

## **Military Resistance 8L13**



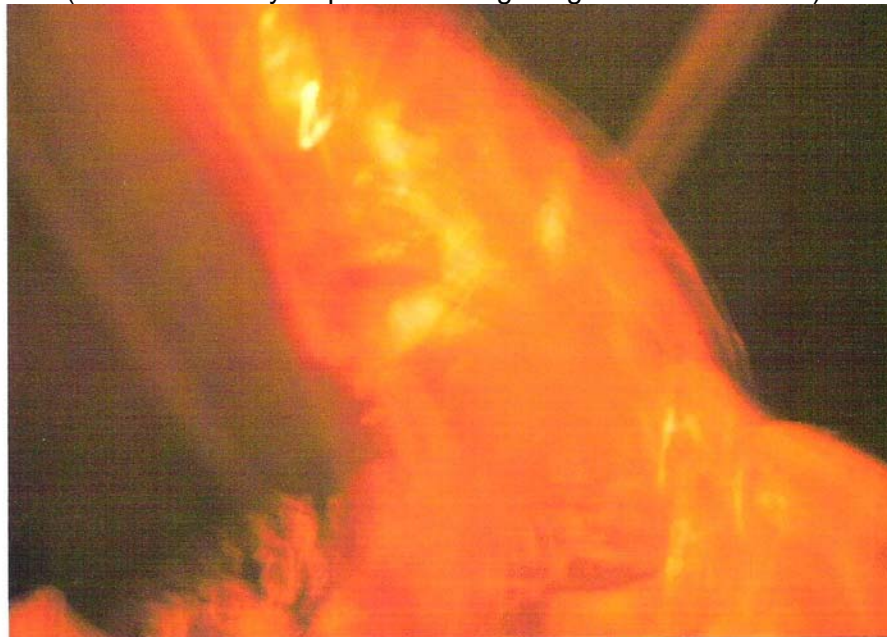
**THE U.S. EMPIRE  
SENDS HOLIDAY  
GREETING AND GIFTS  
TO THE PEOPLES OF  
IRAQ AND  
AFGHANISTAN:**

## FOR THE KIDS:



## FOR THOSE SPECIAL GROWNUPS

(Some assembly required: fuel + gel ingredients included.)



(Mike Hastie photo)

**AND HERE'S SANTA!**



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**Christmas Tree  
[In Case You Missed It The First Time  
12.25]**

**From: Dennis Serdel  
To: Military Resistance  
Sent: December 22, 2010  
Subject: Christmas Tree by Dennis**

Written by Dennis Serdel, Military Resistance 2010; Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade; United Auto Workers GM Retiree

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**Christmas Tree**

**Dead Solders hang from the Christmas tree,  
a cross on top blinks red white and blue  
blood dripping from the pine needles  
like a junkie government who can't get enough.  
Obama dressed as Old St. Sick throws**

more coffins as presents under the tree  
Congress doesn't argue about the cost of the war  
they just hang shiny purple hearts made  
of gold all over the tree and decorations  
of black hearses end to end that go around  
the tree and then hanging like bulbs are  
missing arms and missing legs and hanging  
like garland are gold and silver bars that  
the war profiteers steal in the early morning  
so all the children find is a funeral procession  
as they watch the dead Soldiers placed  
into coffins and witness the carnage under  
the tree and when they look up, all they  
can see is more dead Soldiers hanging from  
the tree and all they know is Christmas  
isn't supposed to be like this, as the War on  
the Workers is like the War overseas

where the rich take everything and

give back nothing, using a

lying banner that says Peace On Earth,  
Goodwill Toward Men and Christ says  
nothing except follow your government  
and the priests and pastors and the leaders  
of the churches preach, let us not forget our  
fallen Soldiers on Christmas Day

and the Soldiers overseas, so we can  
enjoy the freedom to live in poverty,

but the children rise up in a choir of truth  
sing to their elders can't you see the dead  
Soldiers hanging from the Christmas tree  
can't you see the rich stealing the silver  
and gold like every day is Christmas  
for them as they keep the money  
and all we get is dead Soldiers each hanging  
from a cross and placed on a Christmas tree

and our Mom and Dad's don't have a job

all of this is so wrong

makes you want to kill someone

written by Dennis Serdel for Military Resistance

## **DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?**

**Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Afghanistan, Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the wars, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 888.711.2550**

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Local Solider Killed In Afghanistan**



12/8/2010 By CARLETA WEYRICH, The People's Defender

PEEBLES - This week the community has gathered around the family of Lance Cpl. Lucas Christopher Scott, a 2009 graduate of Peebles High School, after receiving word Friday that he was killed while serving with the U.S. Marine Corps in Afghanistan.

