Subject: Golden Rule anti-nuclear / peace sailboat coming your way

Hi (VVAW or VFP Contact),

The famous *Golden Rule* peace boat, a National Project of Veterans For Peace, will be in (City/Town) on approximately (Dates). I’m writing to introduce you to the Golden Rule Project and our planned voyage around the “Great Loop” and elicit your help.

We are *Sailing for a Nuclear-Free World and a Peaceful, Sustainable Future!* Our primary focus is to **educate** people about the dangers of nuclear weapons and move them to **take effective actions** that will result in verifiable, irreversible reduction and eventual elimination of the world’s nuclear arsenals. In the US, we must take intermediate steps to take us “Back from the Brink” of a possible nuclear exchange. Our guest speakers show how nuclear issues are connected with other issues.

History: From 1946 to 1958 the US exploded 67 nuclear bombs in the Marshall Islands Bikini and Eniwetok atolls, sending unnatural radioactive materials into the stratosphere and contaminating the planet with radiation. In response, in 1958 four Quaker activists sailed a small wooden boat towards the Marshall Islands in an attempt to interfere with these nuclear bomb tests. The well-publicized action, jailing of the crew in Honolulu, and public furor over their arrest started a groundswell of anti-nuclear movements that ultimately moved Kennedy to sign the Limited Test Ban Treaty in 1963 and inspired the founding of Greenpeace.

The *Golden Rule* was sold into private hands and re-discovered in 2010 in northern California when she sank in a gale and was almost used for firewood.

Instead, the boat was rebuilt by Veterans For Peace. Since her re-launch in 2015, the Golden Rule Project has sailed the West Coast and to Hawai'i and back.  We talk about all nuclear issues - how uranium mining affects indigenous communities, the dangers of nuclear war, and why nuclear power needs to be phased out.

We're now planning to sail "The Great Loop" - and then some - from Minneapolis down the Mississippi, the Gulf of Mexico, the East Coast to Portland, ME, up the Hudson River and Erie Canal, around the Great Lakes, and down a different inland waterway back to the Gulf of Mexico. This is a 15 month voyage with over 100 stops, 400 presentations, opportunities to tour the boat and go sailing - all the while educating and activating the public.

**Would (group) be interested in helping stop the possibility of nuclear war by organizing an educational event in (city/town)?** We also need crew and a day sailing coordinator. And before we begin the voyage in September 2022, we have a goal to raise $50,000 to cover getting *Golden Rule* to Minneapolis and to cover the first six months of expenses.

I'd love to talk by email, zoom, or phone - do you have time?

I've attached a brochure and our latest newsletter.  Thanks for your time!