NISBCO director Bill Yolton and current CCW staff member Bill Galvin (and his son Daniel) were part of the legal witness, WW II CO Dave Dellenger was among those arrested for doing civil disobedience.

The current planned exhibit brings to the surface many of the same questions and problems.

Should the exhibit make veterans feel good or make visitors think about the consequences of war?

Should the function of a museum be to celebrate the past or examine it?

Should a museum be a shrine or a school?

Should history record the past or mold the future?

Should history be patriotic or polemical?

Should the exhibit be politically correct or historically accurate?

away satisfied with a Marine Corp key chain in his hands. He is not sure if his parents will approve his decision, so Joe decides to pay the recruiter a visit to get more information. After hearing that his parents might not like his decision, the recruiter tells Joe that he won't be in any kind of danger. He tells him that the possibility of being deployed is slim and he goes on to emphasize that what Joe will really get out of being in the Marines is a great adventure away from home and, of course, the \$50,000. Joe's parents reluctantly agree to the decision.

Joe is now a GI in the Marine Corp, and he is going through boot camp; there are many things that begin to bother him. Joe's commander is not treating him very well; he is disgusted at some of the chants and practices. The drill sergeant is always yelling about making him into a killing machine and he is required to chant, "Blood makes the grass grow and Marines make the blood flow." This does not sit very well in Joe's conscience, but he decides to put up with it since he made a commitment.

A few months pass by, he is finished with boot camp, and his unit is stationed at a base conducting various duties. During this time Joe becomes more interested in issues of peace and justice because his conscience does not go along very well with his involvement in the Marine Corp. Meanwhile, the President has decided to engage in war. Joe reviews the circumstances of this war, and realizes that he cannot in good conscience fight if his unit is deployed. In this state of uncertainty, he meets with the base chaplain, but he does not find much solace there. A friend tells Joe about applying for a conscientious objector discharge. Not knowing much about conscientious objection he reads more on the issue. He sees himself in the description of a conscientious objector. As Joe thinks through these issues, he makes a very important decision: if he is to obey his conscience, then he cannot participate in any kind of military service. He then hears rumors that his unit will be deployed in a few months. Joe has a problem on his hands.

The above character is fictional, but the situation that Joe was in is very real. Many join the military for reasons other than to fight wars, and then find themselves conscientiously opposed to the participation in war.

Gerry Gilmore of the *American Forces Press Service* reported on U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's speech at the *All-Volunteer Force* conference held in mid-September. Rumsfeld remarked, "They made that choice to serve their country – put their lives at risk – to preserve freedom in this country, and that's a wonderful thing." Rumsfeld went on to say, "Clearly, the greatest resource we have is the character, courage and spirit of the men and women in uniform." The military leaders of the United States Armed Forces are indeed very proud of the "all-volunteer" military force. Thus a certain amount of hostility arises when a soldier from this "all-volunteer" force refuses to fight.

The question then inevitably arises: Why would a person enlist if he or she does not want to fight? The main reason that a nation has a standing army is to train for and fight

wars. Dick Cheney, current Vice-President and the former Secretary of Defense, said, "The reason to have a military is to be prepared to fight and win wars . . . it's not a jobs program." Unfortunately, the military does not present itself as such. Aggressive recruitment efforts present the military as an institution that will help with funding for college, a job training organization, and a place where young men and women can have a great "adventure." Due to flawed recruitment advertisements, many join thinking that being in the military will be an easy ride where they can get money for college and gain job skills.

There are no statistics at the moment as to how many conscientious objectors (CO) there are in the military, mainly because the military itself controls these statistics. It is estimated that the number of COs in the military are in the hundreds if not the thousands, and most of these people are not informed about ways of getting a CO discharge. After the first Gulf War on May 3, 1991 the *New York Times* reported "The War Resisters League, which did a nationwide survey of counseling groups, said that about 2,500 applications were filed and that about 150 applicants face charges, including unauthorized absence, missing troop movement, or desertion." On April 15, 2003 Gabriel Packard of *Inter Press Service* reported about the number of COs in the 2003 Gulf War. J.E. McNeil, the director of CCW, was quoted as saying, "The bare minimum is several hundred, and this number only includes the ones that have come to my group and to groups we're associated with. There will be others who will have gone through different channels, and some people do it on their own." The article went on to say, "Military statistics lag about one year behind, and the decisions on CO applications take on average six months to one year – sometimes as long as two years – so the exact number of COs in the present war will not be known for some time."

Currently, there is no statute in place that will allow for a person to apply for a CO discharge from the military. It is, however, Pentagon policy to discharge someone whose CO claim has been approved. There are two main reasons that the current policy is not acceptable to those who are conscientiously opposed to killing. Under the current process for a CO discharge the amount of time taken for a claim to be approved is about six months to one year. This period of time is too long for a person to endure military service while violating his or her conscience.

The second reason that this is unacceptable is that it is only Pentagon Policy to grant a CO discharge, the Pentagon can suspend this policy at any time. In fact, the DOD directive during the first Gulf War in 1991 which issued the stop-loss order did exactly that. As a result of the stop-loss order many COs during the first Gulf war went to jail because they refused to report for duty.

One such story from the Persian Gulf War in 1991 was of Jeffrey Paterson, who, before being deployed to Saudi Arabia, refused to board the plane while his commander was calling him a coward. The *New York Times* on January 14, 1991 reported "Mr. Paterson was later discharged, and since his defiance in August he has become one of the most

(Continued on Page 7 - CO Bill)

vocal of a new breed of war resisters: those who say they have become conscientious objectors to the armed forces they voluntarily joined.” The question once again rises, why would a person enlist even if it were for college money if they were opposed to killing? The *New York Times* article goes on to say, “many acknowledge they were naïve to think they would not have to face the issue of combat. And all say it was the imminence of war that forced them to act on the intense struggles of conscience that had troubled them for months or years.” Many COs in the military had not come to a full conviction in their belief against war when they enlist. It is after they join and are faced with the reality that they will have to kill that they come to a full “crystallization” of their beliefs. After this point their conviction is so strong that many refuse to participate in any kind of military activity.

