

US Peace Registry: From psychologists to comedians

Michael D. Knox

War is glorified in the United States. Imagine a culture change so momentous that Americans who stand for peace are celebrated rather than denounced as unpatriotic, anti-military, or un-American. Imagine a world in which expressing an antiwar position is an aspiration children are encouraged to respect, admire, and replicate.

We can begin by using behavioral principles to modify our culture and increase the number of people who speak out. We can model antiwar behavior and encourage others to follow our lead. We can share actions that Americans are doing to promote peace, identify role models to emulate, reduce negative consequences, and provide positive reinforcement. This is the mission of the US Peace Memorial Foundation, which publishes the *US Peace Registry*.

Recognizing, honoring, and documenting the work of antiwar activists will cause a shift in our culture and inspire more Americans to speak out for peace. By advancing our knowledge about heroic U.S. peacemakers, identifying their specific behaviors and accomplishments, and normalizing their role in society, we can decrease the social barriers that citizens face when they wish to publicly express antiwar sentiment.

The *US Peace Registry*, which is already available online, recognizes and honors role models for peace and documents a broad spectrum of modern nonviolent antiwar behavior. It can be a resource for peace psychologists engaged in research, teaching, action, and organization building. It helps us understand how individuals and organizations have opposed war and promoted peace.

Among those honored by the US Peace Memorial Foundation, Inc., Jonny Lewis, a screenwriter, director, and actor uses humor to convey his message about “the horror and stupidity of war.” His award-winning short films include *Truth in Recruiting*, *Here’s Your Flag*, and *We Saved Private Ryan*.

Of the 235 Americans and U.S. organizations the Foundation honors, a dozen are peace psychologists, but only one is a comedian. Jonny Lewis, a

screenwriter, director, and actor uses humor to convey his message about “the horror and stupidity of war.” His award-winning short films include *Truth in Recruiting*, *Here’s Your Flag*, and *We Saved Private Ryan*. He also wrote and directed *G.I. Hospital*, an Animated Short Film about severely wounded soldiers who accept their injuries because it was “for our country.” See a complete list, and

read more about the antiwar/peace work of Jonny and Division 48 colleagues, at www.uspeacememorial.org/Registry.htm.

Perhaps more peace psychologists will use the



Registry as a reference and resource. If you would like to work on the project, write to Knox@USPeaceMemorial.org.

The Internal Revenue Service has determined that the US Peace Memorial Foundation, Inc. is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) public charity. Donations to the Foundation are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

Michael D. Knox, PhD is a Division 48 member, APA Fellow, Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of South Florida, and Chair of the [US Peace Memorial Foundation](http://www.uspeacememorial.org). His current work includes writing a book, tentatively titled *Ending U.S. War by Honoring Americans Who Stand for Peace*, which contains the *US Peace Registry*.

Editor’s note:

My favorite among Jonny Lewis’ films is *Block This Caller*,



which poignantly highlights human engagement amidst conflicting orders from the military industrial complex.

<https://www.activistpost.com/2019/05/global-military-spending-has-soared-to-its-highest-level-in-recorded-history.html>

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