



MEDIA CONTACT:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

B. Lou Guckian
FishHook
1835 Lockhill Selma, No. 1337
San Antonio, TX 78213
210-744-8552
blguckian@guckianwriter.com, www.guckianwriter.com

“PEACE” NOT JUST A “HIPPIE WORD” ANYMORE—U.S. CAMPAIGN MANAGER FOR GRASSROOTS NONVIOLENCE MOVEMENT TO SPEAK IN SAN ANTONIO, RALLY SUPPORT FOR NEW BILL

Now operating in San Antonio, the initiative to establish a Dept. of Peace and Nonviolence in Washington to defuse violence at home and abroad is gaining ground across the country.

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, July 7, 2008—The local congressional district of the U.S. Dept. of Peace Campaign announced today Peace Alliance Campaign Managing Director Wendy Greene will speak at Madison Square Presbyterian Church located at 319 Camden Street on Sunday, July 13, 2008, from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on the national initiative and bill, H.R. 808, before the U.S. House of Representatives that calls for establishment of a U.S. Dept. of Peace and Nonviolence. The event is free and open to the public.

“We recognize while conflict is inevitable, violence is not,” Greene says. “Thus, the horrific crimes we read about daily are largely preventable. We live in a very different world than our parents and grandparents, a world in which military might alone is insufficient to ensure national security.

“This issue is pertinent to everyone and we are a nonpartisan campaign,” Greene says. “The Secretary of Defense himself has called for an expansion of America’s ‘soft’ power, and for ‘21st Century institutions with 21st Century mindsets’.”

(MORE)

Greene, who spends her days either spreading the word in cities across the country or in conversations with members of Congress in Washington D.C., will discuss the need for a formal peace component to the U.S. government and explain the tactical and practical aspects of its establishment.

“The Peace Alliance is leading a nationwide grassroots movement to establish systems and structures in the federal government to lead a sophisticated, strategic, scientifically based approach to reducing and preventing violence at home and around the world,” Greene says. “We are a nonpartisan nonprofit organization whose mission is to empower civic activism for a culture of peace, particularly in our own country.”

Historically, the campaign for peace is considered a major social movement, “on par with the abolition of slavery, the Woman Suffrage movement and the Civil Rights Movement,” Greene says. “Its timeline will depend on the capacity of the American public to make its voice heard in the halls of Congress.”

Headquartered in Washington D.C., the peace-building initiative is spreading to all 50 states. “We now have congressional district team leaders in 244 of 440 congressional districts and 47 volunteer state coordinators in 31 states,” Greene says.

In San Antonio, Rev. Dr. Phineas Washer serves as congressional district coordinator for the campaign and is parish associate at Madison Square Presbyterian Church. He has supported the local effort mostly by gathering groups of people together to write letters to Congress.

“So far, more than 70 members of Congress, including Texas Representatives Al Green, Sheila Jackson-Lee and Eddie Bernice Johnson, have signed on to cosponsor H.R. 808 and 35 U.S. cities have passed resolutions supporting the bill,” says Washer.

Nonviolence advocates in cities as far away as Lubbock have invited Washer to speak about the growing campaign and passage of H.R. 808.

H.R. 808 also calls for a U.S. Peace Academy on par with military service academies. An evolving science in “peace-building” has been developing over the past three decades, Greene says. “More than 300 U.S. colleges and universities now offer peace and justice studies,” she says.

(MORE)

The new peace bill addresses all forms of violence, including domestic violence, in America. “The bill deals with hostility-producing situations such as child, elder and spousal abuse; clashes rooted in ethnic, racial, religious and sexual-orientation conflicts; the misuse and spread of firearms; and violence in schools,” Washer says. “It also addresses conflict in areas beyond our homeland borders.”

For example, the legislation calls for teams trained in conflict management to be disbursed to ‘hot spots’ around the globe to get ahead of situations that could lead to war.

Greene, a former executive with investor-owned and nonprofit organizations in corporate communications, investor relations and operational roles, comes from a long line of national service. Members of her family have served the U.S. military since the Revolutionary War. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology from the University of California Los Angeles.

The movement to support a U.S. Dept. of Peace began in 2001 following initial introduction of legislation. The movement has gained support of noteworthy opinion-leaders including Walter Cronkite, Willie Nelson, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Joaquin Phoenix. Funding comes primarily from monthly donors and individual donations that range from \$10 to \$10,000 or more.

For more information on the local campaign for a U.S. Dept. of Peace and Nonviolence, contact Phineas Washer, San Antonio’s congressional district coordinator, 14802 Dancers Image, San Antonio, Texas 78248-0909. PHONE: (210) 493-1519. EMAIL: pwasher@earthlink.net. To learn more about The Peace Alliance and the national campaign, visit www.thepeacealliance.org.

(END)