

Mourn Now by Wallace Collett

Then chairperson of the American Friends Service Committee Board, Wallace Collett wrote this poem after standing on a vigil line at Rocky Flats, Colorado, during a demonstration against nuclear warhead "reprocessing" in April, 1978.

Mourn now for the next war's dead,
weep now for the agony of the injured,
grieve now for the devastation of homelands.
Now is the time to mourn, to weep, to grieve,
now when tears can cleanse the future.
When war starts it is too late,
then we can only bury the dead,
shudder at the screams of the wounded,
grope through the ruins of our cities.
Mourn now in the streets and homes
where people live who allow war,
grieve now in the board rooms and factories
where the machines of death are made,
weep now in the halls of governments
whose actions lead relentlessly to war.
Now is the time to mourn, to weep, to grieve,
for the millions who will die,
while it still may not be too late.

ABOUT OUR SUNDAY VIGIL

This vigil for peace and justice has been observed every Sunday from 12 until 1 p.m. since May of 1999. More than eighteen years and four presidential administrations later, we are still here. Now more than ever, resistance is crucial.

Often people ask us what we mean when we say, "RESIST THIS ENDLESS WAR." What we mean is that the serial wars waged by the U.S. and its allies are one war being waged on many fronts. Men, women and children are being slaughtered, maimed, traumatized and

driven from their homes all over the world so that immense wealth and power can be concentrated in the hands of a very few people.

The weapons of this war are many. Here are just a few examples: drone attacks against targets thousands of miles away (warfare by remote control); the rejection and mass deportation of immigrants and refugees; the systematic dismantling of an infrastructure and social programs that we depend upon and fund with our taxes; the destruction of the environment; the undermining of labor unions and workers' rights and the refusal to pass a minimum wage that is a living wage.

During the 2016 presidential election, the issues of war, peace and economic justice were never seriously addressed. The state of endless war was accepted as the norm. Now we are dealing with a new administration that in its first six months in power has exponentially escalated this war we have been describing and resisting for years.

With its blatant racism and xenophobia, its utter disregard for the U.S. Constitution and international law, its attempt to roll back even the modest efforts to address climate change embraced in the Paris Agreement, and its unapologetic war against poor and working class people on behalf of the billionaire class it represents, the Trump administration has made transparent the existential threat posed by the 1% to all of our lives and the future of our planet.

Even our most recent human history should teach us the consequences of silence and complicity in the face of massive injustice and state-sponsored violence, repression and bigotry. We need to make our voices heard. We need to make our non-cooperation count.

**JOIN THIS VIGIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE—EVERY SUNDAY 12-1 P.M.,
BROADWAY, PARK & ELM STREETS: RESIST THIS ENDLESS WAR!**

<https://newhavensundayvigil.wordpress.com/>

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