

Andrew Meriwether  
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Chapel Hill, NC USA, 27516  
12/31/10

Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Dear Friends,

On July 25<sup>th</sup>, of this passed year I turned 18 years old and am, therefore, required to register for the selective service. Due to my beliefs as a Quaker, I will be writing that I am a conscientious objector on the selective service form. Unfortunately, the registration form does not ask for this information specifically, and I am in need of a record of my convictions. I ask that two representatives of this Meeting serve as witnesses to my testimony, and that Meeting keep a copy for permanent records.

Although I firmly believe that the truth will continue to reveal itself to me, I can state now and with clarity my current beliefs.

- I disdain and refuse to personally participate in war of any form.
- This conviction was founded on the religious instruction and training I have received during my short life. The community of the Meeting Houses in Durham and here in Chapel Hill, along with Carolina Friends School, have taught me to appreciate and foster peace in every act I perform. I learned a respect for all human life, and that we were all connected through the bond of God in each and every one of us.
- I sincerely feel that I do not have the right, God given or otherwise, to take the life of another human being.

Please accept this letter as a declaration of my convictions. I hope in the future this country and the world will actualize the potential of peace, and that military action will finally be seen as a problem, not a solution. I thank you for your willingness to stand with me in witness of my convictions.

Sincerely,

Andrew Meriwether