

**MidEast: Just Peace & Veterans For Peace to deliver a message to the  
Northern Michigan Defense Conference**

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March 3, 2025

TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN – On March 6, 2025, from 8:00 AM to 6:30 PM, local peace groups will hold a demonstration outside the Northern Michigan Defense Conference, hosted by Traverse Connect at the Delamar Hotel in Traverse City. Their message is simple:

**Death and destruction do not bring economic opportunity for Northern Michigan**

**ENDLESS TAX DOLLARS FOR DEFENSE CONTRACTORS**

The U.S Defense budget for 2024 was \$842 BILLION - more than the next 9 countries combined, including China, Russia, India, Saudi Arabia, the UK, Germany, Ukraine, France, and Japan. \$431 BILLION went to private military contractors that profit from killing, bombing and then rebuilding foreign countries.

**FOLLOW THE MONEY**

Elected officials from both political parties spend our tax dollars to benefit the donors financing their campaigns. Last year, candidates took more than \$150 MILLION from military contractors and more than \$200 MILLION from Israeli lobbyists. According to OpenSecrets.org, Senator Gary Peters, Senator Elissa Slotkin, and Representative Jack Bergman all took money from military contractors and the Israeli lobby. They also voted repeatedly to spend our tax dollars on endless foreign wars, which have resulted in more than 150,000 dead Ukrainians in 3 years, more than 200,000 dead Palestinians in 1 year (per Lancet Medical Journal), and irreparable harm to America's international standing. In addition, these wars continue to produce more pollution than any other activity on the planet.

**AMERICANS SUFFER WHILE BILLIONAIRES PROFIT**

Congress continues to cut funding for many programs that serve the American people, including Social Security benefits for senior citizens, Medicaid coverage for low-income Americans, and housing assistance to homeless Americans. Staffing and services are being cut from agencies that directly serve Americans, including the National Park Service, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Transportation, Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Education, and the Veterans Administration.

In the past month, more than 1,000 Veterans Administration employees have been terminated. In the meantime, the Senate passed a budget resolution calling for \$150 BILLION in additional funding for the Defense Department – the majority of which will go to private contractors, not service people. While American veterans suffer from physical disabilities, PTSD, homelessness, and other service-related problems, the billionaires who sent them to war get richer.

**NORTHERN MICHIGAN RESIDENTS DESERVE BETTER**

Our taxes should be used to employ Michiganders to educate our children, modernize our infrastructure, rebuild our crumbling roads, hire more medical professionals, and support our families.

**Join the demonstration in front of the Delamar Hotel on March 6 from 8:00 AM to 6:30 PM to**

**SAY NO TO THE WAR MACHINE.**