Flags are being flown at half staff in Adams County in his honor.

"He had his heart set on going into the service since he was a little boy," his uncle, Greg Tipton, said Monday. "That's just something he wanted to do. My son, Luke and his brother, Eli, were close in age. They were always playing cowboys and Indians and had their GI Joes. They spent a lot of time at each other's houses."

At the time of his birth in Cincinnati, his mother, Angela Scott, heard music being played. It was the song "What a Wonderful World" that was being sung by Louis Armstrong as her son, Lucas Christopher Scott, entered the world.

"I just laid there and listened to it," she said.

Twenty years later people who knew Luke Scott say that he did his part to contribute to that wonderful world with his easy smile and pleasant ways.

"He was exempt from this "me generation" - he wasn't selfish," his uncle, Christopher Tipton, said Tuesday. "He didn't want somebody else to do his job."

When he was 11, Tipton, who has an interest in American Indian culture and religion, took him along to a pow wow. He told Scott he could go and have fun with the other boys, but to be watchful in case anyone needed help. Tipton later observed Scott playing football. He had just caught the ball, as a man limping on one leg walked nearby carrying a box. Tipton saw Scott set the ball down where he was standing and go over to offer help to the man.

While he was serving in Afghanistan in October, Angela Scott sent her son a box of candy for Halloween. Luke Scott took the candy and handed it out to the local children.

During his last week of duty on Monday, an explosion resulted in a head injury and knocked him out. A helicopter was called in to pick him up, but having regained consciousness, he refused to go and leave the other men behind.

On Nov. 30, he spent his 20th birthday recuperating with a concussion. He called his mother on Thursday, and he told her about the injury. He also told her "I love you, Mother" and again, "I love you, Mama." She let him know how much she loved him.

Angela Scott was later told that her son was permitted to stay behind when his unit went out on combat operations in the Taliban stronghold of Helmand Province at the end of the week, but the same determination to do his own work and carry his load drove him on. Not only did he go along with the unit, still carrying stitches on his head, he also took his turn as the runner at the front of the unit, drawing out fire from the enemy to determine their location.

A fellow Marine, Robbie Williams, who "always had his back" was close behind and saw him falter. When Luke went down, it was Williams who carried him to safety and medical care.

Williams, from Georgia, told the family, "I lost my little brother and my best friend."

While serving at Camp Lejeune, N.C., Luke Scott visited Williams' family several times and went to Six Flags with them.

Living near Locust Grove, Scott was a Peebles High School student and attended the Ohio Valley Career and Technical Center during his last two years in school. During his high school career, he competed in soccer, track and cross country.

"He was well liked by everybody," Scott's track coach, Linda Zinser said. "His brother really looked up to him. He always had a quick smile and a good sense of humor.

"For his last year of school, all he wanted to do was be a Marine. He was a good kid, and he wanted to defend our nation. I think sometimes we don't realize the cost of freedom until we lose someone in our own hometown."

Scott entered the Marines through the Delayed Entry Program, working out regularly with fellow recruits during his senior year. After graduation, he completed basic training at Parris Island, S.C. in Platoon 1061 of Delta Co. He graduated in September 2009 as a Private First Class.

After completing additional training, including in infantry, the military specialty he chose, Lance Cpl. Lucas C. Scott was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C. and was deployed to Afghanistan.

A public funeral is expected to be held at Peebles High school. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time.

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## **Lake Worth Marine Killed While Serving In Afghanistan – 'He Just Wanted To Be A Marine'**



Jose Hernandez: Facebook/Rip Jose Hernandez

Dec 15, 2010 By Michael LaForgia and Julius Whigham II, Palm Beach Post Staff Writers

From the time Jose A. Hernandez was a child, he hoped someday to become a Marine, his family and friends said Wednesday.

