

Dear Newsrooms:

Did you know that "Mothers Day" was started by Julia Ward Howe (composer of "Battle Hymn of the Republic"), via a "Mothers Day Proclamation", to band mothers together to work toward Peace between nations and domestically? (A copy of the "Proclamation" is set forth at the very end of this e-mail).

Within that context, The San Diego County Chapter of "AFDOP" - "Americans for a Department of Peace" will give an award to Congressmen Dennis Kucinich and Bob Filner TOMORROW (Friday, May 12, 2006 at about 5:30 p.m.). They will receive potted plants - to "Plant the seeds for Peace". Cong. Kucinich will be honored for his authorship of the Department of Peace and Nonviolence Bill, now before both houses of Congress, as set forth below, and Cong. Filner will be honored as one of its co-sponsors.

**THE AWARD WILL BE PRESENTED BY SEVEN-YEAR-OLD, "HANA", WHO IS THE YOUNGEST OF THE THREE GENERATIONS FOR PEACE WHO WILL BE AT THE EVENT.** Event details are below.

ALSO PRESENT WILL BE SOME OF OUR **"GRANDMOTHERS FOR THE DEPT. OF PEACE"**. We will bring, and read, if time, Howe's "Mothers Day Proclamation".

The Department of Peace and Nonviolence Bill will establish a cabinet-level, Department of Peace (on a par with the Dept. of Defense, Dept. of State, etc.), to, among other things, research and advise the U.S. President, Cabinet and Congress about all peaceful and diplomatic options which may be effective before military action is employed.

The Bill has been introduced into both houses of the U.S. Congress, and has 64 sponsors in the House, and two in the Senate. It is now in the "Government Reform" Committee of the House of Representatives, as well as the Committees on International Relations, Judiciary, and Education and the Workforce. The Senate Bill is in the Committees on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. The Bill numbers are: House - H.R. 3760; Senate - S. 1756. Domestically (two-thirds of the funds will be sent back to the local Congressional Districts), the Dept. of Peace will be an umbrella organization for, and fund programs which, have proven themselves effective in reducing violence (i.e. gang violence; school violence; spousal abuse; child abuse, elder abuse, etc.).

To find out more about the Bill, and the grass roots campaign of thousands to get it passed (active in EVERY STATE), and very active in San Diego County), you can go to the local web site - [www.AFDOP.org](http://www.AFDOP.org), or the national site - [www.thepeacealliance.org](http://www.thepeacealliance.org).

For more information about this, and other Mothers Day Events we are sponsoring tomorrow, MY CONTACT INFORMATION is as follows:

Janice M. Atkinson

e-mail: [janice@janiceatkinson.com](mailto:janice@janiceatkinson.com)

Event location and details are in the flyer below - the award will be presented at approximately 5:30 - 5:45 p.m. by 7-year-old, Hana. SHE AND HER MOTHER MADE THE POTS THEMSELVES AND DECORATED THEM!

As promised, below is Julia Ward Howe's "Proclamation", which started Mothers Day. Thank you for your consideration.

"Arise, then, women of this day!

Arise all women who have hearts,

Whether your baptism be that of water or of tears

Say firmly:

'We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies,

Our husbands shall not come to us reeking of carnage,

For caresses and applause.

Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn

All that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience.

We women of one country

Will be too tender of those of another country

To allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs'.

From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with

Our own. It says, 'Disarm, Disarm!'

The sword of murder is not the balance of justice!

Blood does not wipe out dishonor

Nor violence indicate possession.

As men have often forsaken the plow and the anvil at the summons of war.

Let women now leave all that may be left of home

For a great and earnest day of counsel.

Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead.

Let them then solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means

Whereby the great human family can live in peace,

Each bearing after his own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar,

But of God.

In the name of womanhood and humanity, I earnestly ask

That a general congress of women without limit of nationality

May be appointed and held at some place deemed most convenient

And at the earliest period consistent with its objects

To promote the alliance of the different nationalities,

The amicable settlement of international questions.

The great and general interests of peace."

---Julia Ward Howe

