

Sunday, March 15, 2015

On March 19, 2015 I will turn 18. As a male in the United States of America I am required to register for the Selective Service. Because there is not a draft in effect it is not possible for me to declare myself as a Conscientious Objector, but I am writing this letter now as a symbol that I have and will be opposed to warfare in any form. I am asking the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting to save a copy of this letter and support me in my stance against war.

I was born into and have grown up in a Quaker family, and because of this, Quaker values have become the basis of my moral code. Among these religious beliefs are Peace, the opposite of violence, and Community, something that war tends to tear apart. These moral codes are so embedded in my everyday life that when I was given the opportunity to shoot a gun, at a target, it sent shivers down my back, and I refused to shoot it, even though the target was just a bandana. In fact I would willingly be shot before I would shoot another person, even just to injure. On the same note, I find it very disturbing that people could bring themselves to shoot anyone, this is just not natural for humans. Even just wishing for someone to die is morally wrong.

In general war is not the way to solve our conflicts, violence only escalates the problem, peaceful ways will always be the best. I have grown up in a time when we live in fear of others, if we would just confront that by asking questions like why? Violence only increases fear and thus we find ourselves in a vicious circle. Not only that but our wars seem to be centered around greed, this is not a cause that I will support in any way or form. Even just being in a non-violent position that supports the armed forces is something that I could and will not take a part in. I grew up not being willing to kill cockroaches, and to this day to see any living creature in pain is distressing to me. And one last time I will reiterate that war, and other forms of violence, is not the answer and will only increase our problems.

Sincerely,

Keegan Jackson Durovich