

BRING OUR BILLION\$ HOME:

CUT MILITARY SPENDING. FUND HUMAN NEEDS. SOLVE THE CLIMATE CRISIS.

SUMMER OUTREACH TO THE PUBLIC: Congress and the President are so thoroughly dominated by nationalistic and militaristic pressures that they will not voluntarily choose peace. We can re-prioritize the federal budget only if public opinion overwhelmingly demands it. This means that **vigorous outreach to change public opinion is absolutely necessary!** That's what the "Bring Our Billion\$ Home" (BOBH) campaign is all about.

The Olympia FOR's BOBH committee met twice in May to plan summer outreach activities. We are organizing an information booth at Olympia's Pride Festival on SATURDAY and SUNDAY JUNE 9 and 10 in Sylvester Park. Here are two ways to help:

- Will you volunteer a few hours? We're especially short-handed for Sunday, when the Olympia FOR is also hosting our Summer Social in Yauger Park. Sunday will be a big day because that's when the Pride Parade brings a lot of people into the park. Please help!
- Do you have a canopy we could use? (The Olympia FOR's death penalty committee will be using the death penalty committee's canopy for its own booth there, so we need a different one for our BOBH booth.)

If you can help, contact Kerri Griffis, kerrigriffis@yahoo.com

LET'S ORGANIZE SOME "FLASH MObS" TO HAVE FUN REACHING THE PUBLIC: We're recruiting people to participate in occasional flash mobs about the "Bring Our Billion\$ Home" campaign and other issues. Volunteers go to an area and – when cued – assemble for a quick song or other activity, and then disperse. A bit of planning and practice will make these fun and effective! We'd like to do these several times this summer in various places. If you're interested please contact Bourtai Hargrove at 352-6327 bourtai31@gmail.com

WASTE IN THE MILITARY BUDGET: The Army spent \$284 in taxpayer dollars for an \$8 helicopter door part: This is just one example of ridiculously out-of-control waste and fraud in the military budget. The Pentagon has been avoiding real audits for many years. Many peace organizations – including the Quaker-based Friends Committee on National Legislation (www.fcnl.org) are working to cut military spending. Read a two-page flyer about Pentagon waste at this link: www.fcnl.org/issues/budget/Waste_Dollars_in_the_Pentagon_Budget.pdf

F-35 FIGHTER PLANES TO COST \$1.45 TRILLION OVER THEIR LIFETIMES: Every time you turn around you see that the cost of another weapon system has increased. A Pentagon document obtained by Reuters news agency reveals that the lifetime (50-year) cost of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter has escalated to \$1,450,000,000,000 (\$1.5 TRILLION), including inflation. Can you think of better ways to spend our tax dollars?

CUTTING THE MILITARY BUDGET COULD BOOST THE ECONOMY: Robert Pollin and Heidi Garrett-Peltier published an article in the May 28, 2012, issue of *The Nation*, showing how cutting the military budget and using the money in better ways would create more jobs and help the US economy. The US spends as much on the military as all other nations in the world combined. The military-industrial-congressional complex keeps trying to spread the Pentagon's money (actually the taxpayers' money) around to as many states and congressional districts as possible to buy pork-barrel political support for military bases and weapons. However, civilian alternatives would be better for our local and national economy. Military spending is a drain on the economy partly because the US is not investing enough in productive purposes such as education, housing, infrastructure, environmental protection, and health care, and partly because military spending is notoriously inefficient in creating jobs. The same amount of money spent on non-military purposes would create many more jobs than if it were spent on the military. Investing in K-12 education is a particularly effective way to create more jobs. See www.thenation.com/article/167811/dont-buy-spin-how-cutting-pentagons-budget-could-boost-economy

MANY REPORTS SHOW PRACTICAL WAYS TO CUT MILITARY SPENDING: A variety of researchers and organizations – including some that are politically mainstream or conservative – have produced reports listing many ways to save taxpayers' dollars by eliminating unnecessary military weapons and bases and by eliminating various kinds of waste in the Pentagon budget. Recently analysts from the Project on Defense Alternatives and the Cato Institute released *Defense Sense*, an independent report outlining 18 recommendations to save \$17-20 billion from the military budget in Fiscal Year 2013.

THE PUBLIC OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORTS LARGE CUTS IN PENTAGON BUDGET: Public opinion polls keep showing that the public wants to cut the Pentagon budget and protect governmental programs that help poor people and the broad public interest. On May 11 the Center for Public Integrity's R. Jeffrey Smith released yet another report reinforcing this fact, showing consistency in this position among political parties and various demographic groups. They want to cut the Pentagon far more than President Obama and Congressional leaders seem willing to do. See www.iwatchnews.org/2012/05/10/8856/public-overwhelmingly-supports-large-defense-spending-cuts

**PARTICIPATE IN THE OLYMPIA FOR'S "BRING OUR BILLION\$ HOME" CAMPAIGN!
HERE ARE SOME PRACTICAL WAYS YOU CAN HELP:**

- **Come to our next meeting on Thursday June 14.** 6:00 pm dinner, 7:00 meeting at Rozanne Rants' and Chuck Schultz's home in NE Olympia. Info: 705-8520 rozannerants@yahoo.com or chuckschultz3@msn.com
- Get information and resources from the Olympia FOR and other organizations. Contact Glen Anderson at (360) 491-9093 glen@olympiafor.org.
- Educate yourself and share the information with friends and local organizations to which you belong, including your local faith community.
- During this campaign season, politicians across the entire political spectrum are more willing to listen to you than they will be after the election, so raise the issues now! When you ask questions at candidate forums you are also educating the other people in the audience. Help "connect the dots" to show local elected officials that excessive military spending is partly responsible for inadequate budgets for schools and local governments.
- As an individual you can stroll around and offer handouts and petitions.
- Urge community groups and local governments to pass resolutions.
- Summer allows for easier organizing outdoors. Help the Olympia FOR's summertime BOBH outreach activities. We plan to set up information tables at outdoor events, farmers' markets, and other opportunities.
- Hold signs and banners at prominent locations, including the Olympia FOR's peace vigils (every Wednesday from 12:00 to 1:00 at Sylvester Park and every and Friday from 4:30 to 6:00 at Percival Landing, 4th & Water).
- Build cooperative working relationships with local Occupy groups, labor groups, and organizations that include people who are poor, underemployed and unemployed. Connect the dots between economic justice and the military economy.
- Connect the dots with environmental and climate protection groups, and build cooperative working relationships with them and others who would benefit from converting from a military economy to a green economy.
- Help people connect with each other to build a stronger grassroots movement. Compile lists of names, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses. Protect people's privacy but help them work together.
- Connect with stable, ongoing peace organizations, and participate in their activities, such as signing the new Pledge of Resistance to prevent a war against Iran.

"American democracy is decaying because freedom has been mortgaged to bear the costs of empire."

- Marcus G. Raskin and A. Carl Levan, in *In Democracy's Shadow: The Secret World of National Security*

"Oil dependency is the crucial pivot of American foreign policy and military policy."

-- Michael T. Klare, "Beyond Oil" conference sponsored by Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation and others (Seattle, May 14, 2005)

"Dear Future Generations: Please accept our apologies. We were roaring drunk on petroleum."

-- Kurt Vonnegut