



Support our troops,
bring them home now,
and take care of them
when they get here.

Spring, 2018

Military Families Speak Out is part of the Poor People's Campaign!



MFSO Steering Committee Statement

“Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech 'Beyond Vietnam' was a deep critique of not just the war being waged overseas in Southeast Asia, but of what he termed the 'triplets of evil' the U.S. is confronted with: racism, materialism, and militarism. Exactly a year after this speech and on the eve of launching 'The Poor People's Campaign,' MLK was assassinated. Many see this speech and his efforts to connect racial justice, economic justice, and anti-militarist movements as the reason for his targeted murder.

In different ways, we have seen firsthand the costs of war and the way militarism is coming home into our communities. Whether it be armored personnel carriers on the streets of cities like Baltimore or private military corporations showing up to enforce deeply unpopular corporate projects at Standing Rock, King's speech gives us an opportunity to think about the connections between our movements in a moment when we need to build stronger and deeper.” (From *Front Line – Veterans Against the War*)

That's why Military Families Speak Out has joined groups from across the country, including Veterans For Peace, About Face – Veterans Against the War, the Movement for Black Lives, It Takes Roots, and Fight for 15, who have called for action and education about this speech and how it connects to our own political moment in the age of Trump.

Education, Family and the Military

By Timothy Kahlor, MFSO, Inland Empire, CA

A 17-year-old young woman in 2003 lived in a high density populated area of LA with her single mom and sister. Her mom was working long hours just to pay the rent, so this 17 year-old's dream of even going to college seemed totally out of reach. She had the grades and had talked to her counselor about scholarships, but her mother was reluctant to accept the help, out of fear of being unable to afford the additional costs. Then the military came calling with offers of “Education, Travel, Income and Healthcare” and, to this young woman, it was a dream come true. She joined the Marines and continued in the military for 10 years. During that time, she met another Marine and got married. They have a son and daughter together.

Fast Forward to 2018 and that young woman has earned her Bachelors of Science degree and is living in Southern California with her 2 children. That dream of an education came true, but at a high cost on her physically, mentally and on her family. She decided to leave the Marines after 10 years, because the stress of 2 parents in the military and both needing to serve time in Iraq and having to leave her children with family members while spending time in Iraq. Stress on the marriage, trying to go to school and being a single parent while her husband was in Iraq ended in divorce. She is now a partially disabled Vet from injuries in Iraq and suffers from anxiety attacks. That 17-year-old young woman is now a single mom working long hours to ensure the rent is paid and her children aren't dependent on the military to get an education.



The administration is sending more troops to Afghanistan. MFSO says: **Bring all troops home from Afghanistan NOW!**
Teaneck Peace Vigil

**“It’s Easy Picking Off Kids Here in West Virginia” An Interview of Marcia Westbrook
By Paula Rogovin, MFSO, New Jersey**

There IS an economic draft. It’s real. Marcia Westbrook, mother of three sons, lives in West Virginia. Her son, Tyler, graduated Magna Cum Laude from West Virginia University, but couldn’t find what Marcia calls a “significant” job - one with benefits, a job he would need to support a family. After two years of doing low-paying jobs, Tyler’s student loans were coming due. Tyler said, “Mom, I’m a grown man. I can’t live off-of you anymore.” So, Tyler joined the Army. (*The Army has a Student Loan Repayment program. 33-1/3 percent or \$1,500, whichever is greater, toward the unpaid principal balance of student loans for each year of enlisted active duty. The Simple Dollar. Student Loan Forgiveness: Joining the Military*, by Kristen Kuchar 12/13/17)

Tyler had developed psoriasis, but he was able to get a military waiver. Anxious to have people enlist, the Army said that they couldn’t vaccinate him but would treat him if he got ill.

As a member of the Special Forces, Tyler served in Iraq, countries in Africa, Germany, and elsewhere. After a struggle with PTSD, Sergeant First Class, Tyler Westbrook, age 31 died by suicide on August 28, 2015, while stationed at Ft. Carson, in Colorado, leaving behind a wife, a young son, and a grieving family.



Waylon and Willie at the funeral of their brother, Tyler.
photo by Mike Uhl

Marcia’s two other sons, Waylon and Willie, also joined the military after finding themselves unable to finding significant work in West Virginia. In 1998, Marcia’s son, Waylon, joined the Air Force Reserve. After his base in North Carolina closed in 2015, he returned to West Virginia. Waylon works at a coal-powered plant which will be closing in January, 2019. Marcia’s son, Willie, served in the Navy for 5 years.