"He just wanted to serve his country. He just wanted to be a Marine," Hernandez's cousin, Clara Rodriguez said.

Hernandez, 19, realized that dream, joining the Marines after graduating from Lake Worth High School in 2009. The dream ended this week, when he was killed in combat in Afghanistan .

A release from the Department of Defense did not indicate how Hernandez died, but family and friends said that indications were that he was killed by a roadside explosive. Hernandez, who rose to the rank of lance corporal, was assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, out of Camp Lejeune, N.C.

According to Rodriguez, Hernandez was inspired by his older brother, Don Hernandez, who also served in the Marines. Jose Hernandez would have celebrated his 20th birthday on the day after Christmas, said his sister, Aronica Nava of Greenacres.

"He was just a good person," Nava said. "Nobody had anything bad to say about him."

As a child he loved soccer, but "his main thing was joining the Marines," Nava said. He thought he might study aviation after completing his service, she said.

Brad "Scooter" Michael, 19, of West Palm Beach, said he met Hernandez when the two were both enrolled in the ROTC program at Lake Worth High. Michael said he learned of Hernandez's death Tuesday night.

"It was just one of those moments that stop time," Michael said.

Michael said he last saw Hernandez over the summer, when Hernandez was home on leave. "When he was on leave, he came to my house," Michael said. "My stepdad is a Vietnam veteran. When he left in his service blues, my stepdad saluted him, my mom gave him a hug and that was the last time I saw him."

Michael described Hernandez as a devoted Marine.

"He was a hardcore Marine, through thick and through thin," Michael said. "He was definitely a jarhead. Definitely, it was oo-rah all the way through."

Jessica Norris, a friend and fellow Lake Worth High graduate, said of Hernandez: "He was a great guy. Funny. If you were sad, he could absolutely make your day. I remember when he was up north in North Carolina, every night we'd talk on the phone and he'd always make my day.

"Before he left, we promised each other we'd write in our journal every day to each other and then when he came back, that we'd exchange our journals," Norris said. "Unfortunately, that won't happen."

Mario Pagan, a Lantana native stationed with the Marines in California, said he had classes with Hernandez before transferring in his senior year to complete his studies at Gateway High School in Boynton.



I definitely cried," said Pagan, who arrived home on leave Wednesday night. "You can't stop tears for someone that you knew in person and shared life with. He's not going in vain."

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## **'He Wanted To Do Something To Help' Slain Army Medic Was Spurred By Plight Of Wounded**

December 13, 2010 By Jesse Roman, Staff writer, The Salem News

SALEM — Lauren Elizabeth Ayube's life changed forever with a simple knock at the door last Wednesday.

Two men dressed in formal Class A Army uniforms were standing solemnly outside, and, deep down, she knew what that meant: Her husband, Sgt. James Ayube Jr., a combat medic serving in Afghanistan, had been killed.

But she wouldn't let herself believe it, not right away.

"I had a weird, surreal moment. I asked them, 'Why are you dressed like that?'" Lauren Ayube said yesterday. "They asked me if I was Mrs. Ayube, and I said, 'Yes, but why are you dressed like that?' No matter how many times I thought about this moment in my head, I wasn't prepared."

She collapsed to the floor, screaming that they must be lying.

James Ayube Jr., 25, of Salem, died Wednesday in Kandahar Province Afghanistan, when a suicide bomber rounded the corner of a building and blew himself up near the spot where Ayube and Kelly J. Mixon, of Fernandina Beach, Fla., were standing. Both men were killed.

The fateful knock on the door came Wednesday evening, and since then the Ayube family has been trying to process the tragedy.

"It was so unreal the first couple days. It's only now sinking in. We're devastated," his father, James Ayube Sr. of Salem, said yesterday.

"It's hard to imagine not having your kid around. It's just not right, a parent having to bury their child. I wish I could make a deal with the devil and switch places with him."

Ayube's body will be brought back to Salem sometime this week and his funeral will likely be soon after.

Ayube, who graduated from Salem High School in 2003, had been in Afghanistan since June and was just three and a half weeks away from going on leave, his wife said. Despite the distance, Lauren, 24, spoke to her husband every day.

"Because of the time difference, when I was waking up, he was going to bed, and when I was going to bed he was waking up," she said. "So we spoke twice a day. We began and ended each day together."

