



VETERANS FOR PEACE

Gainesville, Chapter 14, P.O. Box 15058, Gainesville, FL, 32604

"... the next great advancement in the evolution of civilization cannot take place until war is abolished."
- General Douglas MacArthur

January 2011

Dear Educator, Principal, Librarian, Teacher and Community Leader,

The Gainesville Chapter of Veterans for Peace announces **THE ANNUAL PEACE POETRY CONTEST for 2011** for Alachua County, where all students are encouraged to submit one original poem focusing on their interpretation of the meaning of peace.

With the Peace Poetry Contest, our goal is to educate and inform the public about issues of peace, the cost of war and peace-making at schools and in our local communities.

It is with much gratitude and excitement that Veterans for Peace invites you and the children attending your schools to participate in the annual contest.

Veterans for Peace members believe peace-making and hope for a peaceful world begin in our community, our homes and our schools. Other chapters have been organizing the Peace Poetry Contest around the country for more than eight years with great success. For Gainesville, this is the second year of the contest, after a great response to last year's event.

I have enclosed copies of the invitation and rules for the Peace Poetry Contest in the hope that you will widely distribute and post them, and encourage both your colleagues and students for maximum participation. **The deadline for submitting poems is March 25, 2011.**

Judges from the University of Florida English Department will then judge each individual poem based on the age of the participant and quality of the work. Winning poems will be published in the official 2011 Peace Poetry Contest of Alachua County booklet, and winners are also invited to read their poem aloud at the Peace Poetry Reading around the beginning of May.

We encourage electronic submissions of poems to help our judges and publishers compile them in a timely manner. Poems can be emailed to vfppacepoetrycontest@gmail.com, or they can be mailed to:

VFP Peace Poetry Contest
914 NE 14th Avenue
Gainesville, FL, 32601

We are looking forward to another year of celebrating peace through the creativity of young people.

Sincerely,

Scott Camil, President
Veterans for Peace, Chapter 14