Proposed cuts in Medicaid and social services by

the President will result in even more young people joining the military. “Since West Virginia ranks near the bottom of states in terms of per capita personal income, the federal share for the Medicaid program in West Virginia is among the highest in the nation... Cutting Medicaid in West Virginia would have substantial economic impact on the state’s economy.” (*Bureau of Business and Economic Research in West Virginia University’s College of Business and Economics. 2/7/18*)

On April 4, 1967, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “Then came the buildup in Vietnam and I watched this program broken and eviscerated, as if it were some idle political plaything of a society gone mad on war, and I knew that America would never invest the necessary funds or energies in rehabilitation of its poor so long as adventures like Vietnam continued to draw men and skills and money like some demonic destructive suction tube. So, I was increasingly compelled to see the war as an enemy of the poor and to attack it as such.”

Perhaps the more tragic recognition of reality took place when it became clear to me that the war was doing far more than devastating the hopes of the poor at home. It was sending their sons and their brothers and their husbands to fight and to die in extraordinarily high proportions relative to the rest of the population.” (*Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence. By Rev. Martin Luther King,*)

So, too, with current U.S. involvement in the endless wars and the President’s threats to escalate.

Marcia ended our interview with these words, “It’s easy picking off kids here in West Virginia.”

Marcia Westbrook, Gold Star mother, is a member of the MFSO Steering Committee.

www.icasualties.org

The website, **www.icasualties.org**, provides data about deaths (not including suicides) and injuries of U.S. service members in Iraq and Afghanistan. It’s another important tool for educating the public about the impact of the wars.



JOIN MFSO!

If you have a loved one serving in the military, please join MFSO. Contact Pat Alviso at mfsooc@earthlink.net. Find MFSO at www.mfso.org or at Military Families Speak Out on Facebook or call our office at 565-579-3980. **Donations are welcome.**

War and the Environment by Mary Hladky, MFSO, Kansas City, MO,

MFSO is excited to be a part of the moral revival “Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival”. This campaign launched on the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King’s original campaign to address the triplets of evil - racism, poverty, and militarism. The new campaign has added a fourth vital issue to be addressed, climate change. Militarism, Racism, Poverty and Climate Change are inextricably linked to each other, needing to be addressed as a whole. This is a broad grassroots movement to affect change through sustained nonviolent action.

U.S. wars have sown disorder and instability, creating failing or failed states across the Greater Middle East and Africa. Acts of terror are soaring globally. (Andrew Bacevich) U.S. wars and military interference have not brought peace nor stability. U.S. wars have brought immense human suffering for our troops, their families, and the innocent victims of war. Along with the human and financial costs of war, there is another horror of war, the one that will be specifically addressed here, climate change.

We have always known war was detrimental to the environment with devastating effects on the natural habitat, poisoned water, poisoned land and exposure to depleted uranium. But it is much worse than that.

Militarism is the most oil exhaustive activity on the planet; militaries worldwide are driving global warming. The U.S. military leads the pack. It is the largest single user of oil and the world’s worst institutional contributor to global warming.

The U.S. military is also immune to these climate change concerns. In 1997, during the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change negotiations, the U.S. demanded and won exemption from all greenhouse gas emissions for military activities worldwide. We say, “No curbing our *military first* policies, no matter what the cost.

Depleted uranium is used in U.S. weaponry and has a half-life of 4.5 billion years with devastating effects on human beings.

Nearly 900 of the approximately 1300 superfund sites in the U.S. are military related. Hanford WA, where the Nagasaki bomb was made, is the largest superfund site in the U.S. located dangerously close to the Columbia River. Also, the Dept. of Defense admits that

environmental damage exists at 70 U.S. bases in Europe.

Add to that the dangers of nuclear war or nuclear accident that threaten life on earth.

The human costs of war are devastating, and the environmental costs could forever change the world as we know it.

Yes, our problems are immense, but we have a shared agenda, shared values. Uniting together people can always make a difference – we can find a new way forward – transforming war to peace – making what seems impossible, possible.