Lauren Ayube was 18 and James just 20 when they met while he was a student at Bunker Hill Community College studying sociology. Ayube enlisted in the Army shortly before the couple married.

From the get-go, Ayube knew he wanted to aid wounded soldiers.

"Initially, I think he did it because he was in the Boy Scouts growing up and he always had a feeling of duty for his country," Lauren said. "He wanted to do something to help."

His son was a religious man and didn't believe in war, his father said. But, despite his beliefs, he understood that people were dying and they needed help.

"That's the type of kid he was, always willing to help other people," James Ayube Sr. said. "He didn't want to be involved in killing or hurting anyone, so he thought being a medic was the best way to help."

"The war was a separate issue from his service," Lauren explained.

Initially, he wanted to join the Navy as a corpsman, the Naval version of a medic. But that changed when Ayube saw the powerful HBO mini-series "Band of Brothers," which depicts an Army company during World War II.

He "saw (medic) Gilbert Roe's character running through the trenches during one part of the show and something clicked for him," Lauren said. "He said, 'That's for me.'"

In early 2008, shortly after they were married, Lauren and James moved to an Army base in Vilseck, Germany. Almost immediately, he got orders to deploy for eight months in Iraq.

"I made him promise me that if things got bad or he saw or experienced something traumatic that he tell me," she said. "I knew all about (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), and I didn't want to be shocked to find things out later."

Ayube's deployment in Iraq was relatively uneventful, and after it ended, the couple spent a happy year and a half in Germany.

In June, Ayube was given orders to deploy to Afghanistan. The young soldier saw much more action during his second deployment, Lauren said. Keeping his promise, Ayube told his wife about fire fights with insurgents, and the increased use of IEDs (improvised explosive devices) in the area.

"It made me nervous. I was nervous about IEDs or that he'd be shot by a sniper. Suicide bomber was not on the forefront of my mind," she said.

Ayube was very much aware of the risks before he chose to enlist as a combat medic, his father said.

"Nobody ever wants to see their kid in harm's way. There were 1,000 reasons for him not to do it," his father said.

"He was 21. Nobody his age believes it's going to happen to him; it's going to be the guy next to him. To their credit, the Army never minimized the danger he was putting himself in. He understood he was going to be in danger and he still signed the papers. I had to support him. As much as I love my son, every other parent feels that way. I can't say my son was better than anyone else's son. If he wanted to do it, I wasn't going to stop him."

Ayube's deployment was set to end next year, and "we had made a lot of plans," Lauren said.

Ayube had planned to re-enlist and request a transfer to Fort Carson, Colo., where Lauren was going to enroll in college. After graduation, the couple would move back to Salem to start a family.

"James really wanted to have kids, he really wanted to be a dad. We saw a house for sale close to his parents and we were thinking about buying it," Lauren said. "We were ready to do the whole family thing."

"It's hard to imagine, hard to accept that we're never going to see him again," his father said.

"We were looking forward so much to getting him out of Afghanistan. I hadn't hardly seen the kid in three-and-a-half years. I was looking forward to seeing him as the man he'd grown up to be — a wonderful man."

In addition to his wife and father, James Ayube Jr. leaves his mother, Christina; a brother, Alex, 24; a sister, Ashleigh, 17; his mother-in-law, Paula Foster; and many other friends and family members.

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## **Yulee Army Specialist Dies In Afghanistan; He Was Member Of Jaguars Drumline**

December 10, 2010 By Timothy J. Gibbons, Jacksonville.com

When Kelly J. Mixon came home from Afghanistan for Thanksgiving in Yulee, he got to do two of his favorite things: mess around in the kitchen and play the drums.

It was a happy time, family and friends say, tinged with worries about how the rest of his deployment would go.

Those fears became true this week. Mixon and a sergeant from Massachusetts were killed in Balkh province, Afghanistan, after an insurgent attacked their unit with an improvised explosive device.

Mixon, a U.S. Army specialist, would have turned 24 in two weeks. He got married right before he was deployed.

Mixon had talked for years, on and off, about enlisting in some branch of the military, friends and family said. When he signed up a few years after high school, it was clear he'd made the right choice.

"When I saw him, he was the happiest I'd seen him in many a long time," said Mary Sikes, who works in Fernandina Beach High School's guidance department and saw Mixon over Thanksgiving.

