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2017 Peace Scholarship

“One in every 122 people is displaced by war, violence and persecution,” (*theguardian*).

Around the globe there are tragedies that result from war, and other devastations caused by governments. Bringing peace is the only way we could be living a more peaceful lifestyle. Some ways we can bring peace are by contributing to other sources and compromising. An expanded, better financed military could be more successful, but those contributions could be used for more important and useful sources. These contributions could go to people in our country who are low income, families in poverty or homeless, that could be given a better chance of living. Many Americans, have health issues that are not being addressed, which could help people become healthier and stop the spread of illnesses and diseases. Contributing to these is one of the ways people in this country could be living a more successful and healthier life.

Compromising is one way US citizens and our government could do instead of declaring war, that could be better on our society. Compromising is the most successful way to go about conflicts in our government and other governments around the world. This will lessen deaths, wars, famine, and destruction in countries. I was born in Germany and both American and German governments and society are different. Germans take death seriously than Americans, governments are different, health costs in Germany are cheaper than the US. These are some

differences we have with other countries, that we could take as an example to make our country more peaceful.

I already contribute to making my community a better place by volunteering my time at the 1st Avenue Animal Shelter. I go to help the animals by cleaning, feeding, giving loves, walking dogs, and giving my services wherever needed. I take shifts to care for the animals, and even stay extra hours to get other jobs done. I help animals who have been lost, given up, or abused. I make a difference by giving the care to those who cannot speak for themselves; to me that is important. My volunteering at the animal shelter has helped me learn taking on the responsibility of caring for the animals, learning, understanding health issues of the animals, and help work and train with the animals. It helps my community in a small way, but if more people did something everyday for the community, it can have a major impact to our society. Giving my part, shows me that I am being a part of my community by making a better, safer and healthier environment. I have an interest in veterinary medicine, and hope in the future to help animals in my community to stay healthy, off the streets, give vaccines, and help owners keep a healthy pet in their lives. Becoming a veterinarian is my way of making the world a more peaceful and safe place for people to live in.

Outside Source Quote:

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/jun/18/59m-people-displaced-war-violence-persecution-says-un>

Destinie Tatum

Since the 9/11 attacks in 2001, the United States forces have been committed to a so-called War on Terror. Their mission is to stop terrorists. However, after more than 15 years, terrorists continue to commit heinous acts. The phrase itself, War on Terror, is contradicting. How do the American forces believe that starting a war will end terror attacks? Peace cannot be reached by adding more terror to what already exists. Since war is not working, it seems to be time to look for new approaches to solving this problem.

Many may believe that an expanded, better financed military would be more successful in stopping terrorists. However, this would not benefit the cause. By expanding the military, the United States would just be expanding the terror. More soldiers equals more fighting. The United States sending soldiers and fighting over seas just increases the terrorists' hate toward Americans. There is a need for a more peaceful approach.

One alternative to war that would be more peaceful is education. With higher education comes higher understanding. Understanding of the world, its people, their cultures and history. This understanding could improve different people's opinions of others. It would demonstrate that all people around the world, despite minor differences, are the same. Language, religion, and culture might separate them, but that does not make them enemies. Obviously, this education would have to reach everyone on Earth, and that might be a difficult task, but take the money that is already going to the United States military and the money proposed to create "an expanded, better financed military" and just try this more peaceful method. War is not working, so why not try something new?

How can I help in the mission to create peace? I believe that spreading acceptance and treating everyone I come in contact with equally is one way I am personally making a difference.