I highly recommend you take 27 minutes to view the excellent documentary “*Peace and the Planet – War, the Environment and Your Taxes*” by Ghanda DiFiglia which was a source for this article. (Link to the film at <https://vimeo.com/244576580>)

MFSO members visiting deported veterans



Left to right. Supporter Connie Mack, MFSO members Ed Garza, Pat Alviso, Jeff Merrick and Tijuana MFSO chapter leaders Robert Vivar and Blanca Viramontes. Photo by Marjorie Robertson

MFSO members were invited to paint our logo on the Mexican side of the border wall in Tijuana Mexico. MFSO is working to prevent deportation of veterans and to support the return of veterans who have been deported.

We are delighted to learn that deported U.S. Army veteran, Hector Barajas, has been granted U.S. citizenship, a move made possible by CA Governor Jerry Brown’s pardon of a criminal offense. Barajas is the founder and director of Deported Veterans Support House, which provides housing and other services in Tijuana, Mexico.

You can learn more about deported veterans and what you can do to help by visiting Unified US Deported Veterans Facebook page.

Economics/education/and the military by Rossana Cambron, MFSO, Los Angeles, CA

I am super humbled to be here. My mother was on welfare. I have a bachelor's degree. My brother graduated; he is a judge. Welfare *does* help families.

My son joined the military as an option to get a job and to have an income. He served 3 tours in Iraq.

We in Military Families Speak Out are against the wars, and we support our troops. We ask the elected officials, "Why are we sacrificing our troops fighting 'terrorists' who pose no real threat to the United States? We understand the poverty that we face. We understand the challenges that we face. Yet we spent fifty-three cents out of every dollar on military expenditures. We spend \$58 billion for Pentagon slush funds. You know what slush funds are? You can do whatever you want with that. Why should \$58 billion be spent on that?"

\$20 billion of our tax dollars are spent on nuclear weapons and associated costs. We don't want that. We want it here to save our families from poverty, to get a good education, to get ahead. We spend \$1.5 billion on Predator and Reaper drones. That's not necessary.

What's necessary is to help our homeless military veterans. They need the help. They have the invisible wounds that we don't see. My son has invisible wounds. And we want to help all of them, so they will get the necessary health care, psychiatric help, any kind of thing that they need. They deserve it.

If we really support our troops this is part of what we need to do. With that \$58 billion Pentagon Slush Fund money, I want to give a few ways we can offer help (data from National Priority Project):

- 791,099 Clean Energy jobs created for 1 year or
- 586,000 jobs with supports in high poverty communities for 1 year or
- 5.8 million military veterans receiving VA medical care for 1 year or
- 2.5 million students receiving Pell Grants for 4 years or
- 1.76 million scholarships for university students for 4 years or
- 24.7 million children receiving low-income healthcare for 1 year

For more information about the economics of the wars and military spending, go to:

www.nationalpriorities.org



*MFSO at the Women's march in LA.
L-R Pat Alviso, Julien Minard, Jeff Merrick, Laurie Loving
Photo by Russell Loving*

Agent Orange and VA Secrets by Jan Barry, Co-founder of Vietnam Veterans Against the War

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' foot-dragging on Agent Orange health issues sheds light on the agency's dysfunctions on health concerns for veterans of current wars. That's the contention of the late Richard E. Phenneger, a Vietnam veteran who uncovered a VA secret that he published in 2012 in an online report titled "Legacies of War: The Truth About Agent Orange in Vietnam."

"While searching the Internet in November of 2009, I stumbled upon Admiral E.R. Zumwalt's 1990 **Report to Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs on the Association Between Adverse Health Effects and Exposure to Agent Orange**," Phenneger wrote, noting that Zumwalt had served as Commander of Naval Forces in Vietnam and later as the U.S. Chief of Naval Operations, the highest rank in the Navy.

"The Admiral's Report," Phenneger emphatically added, "was emblazoned with '**Classified – Not For Publication and Release to the General Public.**'"

Zumwalt's report was prepared in the wake of the death of his son, Elmo, who served on Navy

patrol boats in areas of the Mekong Delta sprayed with Agent Orange to reduce jungle foliage, and died of cancer at age 42. Admiral Zumwalt, who ordered the use of Agent Orange in river patrol areas of the Mekong Delta, died in January 2000 at 79. "The cause was complications from surgery for a chest tumor," The New York Times reported.

The special report to the VA, that was hidden from the public by a security classification, "identifies the most likely cause of the VA's reprehensible conduct today: its failure to properly and timely care for our current returning soldiers," Phenneger concluded.