Although Mixon could seem rebellious — "not afraid to be himself in front of everybody" is how his friend Ryan Teston described it — it wasn't much of a surprise when he enlisted or when he went on to become a sniper.

"He was just looking for a big adventure," said Bob Jenkins, a drumline instructor who taught Mixon how to play. "He always liked to do everything the best he could."

Drumming was a major part of Mixon's life before he enlisted. He was interested in music in middle school and joined the band when he went on to Fernandina Beach High School. "Over the next four years, he was the best student I ever had," Jenkins said. He eventually became part of the D-Line, the Jacksonville Jaguars' official drumline.

When Mixon came home for Thanksgiving, he stopped by and practiced with the current band members at the high school, Teston said.

"He talked about how things were going," said Teston, who had played with Mixon back in high school. "He didn't really like Afghanistan, but he enjoyed the Army."

As the news circulated through his close-knit circle of friends and family, the thought that he was happy in the Army provided some comfort.

"Everyone was scared" when Mixon left to finish his deployment, his aunt, Ginny Mixon, said through her tears Friday afternoon. "But he was doing what he wanted to do."

When Mixon finished up his tour, several friends said, he planned on going to culinary school, building on his love of cooking. Although home for only a short time on his last visit back, he managed to indulge that love, too, whipping up a batch of hot wings.

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT  
THE BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE  
WARS**

## Buckle Up Or Pay Up:



Dec. 13, 2010: A Taliban fighter, center, checks passenger of a vehicle at a Taliban checkpoint in Nangarhar province, east of Kabul, Afghanistan. A Taliban commander on the ground said that they were checking the traffic looking for people working for the Afghan government, for non-governmental organizations or who work at the US military bases. (AP Photo)

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## WELCOME TO AFBAGHVIETISTAN: HAVE A NICE DAY



Craig Eicher, Montgomery, Alabama, of the 2nd Platoon Bravo Company 2-327 Infantry patrols in Chowkay district near Pakistani border in Kunar province, eastern Afghanistan, Dec 20, 2010. (AP Photo/Rafiq Maqbool)

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**MILITARY NEWS**

**The New Issue Of Traveling  
Soldier Is Out!**

**Posted At:**

**<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/ci.php>**

**THIS ISSUE FEATURING:**

**"A WAR WITH NO CLEAR OBJECTIVE"**

**<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/12.10.war.php>**

**"WE SHOULD JUST END IT. BRING THE  
TROOPS HOME"**

**"I never wanted my son to be a little old obituary  
in the paper"**

**<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/12.10.troops.php>**

**THE POLITICIANS WON'T TALK ABOUT  
THE WAR:**

***"But for the Olechnys, avoidance is not an option"***

**<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/12.10.avoidance.php>**

**[And More.....]**

## **TRAVELING SOLDIER**

Telling the truth - about the occupations or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance to Imperial wars inside the armed forces.

Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

Traveling Soldier is the publication of the Military Resistance Organization

# **FYI: Traveling Soldier Is Published By The Military Resistance Organization: MILITARY RESISTANCE TEN POINTS**

## **Mission Statement:**

1. The mission of Military Resistance is to bring together in one organization members of the armed forces and civilians in order to give aid and comfort to members of the armed forces who are organizing to end the wars of empire in Afghanistan and Iraq. The long term objective is to assist in eliminating all wars of empire by eliminating all empires.

2. Military Resistance does not advocate individual disobedience to orders or desertion from the armed forces. The most effective resistance is organized by members of the armed forces working together.

However, Military Resistance respects and will assist in the defense of troops who see individual desertion or refusal of orders as the only course of action open to them for reasons of conscience.

3. Military Resistance stands for the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. and other occupation troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.

