



# NATIONAL WAR TAX RESISTANCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

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Dear NWTRCC supporters,

As war tax resisters since 1969 my partner and I are particularly concerned with the latest wave of suffering from gun violence as well as from hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, and wildfires. We believe that militarism is a major factor in all these disasters, that military violence is used as a justification for gun ownership and use. War preparation and execution is the major source of pollution contributing to climate change, thus strengthening and increasing the frequency of natural disasters. We just saw the documentary, *Scarred Lands and Wounded Lives*, which pointed out that one-third of the money we spend on the military would be enough to clean up all the destruction caused by war and reverse the progress of climate change.

An excerpt from NWTRCC's Statement of Purpose reads:

*NWTRCC sees racism, sexism, homophobia, poverty, economic exploitation, environmental destruction, and militarization of law enforcement as integrally linked with the militarism which we abhor.*

This statement sums up our motivation for refusing to pay taxes for the military and for supporting the work of NWTRCC. Not only do my partner and I refuse to pay for the destruction of lives and the environment, but we donate the refused taxes to groups who are helping relieve the suffering. We have also given our personal time and energy to work in disaster areas.

Our first such deployment was shortly after Hurricane Katrina which devastated New Orleans on August 29, 2005, causing almost 2,000 deaths and making thousands homeless. We drove down as far as Mississippi, but were diverted to Houston since many of the refugees had been bused there. We worked for over a week at the Astrodome trying to meet basic health care needs (my partner is a family practitioner) and working to reunite extended families who were displaced all over the U.S.

*please read on....*



Vigil in front of TD Bank, an investor in pipelines, during the war tax resistance gathering in Amherst, Mass., November 4, 2017.

TOP: Peter Smith and Bill Glassmire; MIDDLE: Anne Barron; BOTTOM, Chrissy Kirchoefer and Daniel Woodham. Photos by Craig Simpson.

We went back five more times to the gulf region of Mississippi and New Orleans working with a health collective, Common Ground, which was one of the organizations that NWTRCC recommended as a place to send redirected tax dollars during the 2008 War Tax Boycott campaign. More recently we returned to Houston after the recent hurricane to help with cleanup.

Through it all, we felt supported by our local war tax resistance group and by our friends at NWTRCC. I have tried to participate in every NWTRCC gathering since I was appointed to the Administrative Committee in the late 1990s. I know first hand how hard our coordinators work to spread the word about war tax resistance and to create and provide resources to help folks work their way through the intricacies of deciding if and how to become war tax resisters.

NWTRCC has a dynamic website, a robust presence on social media and an outstanding bimonthly newsletter. All this work requires money to continue. You can rest assured that any money you contribute will be well used.

Please help us persevere in these times of trouble.

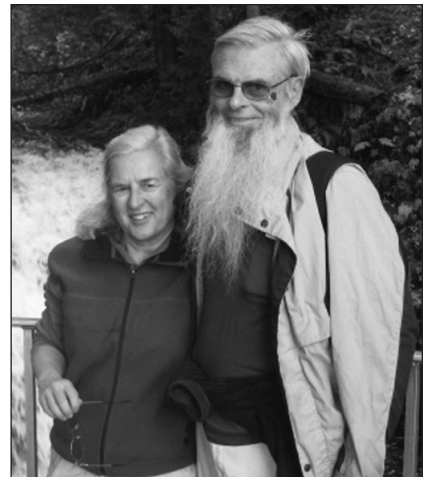
Sincerely,

*Peter D. Smith*  
*Ellyn Stecker*

Peter Smith / Ellyn Stecker

“Congress appropriates more than 70 times the amount of money for the military as it does for the Federal Emergency Management Administration’s (FEMA) Disaster Relief Fund.”

“Spending for War vs. Natural Disaster Relief,”  
by Chris Ernesto, Global Research, 10/16/17



Peter and Ellyn, 2016.