After years of statements by government officials that there was nothing to worry about, Zumwalt's May 1990 report to the Secretary of the VA "charged the Department of Veteran Affairs with duplicity, fraud and deliberately manipulating scientific data to get the 'answers it wanted,' that the dioxin Agent Orange was not the cause of the illnesses and premature deaths of hundreds of wrote.

Zumwalt's research with a team of independent scientists found that a bureaucratic maze had been constructed to mislead veterans seeking answers to severe health problems.

"Were the faulty conclusions, flawed methodology and noticeable bias of the [VA] Advisory Committee an isolated problem, correcting the misdirection would be more manageable," Zumwalt wrote. "But, experience with other governmental agencies responsible for specifically analyzing and studying the effects of exposure to Agent Orange strongly hints at a discernible pattern, if not outright governmental collaboration, to deny compensation to Vietnam Veterans for disabilities associated with exposure to dioxin," the toxic contaminant in Agent Orange.

"Shamefully, the deception, fraud and political interference that has characterized government-sponsored studies on the health effects of exposure to Agent Orange and/or dioxin has not escaped studies ostensibly conducted by independent reviewers, a factor that has only further compounded the erroneous conclusions reached by the Government," Zumwalt added.

Phenneger, who served as an Air Force pilot in the Vietnam War, dug further to find out why the federal government would have taken such a stance. "In an interview on July 26, 1999, Admiral Zumwalt reported finding a memo circulated by the Bureau of the Budget in the early 1980s ordering all

agencies of government in essence not to find a correlation between Agent Orange and health effects, stating that it would be most unfortunate for two reasons: 1) The cost of supporting the veterans and 2) The court liability to which corporations would be exposed."

"We need medical evaluation boards watching the VA," says retired Air Force Master Sergeant LeRoy Foster, whose health began to deteriorate in the 1980s from a cluster of diseases he believes were triggered by his work spraying Agent Orange to clear fuel pipelines of tropical foliage at his duty station during the Vietnam War at a bomber refueling base on Guam.

"The important part is the autoimmune diseases," Foster said of what he feels is a still deliberately hidden finding in Zumwalt's 1990 report, which listed a number of diseases that scientific studies suggested were linked to dioxin exposure, and that Foster is beset with, in addition to terminal cancer. "They wouldn't let the truth come out. Classified it for 20 years so we would die off."

Phenneger, who uncovered the hidden Zumwalt Report, died in July 2017 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho at 81. A retired PanAm pilot, union leader and business executive, he had "recently founded Veteran Services Transparency and was an advocate for those whose lives were changed forever by Agent Orange. He loved and served his country but was also a passionate voice for accountability," the obituary in the Spokane Spokesman-Review noted.

What triggered his investigation into the Agent Orange legacy, Phenneger wrote, was to find out why the VA had developed a habit of ignoring or downplaying veterans' health problems of more recent wars, such as from Gulf War Syndrome, burn pits, depleted uranium exposure, traumatic brain injury, and post-traumatic stress.

"In 2008 I learned that over one million of our bright young soldiers who had returned from Iraq and Afghanistan were still waiting for medical help for the injuries they received fighting to defend our nation, our ideals, our God-given rights. For 175,000 of them [who served in Gulf War I], the wait exceeded 18 years," Phenneger wrote in his "Legacies of War" expose.

"Why? Why were such delays being tolerated? Why were our once focused and highly trained young veterans resorting to suicide at the rate of over 6,550 per year (18 per day)? Why were tens of thousands becoming homeless every year?"

Phenneger asked more than a decade into the war in Afghanistan and endless war in Iraq. “Who was responsible?”

Jan Barry is an environmental journalist and U.S. Army veteran of Vietnam. He's done investigative reports on health effects of Agent Orange distributed by The Associated Press, New York Times, other newspapers and Internet websites. For more information:

http://www.vvacalsc.com/files/Legacies_of_War-Agent_Orange-11-16-2012.pdf <http://gulfwavets.com/ao.html>



**Vietnam Agent Orange
Relief & Responsibility Campaign**

Justice for all Agent Orange victims

You can help:

Vietnam Agent Orange Relief & Responsibility Campaign. P.O.
Box 303, Prince Station. NYC, NY 10012-0006. <http://www.vn-agentorange.org>

War and the Economy

by Pat Alviso, MFSO, Long Beach/OC Area, CA

Like many others, I grew up believing that war was good for the economy. Just think of all the businesses that the war machine creates and all the jobs that wars open up for all who wished to join the military - no experience necessary. But is the generally held belief that war is good for the economy really so?