**Occupied nations have the right to independence and the right to resist Imperial invasion and occupation by force of arms.**

**4. Efforts to increase democratic rights in every society, organization, movement, and within the armed forces itself will receive encouragement and support.**

**Members of the armed forces, whether those of the United States or any other nation, have the right and duty to act against dictatorships commanding their services, and to assist civilian movements against dictatorship.**

**This applies whether a political dictatorship is imposed by force of arms or a political dictatorship is imposed by those in command of the resources of society using their wealth to purchase the political leadership.**

**5. Military Resistance uses organizational democracy.**

**This means control of the organization by the membership, through elected delegates to any coordinating bodies that may be formed, whether at local, regional, or national levels.**

**Any member may run for any job in the organization. All persons elected are subject to immediate recall, by majority vote of the membership.**

**Coordinating bodies report their actions, decisions and votes to the membership who elected them, and may be overruled by a majority of the membership.**

**6. It is not necessary for Military Resistance to be in political agreement with other organizations in order to work together towards specific common objectives.**

**It is productive for organizations working together on common projects to discuss differences about the best way forward for the movement.**

**Debate is necessary to arrive at the best course of action.**

## **Membership Requirements:**

**7. It is a condition of membership that each member prioritize and participate in organized action to reach out to active duty armed forces, Reserve and/or National Guard units.**

**8. Military Resistance or individual members may choose to support candidates for elective office who are for immediate withdrawal from Iraq and Afghanistan, but do not support a candidate opposed to immediate, unconditional withdrawal.**



9. Members may not be active duty or drilling reserve commissioned officers, or employed in any capacity by any police or intelligence agency, local, state, or national.

10. I understand and am in agreement with the above statement. I pledge to defend my brothers and sisters, and the democratic rights of the citizens of the United States, against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

-----**(Signed)**

**(Date)**

----- **(Application taken by)**

**Military Resistance: Contact@militaryproject.org  
Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657  
888-711-2550**

**MORE**

# **Take Action That Makes A Difference: Join Military Resistance: MILITARY RESISTANCE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Armed Forces? (Branch) \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran? Years: \_\_\_\_\_

Union: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Landline): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Cell): \_\_\_\_\_

\$ dues paid \_\_\_\_\_

(See next: Calendar year basis.)

Armed Forces Members	@	Dues waived
Civilians	@	\$25
Students/Unemployed	@	\$10
Civilian/Military Prisoners	@	Dues Waived

Comments:

NOTE: Civilian applicants will be interviewed, in person if possible, or by phone.

**Military Resistance: [Contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:Contact@militaryproject.org)  
Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657  
888-711-2550**

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## **THIS IS HOW OBAMA BRINGS THEM HOME: ONE CASKET FOR SEVEN: ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE!**

The casket containing the remains of Army Sgt. 1st Class Luis M. Gonzalez, of South Ozone Park, N.Y.; Sgt. Dale R. Griffin, of Terre Haute, Ind.; Sgt. Isaac B. Jackson, of Plattsburg, Mo.; Sgt. Patrick O. Williamson, of Broussard, La.; Spc. Jared D. Stanker, of Evergreen Park, Ill.; Pfc. Christopher I. Walz, of Vancouver, Wash.; and Sgt. Fernando de la Rosa, of Alamo, Texas.; Nov. 18, 2010, at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va.

The group died by a roadside bomb, Oct. 27, 2009, southern Afghan province of Kandahar.



(AP Photos/Jose Luis Magana)



REUTERS/Yuri Gripas



(AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

#### **Troops Invited:**

**Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email to [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.**

## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



**“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”**

**“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.**

**“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.**

**“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”**

**Frederick Douglass, 1852**

**Hope for change doesn’t cut it when you’re still losing buddies.  
-- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

**I say that when troops cannot be counted on to follow orders because they see the futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war.  
-- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace**

**One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.**

**Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
December 13, 2004**

**The Social-Democrats ideal should not be the trade union secretary, but the tribune of the people who is able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression no matter where it appears no matter what stratum or class of the people it affects; who is able to generalize all these manifestations and produce a single picture of police violence and capitalist exploitation; who is able to take advantage of every event, however small, in order to set forth before all his socialist convictions and his democratic demands, in order to clarify for all and everyone the world-historic significance of the struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat.”**

**-- V. I. Lenin; What Is To Be Done**

**A revolution is always distinguished by impoliteness, probably because the ruling classes did not take the trouble in good season to teach the people fine manners.  
-- Leon Trotsky, History Of The Russian Revolution**

**“The Nixon administration claimed and received great credit for withdrawing the Army from Vietnam, but it was the rebellion of low-ranking GIs that forced the government to abandon a hopeless suicidal policy”**