Having legislation in place that will allow for COs to get a quick and hassle free discharge from the Armed Forces is the only viable option. In 1992 Rep. Ron Dellums introduced the Military Conscientious Objector Act as a response to the treatment of COs during the Persian Gulf War. Rep. Dellums did not get the chance to push this bill very far after its introduction. The Center is currently in the process of lobbying for a CO act to be introduced. The passing of such a legislation is crucial at this time in history, where the United States military is involved in a war without end and where the troops are stretched very thin across the globe.

In addition to establishing the right of CO discharges as a matter of law that could not be suspended by the military, at whim, the passing of the CO act will change at least three other things about CO processing. First it will redefine a CO to mean that person can be opposed to participation in a particular war rather than “war in any form.” Second, it will quicken the process for the command to process a CO claim; it will set deadlines for the command to process the claim in a quick and efficient manner. Finally, a CO bill will place the “burden of proof” on the command to prove that a legitimate CO claim is false.

Reports of soldier discontent are growing, and in this context the number of COs are also growing. We must increase our efforts to educate Congress about the inadequacies of CO rights in this country so that this basic human right will be upheld. The Military Conscientious Objector Act is necessary so that basic rights of COs will be upheld.

**Robert Zigler**, son of 20th century Brethren leader M.R. Zigler, died September 15 in Washington, D.C. Robert Zigler worked with international Voluntary Service in Laos in the 1960's and was later a member of the United States agency for International Development (USAID) staff and worked with on Earth Peace to organize annual Civilian Public Service reunions.

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## Peacemaker Congress was a huge success!

by Eli Bainbridge

At a time when racism and abuses committed in the name of “national security” are being challenged from every corner of the globe, Peacemaker Congress VII offers an opportunity for Christians to gather strength and inspiration for the nonviolent work ahead. Our fear-driven national policies against a global “terrorism” are built on deeply held and racist notions that segments of our domestic and world society are expendable. We join other voices for justice and enduring peace as we seek to bridge racial divisions, protect human rights, and link domestic and foreign policy concerns.

This was the theme at this years Peacemaker's Congress, in Youngstown, Ohio. Fellow Center volunteer Theo Sither, and I, attended the Congress, as representatives of the Center, who was a co-sponsor of the event. We were able to provide answers for people who had questions about the military, and draft conscription.

We also attended workshops and trainings covering a wide variety of topics. The days were broken into sections with about 3 trainings per day. On the second day there was a march to the courthouse to oppose the current occupation in Iraq, and the Patriot Act. We were able to hand out materials and provide pamphlets to anyone who was interested.

A wide variety of faiths were represented. There were people from all over the country and even a couple of car loads from Canada. I really enjoyed meeting and talking with everyone, especially with our friends from up north. I think it was a great time for everyone to come together and brainstorm. The weekend was a very educational one. I met a lot of interesting people, and I look forward to working with them in the future.

As we were marching down the main street of Youngstown, some people would honk and others wouldn't. Some people showed us that they clearly supported the war. When we got to the steps of the courthouse the deputies and police started to gather around us. They were talking on their radios and making signals with their hands. I remember wondering what they thought we were going to do? Did they not know that we were a peaceful organization? Did they really think that anyone was in danger? Maybe they were just following procedure I don't know. I just found the whole proceeding very dramatic.

When it was all done, our message had been delivered. The message of peace and love had been delivered to Youngstown. That same message must be delivered to Iraq.



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## *From the Desk of the Executive Director*

*"The most important thing I learned working here was that the men and women in the military are just like me." -Tim Showalter when leaving his position as Brethren Volunteer at CCW.*

Tim was typical of the young men and women who have worked at the Center over the decades. He came with a clear idea as to what it meant to be a conscientious objector to war. He left with a different one.

This last summer we had two women and three men beyond what I think of as the core staff of Bill and me. Even before everyone had arrived I knew it was going to be a golden summer. The pressure of the war had slacked as we were told that the US had won the war. Reservists and National Guard were sure they were coming home soon or not going after all. Schools were on vacation so the traveling slowed. I saw an opportunity to have a full staff of competent young people who could work to do the hundreds of things that get lost in the shuffle of trying to meet the tremendous demands in the middle of war.

And they did. We organized the library, improved the webpage, researched the laws surrounding National Guards, expanded our power points, set up systems to send out literature, sold hundreds of copies of Addicted to War and brought the Reporter issues almost up to date.

At the same time the staff picnicked and had a retreat at a family amusement park and spent afternoons being silly. And Bill and I, of course, traveled.

But the summer was too soon over and the summer staff began to leave. One for college, another for the Peace Corp, another for work to pay for college a little later.

For many, work at the Center is short term, of course, a part in their journey of life. But this is way it should be. None of them here without having their lives changed profoundly both by the work and by the comradery. Many former staff of the Center have gone on to do great things in the world. Many have gone on "merely" to school and work and marriage and family. But all go with a better understanding of what it means to be against war and not against the men and women who fight "in our names." All go with an understanding of the myriad of choices made in each of our lives that either tend towards war or away from it.

This is one of the truly great gifts of the Center over the years. The changing of the lives of men and women. It happens year in and year out for as long as the Center survives. The Center, of course, only survives with the continued support of the men and women whose' lives it has touched in some way.

But survive, it does.

Now the cycle in the office begins again with new young men and women learning these lessons anew. And changing the world one person at a time.

Yours for Peace and Justice,

J. E. McNeil

