

Dear Friends,

Today, the twenty third of August, I become eighteen years of age and as such am required to register to the selective services within 30 days. I feel that it best for me to obey this law though I am against the way I am being used to brag to other countries of the number of able-bodied men available for warfare. I am an able-bodied man but am definitely not available for war. On the registration form there is no place for my declaration of my status of conscientious objector. The military, in drafts of the past, has favored CO's who provide records of their objection before the draft was instated. It makes perfect sense then that if the military wishes you to fight why then would they aid those who wish to claim CO status by making a box on the registration form. It is up to me to organize my own portfolio and I am doing that here and now by requesting that two representatives of this Quaker meeting sign as witnesses to the miracle of pacifism of a young man in today's violent world. I would also like to request that the meeting keep this letter as further record to attest to my beliefs.

With my beliefs ever evolving it would be a most dramatic change of a magnitude I have never experienced that would sway me to believe that war was the answer. I have been raised in a nonviolent household while attending Quaker Friends meeting regularly from my role as baby Jesus in the Christmas pageant to being a Quaker teen for other Quaker youth to look to for guidance in today's war hungry atmosphere. I became involved in anti-war protests and young friends retreats. I could not ever allow myself to participate in warfare of any form. I personally believe that there is literally the good of God in every man, woman and child and to extinguish that part of another human being would be killing my own God and therefore a piece of myself. I have asked myself what I would do with that amount of blood on my hands and guilt on my conscience and I have come to believe that I could not live with myself.

I plead with the meeting to accept this letter and a copy of my selective service registration form as a small token of my convictions concerning warfare. I only hope that more young men find themselves with similar feelings of pacifism and that our country finds more peaceful solutions to its conflicts than it has in the past. Until we find that peaceful utopia, thank you for standing behind my pacifism as a witness to its sincerity.

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