**-- David Cortright; Soldiers In Revolt**

**It is a two class world and the wrong class is running it.**

**-- Larry Christensen, Soldiers Of Solidarity & United Auto Workers**

**Rise like Lions after slumber  
In unvanquishable number,  
Shake your chains to earth like dew  
Which in sleep had fallen on you-  
Ye are many — they are few**

**-- Percy Bysshe Shelley, 1819, on the occasion of a mass murder of British workers by the Imperial government at Peterloo.**

# **Jury Pool In Marijuana Case Stages 'Mutiny': "They Took The Law Into Their Own Hands And Made It Clear They Weren't About To Convict Anybody For Having A Couple Of Buds Of Marijuana"**

**"Public opinion, as revealed by the reaction of a substantial portion of the members of the jury called to try the charges on Dec. 16, 2010, is not supportive of the state's marijuana law and appeared to prevent any conviction from being obtained simply because an unbiased jury did not appear available under any circumstances," according to the plea memorandum filed by his attorney.**

December 19, 2010 GWEN FLORIO of the Missoulian, The Billings Gazette [Excerpts]

A funny thing happened on the way to a trial in Missoula County District Court last week.

Jurors – well, potential jurors – staged a revolt.

They took the law into their own hands, as it were, and made it clear they weren't about to convict anybody for having a couple of buds of marijuana. Never mind that the defendant in question also faced a felony charge of criminal distribution of dangerous drugs.

The tiny amount of marijuana police found while searching Touray Cornell's home on April 23 became a huge issue for some members of the jury panel.

No, they said, one after the other. No way would they convict somebody for having a 16th of an ounce.

In fact, one juror wondered why the county was wasting time and money prosecuting the case at all, said a flummoxed Deputy Missoula County Attorney Andrew Paul. District Judge Dusty Deschamps took a quick poll as to who might agree. Of the 27 potential jurors before him, maybe five raised their hands. A couple of others had already been excused because of their philosophical objections.

"I thought, 'Geez, I don't know if we can seat a jury,'" said Deschamps, who called a recess.

And he didn't.

During the recess, Paul and defense attorney Martin Elison worked out a plea agreement. That was on Thursday.

On Friday, Cornell entered an Alford plea, in which he didn't admit guilt. He briefly held his infant daughter in his manacled hands, and walked smiling out of the courtroom.

"Public opinion, as revealed by the reaction of a substantial portion of the members of the jury called to try the charges on Dec. 16, 2010, is not supportive of the state's marijuana law and appeared to prevent any conviction from being obtained simply because an unbiased jury did not appear available under any circumstances," according to the plea memorandum filed by his attorney.

**"A mutiny," said Paul.**

**"Bizarre," the defense attorney called it.**

**In his nearly 30 years as a prosecutor and judge, Deschamps said he's never seen anything like it.**

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"I think that's outstanding," John Masterson, who heads Montana NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws), said when told of the incident. "The American populace over the last 10 years or so has begun to believe in a majority that assigning criminal penalties for the personal possession of marijuana is an unjust and a stupid use of government resources."

Masterson is hardly an unbiased source.

On the other hand, prosecutor, defense attorney and judge all took note that some of the potential jurors expressed that same opinion.

**"I think it's going to become increasingly difficult to seat a jury in marijuana cases, at least the ones involving a small amount," Deschamps said.**

The attorneys and the judge all noted Missoula County's approval in 2006 of Initiative 2, which required law enforcement to treat marijuana crimes as their lowest priority – and also of the 2004 approval of a statewide medical marijuana ballot initiative.

**And all three noticed the age of the members of the jury pool who objected. A couple looked to be in their 20s. A couple in their 40s. But one of the most vocal was in her 60s.**

**"It's kind of a reflection of society as a whole on the issue," said Deschamps.**

Which begs a question, he said.

**Given the fact that marijuana use became widespread in the 1960s, most of those early users are now in late middle age and fast approaching elderly.**

Is it fair, Deschamps wondered, in such cases to insist upon impaneling a jury of "hardliners" who object to all drug use, including marijuana?

"I think that poses a real challenge in proceeding," he said. "Are we really seating a jury of their peers if we just leave people on who are militant on the subject?"

