

Golden Rule in Erie -- Media Release

For Immediate Release

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Golden Rule Peace Boat Coming to Erie's Port

Historic Sailboat Supports UN Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons



VETERANS FOR PEACE / GOLDEN RULE PROJECT

The storied *Golden Rule* anti-nuclear sailboat will arrive in Erie on Thursday, August 3, 2023 to raise awareness about the growing danger of nuclear war and to build support for the abolition of nuclear weapons. The 34-foot wooden ketch is sailing on a 15-month voyage around the "Great Loop" of the central, southern and eastern United States, making 100 ports-of-call. The *Golden Rule* is a national project of Veterans For Peace, which owns the boat.

(Several decades ago --on Dec. 17, 1991-- County Council approved an Ordinance designating Erie County a "Nuclear Free Zone." NFZ signs were posted at various County entry venues.)

Now the public is invited to see this historic peace boat, to hear about nuclear issues today, and to learn how we can stop the possibility of nuclear war!

To schedule an educational presentation on Friday, Aug. 4, contact the Golden Rule Project Manager, Helen Jaccard, at vfgoldenruleproject@gmail.com or 206-992-6364.

Welcome the *Golden Rule*! The crew will arrive late afternoon on August 3 at Erie's **Wolverine Park Marina**. The Wolverine dock is located at 34 State St., half block north of the Bayfront Parkway. (Park on both sides of State St. or in the parking ramp next to Sheraton Bayfront Hotel.) https://marinas.com/view/marina/2gcl8e_Wolverine_Park_Marina_Erie_PA_United_States

Activities for the public may be scheduled the next day, Aug. 4, until 4 p.m., after which *Golden Rule* will sail overnight to Cleveland. You can follow the boat's progress on this map that updates every ten minutes: share.garmin.com/goldenrule.

"We are sailing for a nuclear-free world and a peaceful, sustainable future," says project manager Helen Jaccard. "Our mission is all the more urgent now that the two nuclear superpowers are confronting one another in Ukraine, greatly increasing the possibility of nuclear war.

History of Golden Rule

From 1946 to 1958 the U.S. dropped 67 nuclear bombs in the Marshall Islands, displacing the indigenous inhabitants and spreading radiation around the globe. The concerned public tried to stop the nuclear weapons testing, but their efforts were unsuccessful. Finally, in 1958, four Quaker peace activists tried to sail *Golden Rule* to the Marshall Islands to interfere with the tests. They left out of Los Angeles and stopped for supplies in Honolulu, where the crew was arrested and prevented from continuing. The arrests sparked worldwide awareness of the dangers of radiation, which was also being found in mother's milk. In 1963, President Kennedy, along with leaders of the UK and the USSR, signed the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, banning nuclear testing in the air, the water, or space, but allowed it to continue underground. Today, most nuclear testing is done via computer simulation.

In 2010 *Golden Rule* was found as a sunken, derelict wreck in northern California's Humboldt Bay. Over the following five years, she was lovingly restored by members of Veterans For Peace, Quakers and wooden boat lovers. Her original mission was also restored – sailing for a world free of nuclear weapons. Since 2015 the *Golden Rule* has plied the waters of the West Coast, in British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, California and Mexico, even sailing to all the Hawaiian islands.

Media interviews encouraged! Crew members are available for radio, TV and newspaper interviews on Friday, Aug. 4 from 9am to 4pm. A media conference and boat tours can be scheduled during this time window.

Please contact Golden Rule Project Manager, Helen Jaccard, at vfgoldenruleproject@gmail.com or 206-992-6364, or contact Kevin Flatley, VFP (716-581-1945) to schedule an interview.

For more information about the Golden Rule Project and its Great Loop Voyage, please see the website, vfgoldenrule.org

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