I understand that people from all different walks of life deserve respect, and that giving them respect will make a difference. The people that come in contact with me will hopefully follow this example and treat the people that they meet with the same level of acceptance. I also make it my own personal mission to speak out when I see someone not treating others with respect. One example of this is when I worked at Sea Lion Caves in Florence, Oregon over the summer. As a tourist attraction, we get many visitors from foreign countries that stop by. I worked with some older employees around fifty to seventy years of age. I remember once that a group of Syrians came in and some of my older co-workers were saying terrible things about them. One example was when they said to fellow workers to keep their eyes open because "those people" often steal. This outraged me. It became, in that moment, my personal responsibility to make this group of Syrians feel absolutely welcome. I made sure to be the one who sold them their tickets, I talked with the women in their group, showed the kids all the cool sea lion toys, and just showed them the same kindness I showed every customer that came in. They loved the cave and told me as they left that they had a wonderful time. After they left, I went to my co-workers that had made the nasty comments and I told them that what they had said was offensive and wrong. I told them to please keep their prejudices to themselves and be welcoming to every customer that comes in. I do not think that I changed their opinions that day, but I do know that I made a positive impact on that Syrian group. These little victories make a big difference.

Terrorists are still committing terrible acts of hate despite the United States efforts to stop them with a so-called War on Terror. War is only adding to the terror in this world. There needs to be an attempt to solve this problem in a more peaceful way. Education could be the answer because it would lead to understanding and accepting others.

Cheyenne DuBose

What To Do About The War on Terror?

After the terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001, the Bush administration declared a worldwide “war on terror”, involving open and covert military operations, new security legislation, efforts to block the financing of terrorism, and more. This is a system we have implemented and tested out for 15 years now and yet terrorists have not been defeated by war despite the fact that millions of people are dead, injured and displaced by war. This begs many questions for Americans. Why is this? Why are innocent lives being taken for a hopeless cause? Is there something that might work better?

It is evident that this plan is not popular amongst Americans and reform is in high demand. But what is the right plan of action? Some wonder if an expanded, better financed military would be more successful. Others wonder if there is something other than war that might work better. While everyone has certainly had the time to formulate their own opinions on what should be done, I personally find myself somewhere in the middle of this “debate”.

I could see both plans working well in their own rights and providing great benefits to the country. I myself am an advocate for peace. The only issue in looking for alternatives to war is the fact that it has been a prominent feature of the country for over 3,400 years now. Unfortunately it is easier to make an already established institution better than it is to eradicate it altogether. Those who advocate for war argue that the reason for its existence and their participation is to protect one’s country but if the whole world chose peace, there would be nothing left to protect because the whole world

would be on the same page. So when it comes to the talk of peace, the whole world has to agree or else it won't work. Which I guess makes the mission towards peace a hard one because the chances of the whole world agreeing and coming to the same solution are slim. While that is true, that doesn't mean it's impossible.

With our current situation though, I do think that a better financed military is our best bet until we find a better way to advocate for peace and get more people on our side. When it comes to myself, I actively engage in clubs and organizations that help others such as leadership, the CIT (counselor in training) program at the YMCA helping the counselors instill good values and morals, and Mr/Mrs.Irish (a fundraising organization put on by my high school Sheldon that includes a pageant and various fundraisers to raise money for babies in the NICU in our local hospital). In terms of my future, my dream is to become a detective in hopes of reshaping the justice system and finding justice for victims.

2017 Peace Scholarship Essay
Gavin S. Bronaugh

It has been 16 years since the US declared war on terrorism and yet we have failed to eradicate it. Although we had some victories we have suffered many losses along the way, and have ultimately wound up unsuccessful. Now we are forced to ask ourselves if the fault lies with our military and if so should we expand and spend more money on it?

Just because our military has not been able to rid the world of terrorism does not mean that it was for lack of funding. Americans have already given hundreds of billions of dollars to spend on military campaigns that have caused more harm than good when we should have been putting more money toward education, international relations, protecting the environment, and other needs. Our military is too big and over financed as it is, which makes us a bigger target in the eyes of the terrorists. The more fear we strike into the hearts of our enemies, the more of a target we become, which does not solve our problem. If at all possible, conflicts should be resolved with nonviolent means. The fact that our country has “been using war and military solutions to try and stop terrorists” and yet the “terrorists have not been defeated” proves that it is not the solution. Solutions are not solutions if they don’t fix the problem.