Because the case never went to trial, members of the jury pool didn't know that Cornell's neighbors had complained to police that he was dealing from his South 10th Street West four-plex, according to an affidavit in the case. After one neighbor reported witnessing an alleged transaction between Cornell and two people in a vehicle, marijuana was found in the vehicle in question.

The driver and passenger said they'd bought it from Cornell, the affidavit said. A subsequent search of his home turned up some burnt marijuana cigarettes, a pipe and some residue, as well as a shoulder holster for a handgun and 9mm ammunition. As a convicted felon, Cornell was prohibited from having firearms, the affidavit noted.

Cornell admitted distributing small amounts of marijuana and "referred to himself as a person who connected other dealers with customers," it said. "He claimed his payment for arranging deals was usually a small amount of marijuana for himself."

Cornell sought and received permission to hug his daughter before heading back to jail.

**The reaction of potential jurors in this case, Paul said, "is going to be something we're going to have to consider."**

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## **December 23, 1961: Hideous Anniversary: The First KIA In A Previous Deadly Stupid Imperial Disaster**



December 23, 1961



James Davis of Livingston, Tennessee, was killed by the Viet Cong, the insurgents in South Vietnam, and became the first of some 58,000 U.S. soldiers killed during the Vietnam War.

Lyndon Johnson later referred to him as “the first American to fall in defense of our freedom in Vietnam.”

Over two million Vietnamese would die before the end of the war.

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## **December 26, 1971: Honorable Anniversary: Vietnam Veterans Against The War Liberate The Statue Of Liberty**



Carl Bunin Peace History December 24-30

Two dozen members of Vietnam Veterans Against the War “liberated” the Statue of Liberty with a sit-in to protest resumed U.S. aerial bombings in Vietnam.

They flew an inverted U.S. flag from the crown as a signal of distress.

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## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

# **Man Killed By Zionist Backshooters Thursday For Herding Sheep While Palestinian; “Between March 26 And Dec. 10, Israeli Troops Shot At Least 19 Palestinian Children As They Collected Gravel In Northern Gaza**

December 23, 2010 Ma'an News & AFP

A Palestinian shepherd died Thursday hours after Israeli troops shot him and three others along the border with Israel inside northern Gaza, medics said.

**Salamah Abu Hashish, 22, sustained wounds to the back in the shooting, which occurred north of Beit Lahiya, Gaza medical services spokesman Adham Abu Salmiya told Ma'an.**

The official said Abu Hashish was the 13th Gazan to be killed since November and the 34th to suffer injuries near the border, which Israel considers a combat zone but residents call home.

**Two Palestinians were critically injured in Thursday's shooting, Abu Salmiya said. One of them, a 14-year-old boy, sustained wounds to the head while collecting stones, he added.**

A third person, aged 19, was moderately injured in his hand, medics said, and an 18-year-old was hurt near the Erez crossing in a separate shooting incident, Abu Salmiya said.

An Israeli military spokeswoman confirmed that forces shot two Palestinians.

She added that the army fired warning shots before firing at the workers' lower bodies. The forces opened fire because the Palestinians refused to turn back, she said.

"This area is considered a combat zone used by terrorist organizations to execute attacks," the spokeswoman added. "For this reason, the IDF will not allow anyone to be present in it."

Hours after that incident the armed wing of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine said it fired three mortars at an Israeli post east of Al-Bureij refugee camp.

In a statement, the National Resistance Brigades said "the shelling comes in response to Israeli crimes against Palestinians and to affirm the path of resistance is our strategic choice."

Robert Serry, the UN special coordinator for the Middle East peace process, deplored the incident and urged Israel to show "maximum restraint."

"I am distressed that incidents continue in the perimeter area of Gaza, and deplore the killing of one apparently unarmed Palestinian civilian and the injuring of a number of others by Israeli gunfire," he said.

"I call for maximum Israeli restraint and protection of civilians. I reiterate my appeal for calm and an end to violence, to bring about the de-escalation that all parties have stressed they wish to see."

"The UN does not want to see any renewed intensification of conflict," he added.

**Between March 26 and Dec. 10, Israeli troops shot at least 19 Palestinian children as they collected gravel in northern Gaza, the charity group Defence for Children International says.**

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: [www.rafahtoday.org](http://www.rafahtoday.org) The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]

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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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