According to the “Economic Consequences of War and the US Economy” report, a study of the economic effects of the last 5 major US wars, war hurts our nation’s economy in the long run. It may create jobs in one sector, (the military industrial complex comes swiftly to mind), but to do that it has to rob from the poor and the general needs of the public sector. In other words, when money is spent on war, then the money that would otherwise be spent on domestic services and infrastructure, is lost. People don’t always see this loss, because taxes are raised and there is a lot of borrowing going on. If taxpayers have less money, how can that be good for the economy?

Because our current wars in the Middle East are mostly funded by borrowing, we know our grandchildren will be paying for wars that cannot possibly benefit the economy in the long run. Had the taxpayers been allowed to keep that money, investments could have been made in healthcare, public education and other needs for the general public. Simply put, when debt and taxes increase, consumption and investment decrease. You don’t need to be a professor in economics to understand that this means war is not only bad for the economy, but more importantly for people. But that reality is

hard to Americans to see, unless you are among the poor.

Most of us have come to realize by now that these wars were preventable, but really only affects those who volunteer to serve in the military. What Americans find hard to see in the media is the aftermath of this supposed economic boost of unjust wars and that the economic gains for one segment of the society is always at the expense of some of its own people or people in other countries. Actually, it has been total devastation for Iraq and Afghanistan and death, injuries and moral injuries for the U.S. troops.

It’s hard to grasp the cost of these wars, but according to the Congressional Budget Office the total cost of the wars by 2017 was \$2.4 trillion. This includes interest because the wars are being paid for with borrowed money. To break that down, we pay, according to new data from the Pentagon, \$250 million every single day on war. National Priorities Project points out that the Department of Defense spends 14 million per day on just combating ISIS. Bringing that information closer to home, we taxpayers pay \$117,036 every hour for just the war in Iraq alone. How can this country even begin to pay off the debt of these wars if they are still going on?

Of course, the most important thing for our country to do right now is to push for an end to the wars and to address the moral concerns of how our society treats its poor - immigrants, children, the sick, hungry and victims of discrimination and violence. MFSO is aware that our country is way overdue for a moral revival and that is why we are enthusiastically supporting the return of Dr. King’s Poor People’s Campaign. It comes as no surprise to us that our loved ones have been used to support the myth that the economy has benefited from war. Military families know firsthand that only those who build the instruments of war are the real beneficiaries of war, and those profits are made off of the backs of our troops. It is for these reasons MFSO wholeheartedly endorses and supports the Poor People’s Campaign because it honors Dr. King’s call “to keep the issue” of stopping the war “before the conscience of our nation” by calling for demonstrations and nonviolent protest. We know full well that without an awakening of our nation’s conscience we cannot stop these wars.

child sacrifice

by Bill Scheurer, MFSO, Illinois

my father
killed in war.
does it skip
a generation?

under certain
circumstances,
i could kill,
crack, like
struck stone.

now my son
prepares for war,
splitting slowly,
a wet seed
with deadly
fruit and flower.

would he
be spared,
if i killed
someone?

Stay Involved!

Military family members, please work with groups in your community to protest U.S. military involvement in Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, and Syria.

- **Participate in one of the vigils listed below.**
- **Check with United For Peace & Justice to see other actions.** www.unitedforpeace.org
- **Work with other groups in your community to plan**
 - **Community forums or teach-ins**
 - **Meetings with your Senators or Representatives in Congress**
 - **Vigils or demonstrations**
 - **Actions at a Federal Office, a National Guard Armory, a war memorial, a busy corner, or other high traffic area in your community**

Send a press advisory to MFSO and we will help you get your action media coverage. then call the press so you can spread the word.

Ongoing vigils:

Long Beach, Orange County, CA: Fridays. 7-9 pm. 2nd and Nieto in front of the Chase Bank in Belmont Shore. MFSO with the Long Beach Area Peace Network

Huntington Beach, CA: Sundays. 12 noon. at the foot of the Huntington Beach Pier. ENOUGH campaign.