Instead of promoting war, we need to promote peace. It is now more important than ever to work for global peace and cooperation with all the challenges, such as climate change, that we face. Terrorism should only be affiliated with the small number of perpetrators, not an entire race or religion they are members of. Going to war with a country based on the actions of a few of its citizens is only going to make the rest of that country more likely to side with the terrorists and ultimately make matters worse. Many people seem to overlook the fact that more Americans

died fighting in the recent wars than died from terrorist attacks on US soil. Depending on how you look at it one could say that US military action led to the death of more Americans, and far more innocent Middle Eastern people, than the actions of the terrorists. I have been raised to resolve conflicts peacefully since the first day of preschool. Sometimes it seems that adults hold children to a higher standard than they do themselves. If children are expected to use their words, grownups should be too.

I have been working hard to earn good grades in high school so that I can attend a good college to complete the requirements for medical school. After graduating from medical school I plan on spending some of my time working with Doctors Without Borders, an independent humanitarian organization that works in communities affected by war (one third of their project operations), natural disasters, disease outbreak, and severe poverty. Doctors Without Borders (DWB) treats people based on their medical needs regardless of race, religion, or political affiliation throughout the world. This work is so important and effective that DWB was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999. I believe that working with DWB is the best way for me to promote peace and social justice because I will be sent where I am needed the most and can make the biggest impact. I will be a part of an international effort that spreads good will while reducing fear and hatred that can result between peoples who are isolated from each other and are unable to directly communicate. Conflicts are best resolved by communication but often there are barriers to communication that must first be broken down. The power of Doctors Without Borders to do this is right there in their name! Finally, I believe that access to medical care is a basic human right and, as a doctor without a border, I will be able to support that right while saving and improving lives along the way.

Naomi Warner-McDonald

War Produces Terror, Not Destroys It

The War on Terror has consisted of over 15 years of fighting. During this time countless precious lives have been lost in an act to protect others, protect oneself, and to survive. War has not solved the problem of terrorism. I would argue that war has never truly solved anything. War, violent demonstrations, assassinations, and all other forms of attack can only do so much to control the outcome. The other side effects of war are purely destructive. By destroying life around us, rather than put an end to other violence, war creates broken communities, broken families, and a broken world. By building an even more expansive military, a country will not guarantee protection to its people. Through my study of history, I've seen how even one country's act of building defense can provoke another country to attack them.

Even in a realm as broad as international relations, the best way to resolve conflict is to produce more communication and dialogue. This means dialogue between nations and structured, evidence-based dialogue among members of these nations. Constructive dialogue between young and old; dialogue that seeks to find a better way to understand the complexities of human nature and different cultures. The racial hatred that is directed towards Muslims and people of Middle Eastern descent has become only more prominent with the election of President Trump. We cannot let the power of ignorance and fear control our communities. If we do, we are bound to secure our own downfall. The changing of a nation must start with one person. I am willing to be the one person who plants seeds in the minds of others. I want to take the opportunities I have around people and turn them into conversations that make them think. I understand that with privilege

Naomi Warner-McDonald

comes blindness. We need to be reminded of what we are not forced to see. As soon as we are, we will care and we will be driven to do something.

Last year I began to feel a desire for deeper community at Churchill. I felt like all the gaps between people of different cliques, grades, and interests needed to be bridged and there needed to be a place where people could come with the intention to connect and make our school a more friendly and supportive environment. I began talking with my friend Yinessa about this and she agreed. The two of us and our friend Pickles formed a social justice community at school called the Family of United Souls for Peace and Love. We meet during lunch and have creative and productive conversations. We share about community social justice events and workshops going on. We pass out notes of kindness to people we don't know and every week, some of us volunteer at Hannah's house, the only women and children's shelter in the Pacific Northwest. Hannah's house is for women who are recovering from drug use and who haven't really been present in their children's lives. We watch the children, who range from ages nine months to five years old. We teach them lessons and do arts and crafts with them so the mothers can get a little time to recharge.

I have also volunteered with Planned Parenthood for the past three years. My most important outreach has been teaching middle school classes about consent and healthy relationships. Right now, I am working on a group project to provide houseless community members with menstrual products, toothbrushes, and other hygiene products. Our project is still in its beginning stages, but it is something I cannot wait to do for my community.