Orange, CA: 3rd Thursday of every month. 5:30-7pm. Chapman and Glassell (in the Traffic Circle) in Orange. MFSO and Code Pink

Seal Beach, CA: Last Wednesday of the month. 5-6:60 pm. in front of the globe at Leisure World. Senior Patriots for Peace

Los Angeles, CA: Sundays. 6am-4pm. Just north of the Santa Monica Pier, under Bubba Gumps on the beach Arlington West

Huntington Beach CA: First Sundays. Arlington West Memorial 7:30am to 3:30pm. 6th and PCH. Arlington West

Teaneck, NJ: Wednesdays, 4-5 pm. National Guard Armory. Corner of Teaneck Rd. and Liberty Rd. in Teaneck. Teaneck Peace Vigil. MFSO, Bergen County, Veterans For Peace, Chapter 21 NJ.

Leonia, NJ: Sundays, 4-4:30 pm. Broad Ave. and Ft. Lee Rd. Leonia Peace Vigil Group.

Yellow Springs, OH: Saturdays. corner of Xenia Ave & Limestone.

Missouri – Kansas City: ‘Patriots for Peace’

Demonstrations. Tuesdays, 5-6 pm. 63rd and Ward Parkway (Median Strip on South Corner) Kansas City, MO. Contact: schwartzkatz@sbcglobal.net



Teaneck Peace Vigil to celebrate the 100th birthday of Henry Shoiket (front right). Mary Shoiket (front left) is 103 years old. Henry and Mary are at the TPV in rainy, snowy, stormy, and sunny weather!
We salute their life-long activism!

A MILITARY Parade? Seriously?
By Jo Ann Procko-Drozdz, MFSO, NJ

North Korea we are not, or are we?

**Glorifying war sickens me, it should sicken
you too
lives lost, lives ruined, lives maimed, families
shattered - RIGHT TO LIFE - where?**

**it's not a show of strength, it's a sign of
desperation
an ego so in need of stroking, SAD**

**EDUCATION, mental health, preventing
veteran suicide,
housing homeless veterans - this is where the
money should go**

NOT to a PARADE....



Cate Manachio demonstrating in Montclair, NJ
Photo by Paula Rogovin

Statement by Congresswoman Barbara Lee, CA

I have been fighting in Congress to curb Trump's war power by preventing him from unilaterally launching a nuclear "first strike" on North Korea and repealing the 2001 authorization of military force that gives any president the unchecked ability to wage war.

Congress has a constitutional responsibility to vote on the use of military force and ensure our service members are protected and cared for. Wasting millions of dollars on a parade that could be invested in housing, job training and health care programs for our veterans, flies in the face of that task.

Military Parade? MFSO says NO! **by Paula Rogovin, MFSO Steering Committee**

Wouldn't it be great to celebrate our troops returning from unauthorized wars around the world? Since 2001, the U.S. has spent more than \$4.63 trillion for the total cost of wars. www.nationalpriorities.org. Wouldn't it be great if money from these wars could be used instead for housing, health and mental health care, education, and jobs – for veterans and for the general public? MFSO says NO to President Trump's military parade!

Military Times did an informal poll in February, 2018, just after President Trump requested a military parade. Out of 51,000 readers who responded, the majority, 89 percent responded, "No, it's a waste of money and troops are too busy." (Tara Copp. *Military Times*. 2/8/18) Washington, D.C.'s Mayor and City Council are on the record against the military parade. Two bills, S.2408 and H.R. 4080, have been introduced in Congress, "to prohibit the use of federal funds for an exhibition or parade of military forces and hardware for review by the President outside of authorized military operations or activities.

Pat Alviso, MFSO National Coordinator, said, "I can't believe that we have reached such a low point that the president can order our military, - our families – to act like we are a dictatorship and celebrate our weaponry in such a public way. This is not what we are about. We need to be there to stand up and count this shameful display of force."

Matt Howard, Co-Director of Iraq Veterans Against the War, wrote, "by now I'm guessing you have heard the news: Trump is pushing for a massive display of military might in a way that can only be described as authoritarian. He was to look down on a parade of missiles, tanks, and troops and use vets and servicemembers as props in some sort of grand political theater. ... The conversation among our members across the country has been, 'this can't happen, we have to be there, he's using this to set the stage for more war.'"

MFSO has joined with IVAW, Veterans For Peace, and other organizations in opposing President Trump's military parade. Follow Military Families Speak Out on Facebook or at www.mfso.org for updates.